

WINTER '10

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Biola

DISPATCHES FROM ABROAD

Can you deepen your faith by boarding a plane? Biola professors and students share how their travels have opened their eyes — and hearts — to the ways God is at work around the world.

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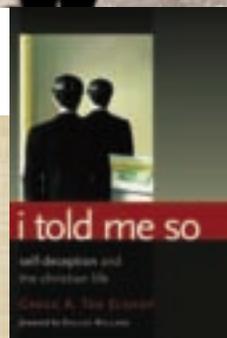


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Ask and Receive

Believe it or not, Google doesn't know everything. I rediscovered this recently while searching for information on the beloved Biola Egg — that prized mass of concrete that students have been hiding from each other for decades. No matter how many times I punched "Biola Egg" into the search bar, the same dissatisfying 48 results appeared, most of them duplicates, only a handful of them any good.

So when we ran an article on the Egg's mysterious reappearance a few months ago ("The Yolklore Lives On," Fall 2009), we decided to conduct a new search: one that involved you. We asked for your "Egg-experiences," and you delivered — scouring your memories, dusting off old photographs, digging up newspaper clippings, even sending in old poetry about the Egg. (Poetry!)

I'm not entirely sure which of the stories that we received are apocryphal and which belong in the Egg canon. Was the Egg, for instance, abandoned next to a San Diego bike rack in the early '90s? Or during that time was it in the middle of a decade-long hibernation inside a residential hedge? Perhaps neither? Does it weigh 500 pounds, 400 pounds or a mere 300 pounds? Does it matter?

Whatever the case, we asked and received, and now we've posted some of the best stories and photos online. Look for them at www.biola.edu/biolamag and decide which of them you want to believe. (And if you missed the original call for stories, it's not too late. Please continue to send your memories and photos to biolamag@biola.edu.)

In that same spirit of asking, I want to invite you to participate in our first-ever **Biola Magazine Photo Contest**, which is currently underway. The theme, borrowing from Biola's mission statement, is "Impacting the World for Christ," and we're counting on lots of diverse, creative entries from all of our talented students and alumni. We know for a fact that we've got hundreds of incredible photographers out there and we're hoping that you'll inspire us — and all 70,000 of your fellow alumni, donors and friends — with your images.

For details, flip over to page 14, and when you're done there, check out the full submission guidelines at www.biola.edu/photocontest. Entries are due on Feb. 15, so send in your photos now, before you forget. We'll feature the winners prominently in our Spring 2010 issue.

And while I'm asking, I might as well toss a couple more items onto your to-do list: Become a fan of Biola on Facebook (facebook.com/biola) and follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/biolau). They're a great way to catch all of the latest Biola news, events, videos, contests, faculty blogs and — if we're lucky — latest sightings of the Egg. See you there.



Jason Newell ('02)
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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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An Unfair Hearing?

Thanks for the article on prayer in the recent edition ("Prayer for Generation Tweet," Fall 2009). You're doing a great job with this publication! I did want to mention a sidebar, though, that wasn't quite up to the standard of the magazine. "Should We Pray for Paris Hilton?" didn't give Dr. Fred Sanders a fair hearing. He isn't saying that people shouldn't care and pray for celebrities; in fact, in the blog post he wrote, he speaks approvingly of [Karen] Covell's organization. ("Please note that I am not saying you shouldn't pray for celebrities... There are plenty of organizations that encourage interceding for the stars, and offer resources and advice about doing it well: The Hollywood Prayer Network...") Dr. Sanders' point was simply that it is difficult to pray for an abstraction, which is what celebrities are to him. The article would have been stronger if it had included a dialogue between Dr. Sanders and Mrs. Covell.

Lynn Wright ('02)
Pittsburgh, Penn.

Unscrambling Old Memories

I enjoyed the article on the Biola Egg ("The Yolklore Lives On," Fall 2009) although I'm disappointed to see that the original Egg is apparently lost. This one, as it mentioned, just doesn't look like an egg. I'm also a member of the class of '69 and while I wasn't one of the participants in all the Egg shenanigans, it was a part of life at Biola. The article brought back some memories.

Kathi Robinson ('69)
Mission Viejo, Calif.

Calvin's Comeback

It was refreshing to read your take on John Calvin ("A Reformer's Resurgence") in celebration of the 500th anniversary of his birth. Indeed, he was Scripture-saturated in a way few others before or since have been. I hope that other strengths of Calvin's legacy will come into Biola's view: his polity for the churches, his heart for pure preaching and worship, his pastoral care, his (surprisingly balanced) doctrine of salvation. The "New Calvinists" are just beginning to tap into this well. That more of us would do the same!

Nathan Hitchcock ('99)
Sioux Falls, S.D.

World Creeping In

As a former Talbot student and now a pastor for 35 years, I was saddened to see *Biola Magazine* feature Judith Hill ("Taking the World Stage," Fall 2009). I have nothing against her personally — in fact, I don't even know her, nor did I listen to the Michael Jackson memorial service. But this is just another case of the church compromising with the world and seeking the world's popularity. Michael Jackson — with his suggestive moves, ungodly lyrics and immoral lifestyle — was no one with whom a Christian should partner (Hill "had been rehearsing the song as Jackson's duet partner"). Having read many issues of *Biola Magazine*, I continue to be disheartened to see how the world is creeping into Biola.

Pastor Jerry Hamblen ('71)
Shingletown, Calif.

Vaccines: No Dilemma

As an alumna of Biola's venerable nursing program, I am disappointed you chose to print Dr. Bob Sears' article ("The Vexing Vaccine Dilemma," Summer 2009). This "dilemma" about vaccines exists only outside the mainstream medical community, and continues to be stirred up by people like Dr. Sears. By printing his article, you lent credibility to an argument dismissed by modern evidence-based medicine. My Biola education emphasized critical thinking and



evidence-based practice, neither of which are on display here.

Michelle (Myers, '99) Thompson, MSN, RN
Encinitas, Calif.

Showing God at Work

I continue to look forward to reading through each issue of this publication. It certainly could be put alongside any other Christian publication of which I'm aware and hold its own. I normally read pretty much every article. It is not only informative, but also very interesting to read about the difference God makes in individual lives as well as our world as a whole and the various ways individuals have found to serve him. Thank you for taking the time and energy to put out such an excellent magazine.

Ginny Hafer ('64)
Phoenix, Ariz.

Cover to Cover

I read the magazine cover to cover, word for word, and enjoy every minute. It brings me up to date on what God is doing in and through the Biola family. I love it!

Gil Crowell
Phoenix, Ariz.

Tell us what you think!

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Opinions should be a maximum of 200 words and include full name, city and state, and class year (if applicable). They may be edited for length and clarity.





All is Bright

A record crowd gathered in front of Crowell Hall on Dec. 4 for the annual university Christmas tree lighting — a Biola tradition for the last 25 years. Under the glow of moonlight, Biola alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends joined together to celebrate Christ's birth through music, refreshments, Scripture reading and the climactic moment when Anna Belle Cook, wife of the late Biola president Clyde Cook, flipped the switch on the 50-foot fir that has stood on campus for the last 45 years.

Trading Comfort for Compassion

This year, I posed to our university community the following question: "How can we move toward the day when it is virtually impossible for a Biola graduate to receive his or her degree without having experienced a cross-cultural study or service opportunity?"

I am serious about this. I have seen the transformative power these experiences have had on young people in the development of their Christian worldview. I have witnessed the impact global engagement plays in a comprehensive university education. One reason I am passionate about this is because of what's happened to me.

I was raised in a small New England town where I went to school with no kids that looked different from me — no Hispanics, no African Americans, no Asians, no Native Americans, no Jews, no Muslims, no kids in wheelchairs. It was a white, working-class town.

Monochromatic may be the best descriptor.

That was the 1970s, and for the better part of my life I've not known what it's like to be different, a minority. Then on Sept. 25, 1990, my worldview quickly began to change.

Back then, in my 20s, I was feeling cramped in my safe world and

even began wondering about the strength of my faith with life so comfortable and familiar. I wanted to go for it and try something radical in my little world, taking on a challenge bigger than I was. I guess you could say I was going through a crisis of normalcy. So I had this idea that I would go by myself to spend a year in a place unlike anything I knew.

I managed to drum up some scholarship funding to support my odyssey, living for a year in Bangladesh among the Muslims and Hindus of that country and not as part of a Christian minority. I would research non-formal primary education for children and the landless poor.

Here's what I wrote in my journal the day I arrived, a nervous 20-something guy trying to find my way in the world and looking for a global experience to test my soul's mettle:

When the plane touched down and we all

walked down the steps to the tarmac, it hit me that this was my home for the next year. And I wasn't particularly thrilled. When I looked to the side of the terminal, I saw a long terraced balcony area with hundreds of local people crowded together to watch another plane come in. I mean hundreds of people pressed up against the railing not there to meet anyone but just to watch. ... When I passed through the luggage inspection, I was closer to the door and could

**Suddenly, I was a minority
for the first time in my life.**

An ethnic minority.

A religious minority.

An economic minority.

**Suddenly, I was different and
I didn't particularly like it.**

see even more closely those faces crowded outside. I pretended to be all right. I wasn't. I did not want to go outside. I pushed the luggage cart toward the doors I feared, not looking up from the ground knowing how conspicuous I must be. ... I wasn't afraid of being hurt. I was afraid of being different.

Suddenly, I was a minority for the first time in my life. An ethnic minority. A religious minority. An economic minority. Suddenly, I was different and I didn't particularly like it.

There was irony in feeling alone in one of the world's most densely populated countries. When I would go to the villages for stretches of time, it would be days without seeing another Westerner.

I learned a lot that year about what it means to be different, and since I've returned I try harder to imagine what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes. That means I try not to stereotype. That means I try to be intentional about how

someone different than I am might perceive the world or herself in the world.

But I must confess, living in a world where it's an everyday experience to be surrounded by people who look like me, I tend to forget about putting myself in another's shoes until something triggers me about how someone else might feel.

I look to Philippians 2:1-5 — a passage that outlines how we as compassion-driven followers of Christ should model unity and live in a way that is respectful of each other.

First comes the foundation with the "ifs" of verse 1, which I believe also mean "since": Since your encouragement comes from being united in Christ; since your comfort comes from knowing he loves you; since you are in a relationship with the Holy Spirit; since you are therefore tender and compassionate.

Then comes the "so what": What are we to do about our "new creation beings?"

Paul gives us a string of imperatives — be like-minded, share in the same love, be one in spirit and purpose, don't do anything out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, in humility consider others better than you are, look not only to your own

interests, but also to each others'.

Philippians 2 living is simply elevating the interests of others over ourselves.

This was a valuable lesson I learned in the time I spent abroad and is something I may never have learned as deeply had I not gone to Bangladesh that year.

And this is exactly my hope for each student who attends Biola University — that as they graduate from Biola they are not only educationally but experientially cross-cultural Christians.

Barry H. Corey



President of Biola University; visit his office online at www.biola.edu/president, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/barrycorey and on Twitter at twitter.com/presidentcorey.

The Family That Sings Together

Idol Sibling Beats Odds to Attend Biola



After a year of peaks and valleys, the MacIntyre family is all smiles. From left: Carole ('82), Katelyn, a current student, and Scott, an *American Idol* contender.

A year ago this Christmas, freshman Katelyn MacIntyre was rushed to the hospital with kidney failure. For her family, it was like a bad case of *déjà vu*.

The year before, the same thing happened to Katelyn's older brother, Scott, with whom she also shares an undiagnosed visual impairment. The same week Katelyn got this news, Scott found out he had made the top 50 for *American Idol* season 8. For the MacIntyres, it was the best and worst of times.

But what a difference a year can make.

Today, Katelyn has a new kidney and just completed her first semester at Biola. In the spring, she cheered on Scott as he made it to the final eight on *Idol*. She was able to attend most of the live show tapings in Hollywood, as well as the finale and a few dates on the *Idol* summer tour, of which Scott was a part.

"It's still hard to believe sometimes," said Katelyn of her brother's new worldwide fame. "But he's still the same person he was. I'm so excited that he now has this platform to reach for everything he's been wanting for so long."

During the time that Scott was on the show, his mom, Carole ('82), moved to Los Angeles and lived in the Bel Air mansion that housed the *Idol*

contestants. No other parent was allowed as much access as Carole, who worked with Scott — *Idol*'s first contestant with a visual impairment — on such things as choreography and knowing where and when to look at which camera.

The excitement of being thrust into the world's biggest spotlight proved to be a happy distraction from the difficulties of Katelyn's health, said Carole. And Katelyn agrees.

"It definitely was a blessing," said Katelyn. "I'd be home in Arizona getting blood tests for the surgery, then I'd come out to L.A. and it'd be so fun to get dressed up and be in the audience and cheer for Scott."

Before *American Idol* happened, Katelyn, Scott, their brother, Todd, and Carole performed and toured as the MacIntyre Family Singers. With a repertoire of a cappella jazz music, gospel, classical and Broadway tunes, they performed throughout California, Arizona, Toronto, and even at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

In the summer of 2008, the three siblings each auditioned for *Idol* and made it through a few rounds together, but only Scott made it to Hollywood week. Katelyn and Todd were disappointed at first but ultimately excited to support their brother as he moved on.

"Because we've done so much music as a family, we have this mindset that if any of us succeed we will just bring the others along," Scott said. "So it's definitely a family thing."

Katelyn, who has sung soprano since age 7, is a vocal performance major at Biola and loves her classes so far, as well as dorm life in Horton Hall.

She sometimes gets recognized by people on campus who remember her as Scott's sister and want to hear all the details about her *Idol* experience. She's happy to oblige, even though she admits to being "a bit *American Idol*'d out."

As to whether she will audition again for *Idol*, Katelyn responds with the same go-for-it spirit that has carried her through the ups and downs of the last year.

"If they're still doing the show in a few years, who knows," she says. "I will certainly know what to expect." — Brett McCracken

➔ **How did Scott's faith influence his experience on *American Idol*? What were the best and worst parts of being on the world's biggest TV show? Visit www.biola.edu/biolamag to read our full interview.**

College for a Younger Crowd

Biola Youth's Ministries Reach Out to Teens



Many of the worshipers who fill Mayers Auditorium on the first Sunday night of each month aren't old enough to drive. But that doesn't stop them from getting revved up to go out and make a real difference for Christ.

At Biola Youth's House of Worship — H.O.W., for short — teens from all across Southern California gather once a month to worship together and be challenged with a message from the Bible. The event, now in its second decade, is a chance for junior high and high schoolers to meet friends from diverse backgrounds, experience the ministry of Biola musicians and speakers and get a foretaste of what life might be like as a college student.

"It kind of makes us feel like we're learning more because we're at school," said Skyler Johnston, a high school freshman who attended recently with his youth group. "Being around the college students makes me feel a lot older."

The popular event is just one part of a much larger effort by Biola to reach out to local churches and youth groups. Through the ministry outreach wing of Biola Youth — a department that also operates the wildly successful Biola Youth Theatre and Star Academics, a program for homeschoolers — the university has stepped up its efforts in recent years to help train up the next generation of teenagers.

"Really, our predominant focus has been youth and those who serve them," said Mike Brimmgage ('91, M.A. '94), who oversees Biola Youth Ministry Outreach. "We've done so many different focused events that draw students to the

university, and along the way, we've really hoped to minister to and touch the youth pastors."

In October, the university hosted "Igniteams," a daylong event that encouraged teenagers to grow in their faith and reach out to their campuses. Last spring, the department brought the "Worship Arts Technology Summit" to campus to equip church technicians and musicians with new tools and skills.

And later this January, the department will host "Turn Your Campus," a day of leadership training where young people can learn practically how to share their faith at school. Seminars will deal with such topics as sex, depression and loving those who are difficult to love.

In addition to its numerous on-campus events, the ministry outreach department also coordinates a number of worship bands made up of current Biola students, which minister at youth events and camps throughout the year.

All told, the outreach efforts are a great way for the university to use its resources to serve others while also attracting prospective students, said Lydia Knopf ('87, M.A. '01), director of Biola Youth. Last year, 10 percent of the incoming Biola freshman class had some connection to the department — whether through the theater, academic or ministry outreach department, she said.

Above all, it's rewarding to be able to watch young people get fired up for Christ, Brimmgage said.

"In youth ministry, you want kids to feel like church is a good place to be," he said. "And I think they definitely get that same vibe at Biola."

Math Prof Gets 1 Million Views on YouTube

It's not every day that nearly 1 million people around the world get a glimpse into a Biola University classroom. But after professor Matthew Weathers posted a video from his Oct. 28 math class to YouTube, that's exactly what happened.

As a Halloween-themed treat for his "Nature of Math" class, Weathers — an assistant professor in the math and computer science department — started off class with a performance that is now a widely circulated Internet sensation.

In the clip, the "real" Weathers transforms into a videotaped version of himself and interacts with his class from a projected screen that blends in with the chalkboard. Within two weeks of going online, various versions of the video had collectively racked up close to 1 million views on YouTube. During the first week of November, it was the site's 7th most-viewed "comedy" video and the 32nd most-viewed overall.

Common sentiments among the 1,000-plus comments on the YouTube video were things like "I never had a teacher that cool!" or "I wish every teacher had this much passion for teaching!"

"Every lecture, professor Weathers does something creative and different," said Chase Wagner, who was in class that day. "His humor and creative approach is making learning math bearable."



 Visit www.biola.edu/biolamag for a link to the video.

Serving God With a Soccer Ball



Though he's a star on Biola's best men's soccer team in two decades, Kennedy Chongo lights up the most these days when you ask him about the student mission trip to Zambia he led last June. It was a chance for him to return home, along with eight other Biolans, and serve at the orphanage where he lived for three years.

For most of the nine guys on the trip, it was the first time they'd ever been to Africa. But for Chongo, who lost both of his parents by the time he was 13, it was a work of God's faithfulness that he could return to his home country as a Biola student and stand-out soccer player.



"It was a great chance to go back to where I grew up," said Chongo, who loved being able to show support to the people at the orphanage who had once supported him. "It shows the kids that there is a life beyond the orphanage."

The trip came about when Chongo, a junior accounting major, and fellow student Christian Young brainstormed the idea to co-lead a summer mission trip. The previous December, Young had surprised Chongo by spearheading a grassroots fundraising campaign to fly Chongo out to Zambia to see his extended family for Christmas. The experience inspired the two of

"Soccer was our bait," Chongo said. "We made sure to always have a store-bought soccer ball and we knew the kids would come."

would have without Kennedy," he said.

Despite not getting to share his love of swimming with children because of crocodile-infested waters, Beatty still got to use sports as a way to connect with the orphans.

"Soccer is such a universal language," said Beatty. "We were automatically awesome in their eyes just by having a soccer ball."

After the trip this summer, Chongo, who transferred to Biola in 2008 from Trinity International University, had a great soccer season at Biola. He finished second on the Eagles in goals scored, with eight, and assists, with four. His two game-winning goals were also tied for second on a team that posted one of the best records in school history this season.

But to Chongo, success on the field is just one among many things he's thankful for. The biggest blessing is that he's at a school where his friends pool money to send him to Zambia for Christmas, where he can go on trips back home to serve during the summer, and where being an orphan is a thing of the past.

— Timothy Slack and Brett McCracken

them to go back to Zambia together over the summer, along with seven other guys.

In addition to working for two weeks at Chongo's old orphanage in Murundu, the group worked with two orphanages in Lusaka, the capital, and worked with a church in the city of Livingstone. In each place, the guys shared their testimonies, helped with manual labor and spent time with the kids through activities like soccer.

Swimmer Bret Beatty, who went on the trip, points to Chongo as a large reason why the trip was such a success.

"We got to do so much more than we

CRASH COURSE

A glimpse inside an interesting class offered this fall at Biola



COURSE TITLE

COMM 468: Drama for Christian Ministry

INSTRUCTOR

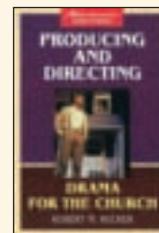
Kate Brandon, assistant professor of communication studies

DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the mechanics and creativity of drama in the church, as well as issues facing the Christian drama coordinator or director. Students explore the potential and practical experiences for use of drama in church and parachurch settings.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- *Producing and Directing Drama for the Church* by Robert Rucker
- *Incorporating Drama in Worship* by Mike Gray



SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

- Perform a dramatic Scripture reading
- Write a monologue based on a sermon and present it to the class
- Write and direct a sketch to be performed in class

Biola, Colson Announce Partnership



Chuck Colson and President Corey appear at a dinner at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on Oct. 22, where the partnership was announced.

Biola is teaming up with influential Christian author and speaker Chuck Colson for a new online ministry aimed at promoting biblical thinking about important issues of our day.

Through the partnership, announced in October, Biola faculty members will contribute articles and teaching materials to the newly founded Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview, a Web site devoted to helping people think and live biblically.

"I am so thrilled that Biola University — a leading Christian university and a bastion of biblical orthodoxy — is joining with the Colson Center for Christian Worldview in this movement to equip believers to embrace and defend the faith and to be salt and light in the public square," Colson said.

The Center, which Colson said he hopes will be the capstone of his career, offers articles, audio, videos and other resources to assist individuals and

churches. Biola is one of numerous partners that will help to contribute content. Among other major partnering organizations are the Barna Group, Focus on the Family, Stand to Reason and World Vision.

President Barry H. Corey said the collaboration reflects the university's desire to build strategic partnerships with outside organizations for the sake of promoting a biblical worldview.

"In today's hyperlinked, globalized world, there is an undeniable impulse toward cooperation, partnership and networked collaboration — thinking and acting not alone but as part of a larger collective of individuals and institutions with a unified purpose," he said.

"Biola University desires to become an architect and leader of collaborative ventures, building coalitions to tackle large and complex problems that can be better solved collectively."

Visit the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview online at www.colsoncenter.org.

Nursing Students Meet Rwandan President



For the past several years, Biola nursing students have been traveling halfway around the world to offer medical service in Rwanda. This September, a group of them got the invitation to travel 30 miles down the freeway to meet with the country's president.

The group — which included 13 current students, 10 alumni and several faculty members — were among 250 special guests of Rwandan President Paul Kagame at Saddleback Church's "Civil Forum on Reconciliation."

During the forum, which was moderated by Rick Warren, Kagame spoke about his efforts to build peace and reconciliation in a country that continues to recover from the genocide of the

mid '90s. Afterward, the group of Biolans got the opportunity to briefly meet the president.

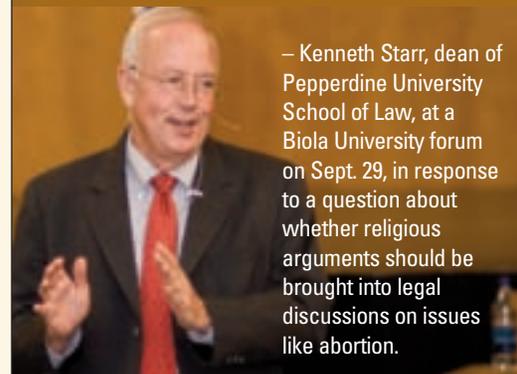
Susan Elliott, Biola's nursing director, said it was moving for students to meet and listen to the president after getting firsthand experience serving in the hospitals and villages of Rwanda.

"When I was introduced to President Kagame, I expressed my joy that Biola nursing is part of his vision for Rwanda's future," she said. "However, this future is not for nursing alone. There are many opportunities for students of other majors to go and serve in Rwanda."

Biola continues to send nursing students to Rwanda, including another group that is serving in the country this January.

QUOTABLE

"[Christians] have to be able to engage the world in secular discourse. You don't say, 'God has commanded and therefore you must,' because that doesn't work for a non-believer. It's as if you are speaking a different language. So what you do is you do what Paul did on Mars Hill. You understand the culture and you speak from the culture. ... If we're dealing with a secular world we have to train ourselves and steep ourselves so that we can speak to that worldview but from biblical principles."



— Kenneth Starr, dean of Pepperdine University School of Law, at a Biola University forum on Sept. 29, in response to a question about whether religious arguments should be brought into legal discussions on issues like abortion.

Church and Screen

Youth Pastor's Film to Debut Nationwide

In his 11 years as a youth pastor, Jim Britts ('99) has come to know a thing or two about teenagers. For one: Life as a high school student seldom looks anything like how it's stereotypically portrayed in movies — especially those of the Christian variety.

So when Britts decided to write his first film, *To Save A Life* — which hits theaters nationwide in January — he was determined to capture some of the very real struggles that students face every day, while also challenging viewers to take an authentic look at faith.

"Teenagers are dying to be heard," says Britts, next generation pastor at New Song Community Church in Oceanside, Calif. "There's so much pain out there; they're dying to be heard. [*To Save a Life*] tells their story."

The film, which Britts wrote and produced, centers on a high school athlete's confrontation with the pain outside the ease of his popularity. Viewers follow basketball star Jake Taylor's journey when he decides, after a tragic accident involving a childhood friend, to reach out to students he perceives are lonely and in pain.

However, when Jake decides to follow God, everything in his life begins to fall apart.

"And that's reality," Britts says, reflecting on his pastoral experience. "I've watched tons and tons of film, [including] a lot of faith-based films, where someone accepts God and that's the answer and everything goes well from there on."

He didn't want *To Save a Life* to convey this simplistic message. So, it asks instead if students will face this type of struggle with perseverance, trusting God's sovereignty as they seek to help friends who are lonely and in pain.

To Save a Life will be screened over 100 times across the country before it hits theatres on Jan. 22. Thus far, these screenings have generated the response they hoped for: Beyond the entertainment value, students and youth workers alike



appreciate the hope the film introduces to the problems teens face on a daily basis. And few have taken issue with the PG-13 content.

In fact, according to the film's Web site, a deputy sheriff from Florida said after viewing the movie that it would make his job easier. The wife of a youth leader in Ohio said after viewing a screening in her city: "I can't wait for my kids to see it."

While at Biola, Britts planned to go into filmmaking, earning a degree in film. However, an internship with a church youth group his senior year redirected his life to full-time ministry. Since then, he has often questioned why God did not lead him to major in Christian education. Yet he never would have written a film at all had he not majored in screenwriting, and he would never

have written a film like *To Save a Life* directly after Biola.

"It only came from this real experience of working with teens," Britts says. "Looking back on it, I think he had a plan for me being a screenwriting major and to get a heart for that and then to go into ministry and get a heart for that. ... The two really connected. I don't think I could have written the script if I didn't do both."

Britts' wife, Rachel ('99), also helped with the film. Along with helping on the set design of the film, Rachel was able to use her English degree to take the screenplay and transform it into a novel that came out on Oct. 15. Because so many scenes had to be cut from the film for editing purposes, the book has twists and turns that the movie doesn't. The film is further supplemented by curriculum for youth groups, which can be obtained via the movie's Web site: www.tosavealifeleaders.com.

With the film, the book and the curriculum, the hope has always been to empower. The results have been encouraging so far, Jim said. He remembers in particular receiving an e-mail

from a young girl in response to the film. She simply wrote that the film empowered her to decide to quit cutting and to get help.

Rachel, who is a high school English teacher, has seen a similar impact. She was able to let a student who has suffered the loss of two friends to suicide read the script for the film.

"The next morning, he was waiting at my classroom door, tears in his eyes," Rachel said. "He had finished reading it throughout the night, and ultimately he joined our youth group and became a Christian." — *Brittany McComb*

➔ **ONLINE EXTRA:** Learn more about the film and the supplemental curriculum at www.biola.edu/biolamag.

Something For Everyone

'President's Circle' Widens Giving Options

Nearly 30 years ago Harold and Doris Camp attended Parent's Weekend with their freshman son, Joel. That weekend would turn out to be transformative not only for the Camps, but especially for Biola.

During the course of the weekend, then-President Richard Chase confided in Harold that the burden of meeting the financial needs of students could be overwhelming. Based on that conversation, Harold thought to himself, "What can I, as just one person, do to make a difference for Biola students?" He decided to gather seven couples who believed in the mission of Biola and covenant to give \$1,000 a year for as long as they were able.

Thus, in 1980, the President's Circle was formed. Since then, the President's Circle has grown to over 500 members, and has raised over \$13 million, helping to fund thousands of students' Biola education.

Fast forward to today. In the midst of a prolonged recession, many students are struggling in profound ways to afford the biblically centered education they desire. And while tuition has risen significantly over the past 30 years, membership in the President's Circle has

remained at \$1,000 per year.

So, in an effort to meet the needs of Biola's growing student body — and to accommodate the desires of alumni and friends — the university has made some significant changes to the program for the first time in 30 years.

"Through many conversations with friends of Biola, we've realized that many desire to give, but are unable to meet the minimum gift amount, while there are others who have been blessed tremendously and want to increase their giving," said Steven Smith, director of Biola's annual fund. "Either way, it's clear that we must grow and adapt if we are to keep a Biola education affordable."

With these people in mind, and especially with the needs of students in mind, Smith said, the university has both raised the minimum "President's Circle Partner" gift from \$84 to \$100 a month (\$1,200 a year), and has also extended an invitation of membership to include many diverse groups at appropriate giving levels:

- Current parents, faculty and staff can join for \$50 a month (\$600 a year).
- Young alumni (those under 30) can join for \$25 a month (\$300 a year).
- Current students who feel led to bless their

fellow students can join for just \$10 a month.

- The university has also opened up new memberships at the "Silver" and "Gold" levels, at \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year, respectively.

All President's Circle members enjoy the opportunity to connect with President Corey at a few special events throughout the year, getting the "inside track" on where Biola is heading. Members also receive discounted admission to the wide variety of events Biola sponsors throughout the year. Furthermore, members periodically receive complimentary Biola "gear" to help show off their Biola pride.

"Most of all, though, members have reflected to us that the joy they receive in following the Lord's leading in their lives, supporting Biola's mission and knowing their gift is planting a seed in the life of a student is most valuable of all," Smith said.

Maybe you, as just one person, could make a huge difference in the life of a student today. Join the President's Circle today at giving.biola.edu or by calling (800) 632-4652.

Enter the Biola Magazine Photo Contest



Are you a Biola alum or current student with a passion for photography? *Biola Magazine* would like to feature your talents! In our 2010 *Biola Magazine* Photo Contest, we want to put the spotlight on the beauty and wonder of God's creation, as expressed through the visionary photography of people like YOU!

The theme for the contest is "Impacting the World for Christ," which can be visualized in a number of ways. Be creative! Photos can be literal or abstract. They might portray a service project in New Orleans, a fundraiser for a nonprofit, or a slice of pie on a plate. It could be an exotic landscape or an intimate portrait. What does the "Christ-impacted world" look like through your camera lens?

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2010. Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges. Winners will be published in the Spring 2010 issue of *Biola Magazine*, in addition to receiving a cash prize:

- First Place - \$250
- Second Place - \$100
- Third Place - \$75

Full details and submission guidelines can be found at www.biola.edu/photocontest.

How Missions Became My Idol



After years of marital struggles over missions work, Mike and his family recently felt God call them here, to the eastern border of the Tibetan plateau.

My wife and I recently moved overseas with our 2-year-old daughter to serve among an unreached people group on the eastern border of the Tibetan plateau. We have settled into an apartment and have begun learning the new language. However, the journey to finally get here has been filled with struggles and difficulties.

Two years into our marriage, we took an intercultural studies class together and both felt God calling us to reach the unreached people groups in some capacity. However, my wife felt that God was calling her to be a sender — to pray, to mobilize, to encourage others. I felt called to be a goer — to move and live among an unreached people group. And there ensued many years of conflict between us.

In fact, some of the deepest valleys of our marriage have been directly related to this seemingly irreconcilable difference. In time, my desire to go on the mission field began to take a place in my heart that only rightfully belonged to God. At one point, my wife said to me in desperation, “It feels as if our entire marriage of almost 10 years has been all about missions!” That’s when I realized that something was

desperately wrong! Our marriage shouldn’t be all about missions. If anything, our marriage should be all about *Jesus*, about growing deeper with Christ and more in love with him. This ought to have precedence over missions.

God began to ask me some questions. *Have I primarily been pointing my family toward Jesus or towards missions involvement?* I was horrified when God opened my eyes to the subtle signs of bitterness I was beginning to develop towards my wife. It became clear that if there is something I want so badly that it causes me to resent my wife because I perceive her as a barrier to obtaining it, then that “something” has become an idol in my heart. This idol of “missions” has come to define who I am. I was building my sense of identity on “missions” and not on God.

So God began to do the crucial work of re-centering my sense of identity on him alone. I am first and foremost a child of God. My identity is in Christ. I am “seated with Him in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 2:6). My “life is now hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3). This is who I am! And who I *am* is far more important than what I *do*. God is far more interested in the kind of person that I’m becoming than the kind of ministry work

that I’m involved in. My *conditions* may change (i.e. where I live, what I do, and what circumstances surround my life), but my *position* is constant (i.e. who I am in Christ, his work on the cross on my behalf, and my citizenship in heaven).

It has not been a painless process. It has been a pruning and refining process. Elisabeth Elliot once said: “Sometimes we want to run, but God makes us walk. Sometimes we want to walk, but God makes us sit down. All because he wants to do something in our life that we’re not interested in.” And that is exactly what God did in my life. He made me sit down, got my eyes off of the mission field, peeled away what I was building my identity on, and re-established his rightful place of centrality in my heart.

And that was when the priorities in my life fell back into place. The first and primary call that God has given me is to love my wife as Christ loves the church. *Am I becoming a more sacrificial husband? Am I growing in patience and selflessness? Have I been demonstrating unconditional love to my wife? Have I created a safe and secure environment for her in our marriage? Am I more Christ-like towards her now than I was 10 years ago when we got married?*

It has taken some time for God to bring me and our marriage to a healthier place. A place of freedom. A place of centering our lives on nothing but him alone. And only then were we ready to move, hand-in-hand and side-by-side, to the mission field.

A veteran missionary once told me: “We don’t need *more* people out here, we need the *right kinds* of people.” And the right kinds of people are those whose lives and identities are centered on God alone, and nothing else — not even missions. They are those who live a life of true freedom in Christ, being compelled, not by human expectations or desires, but by the love of Christ.

Mike (M.A. ’06), a graduate of Biola’s Cook School of Intercultural Studies, is currently serving in Tibet. His last name and photo are being withheld to protect his ministry.



WHAT’S YOUR STORY? Submit your essay of 750 words or less to biolamag@biola.edu and we may publish it in the next issue.

PULLED FROM THE WRECKAGE

BY JENNA BARTLO



Dan Parris ('08) looked at the pilot and engineer moving frantically in the front seat of the plane. As one of them jerked the controls up once and then twice, Dan realized the plane wasn't going up. Two power lines came into view. Then a bright flash. Dan shook violently as the plane crashed into the power lines and plummeted to the ground, hitting a building before landing upside down.

"I didn't have enough time to think, 'God, help me,'" said Dan. "Only, 'I'm going to die.'"

AFP/Stringer

After returning from a missions trip to Kenya in 2005, Dan made a commitment to do something about global poverty. Four years later, he found himself back in Kenya doing exactly that — making a film about the fight against poverty. But on just the second day of filming in Africa, tragedy struck.

Dan had convinced his friend Rob Lehr, an atheist who doesn't think poverty is his responsibility, to accompany him and help him make the documentary, with a mission to connect those who need something to live for with those who just need something to live.

When the two set out for Africa this July from St. Louis, Mo., with friend and fellow crew-member David Peterka, they knew death was a possibility. They just didn't expect that a plane crash would be the cause.

The trip was risky from the outset. The trio hitchhiked from St. Louis to New York, before flying to Europe, where they couch-surfed and lived on the streets for several weeks before heading to East Africa. The three spent their entire trip living on only \$1.25 a day — the amount that 1.4 billion people living in "extreme poverty" survive on each day.

The team didn't just set out to document themselves, but rather to document poverty, the way others view it and how it is lived. Featuring interviews with experts and people on the street, the documentary — titled "Give a Damn?" — sought to highlight possible solutions in the war on extreme poverty.

On their second day in Africa, on Aug. 1, Dan and Rob contracted a small Cessna 206 plane in Nairobi, Kenya, to shoot aerial footage of Kibera, one of the world's largest slums. After circling the area a couple of times, the engine suddenly slowed and the plane began to descend.

"Five seconds prior to impact, Dan and I realized that the worst was happening, we were going down, and the only thing in front of us was a building," Rob wrote in a blog post a few days after the crash. "All I remember is an explosion of white, followed by darkness and 5 seconds of what felt like being football tackled on every side."

The pilot, Frank Toews, died on impact. Flight mechanic Ryan Williams succumbed to his injuries a few days after the crash.

Knocked unconscious, Dan didn't move once the plane hit the ground. Rob escaped from the plane as it caught on fire. He woke Dan and helped him out of the plane, only to go back into the flames to help the unconscious Williams before being pulled back out of the wreckage himself.

The Kibera locals helped Rob and Dan into a car, which immediately sped away, swerving to avoid cars as the driver drove between lanes to rush them to the hospital. David Peterka and his brother, Tim, who met the trio in Africa to help with the film, rushed to the hospital as soon as they heard.

Dan had broken his collarbone and had a compression fracture at his L3 vertebrae, a paralytic ileus and several other minor injuries. Rob had six stitches on his head and burns on his legs, arms and back.

In the midst of it all, they didn't stop filming, videoing Dan in his hospital bed with a camera phone. The team knew this was ultimately part of the bigger story they would be telling.

The Peterka brothers continued filming throughout Africa after Dan and Rob returned to the United States to recover from their injuries. The brothers returned in December having completed photography for the film. Dan, still recovering, is now looking forward to the editing process.

"This is the part of the process that I've been waiting for for three years," Dan said. "With a documentary, when you edit the story, you are really writing it."

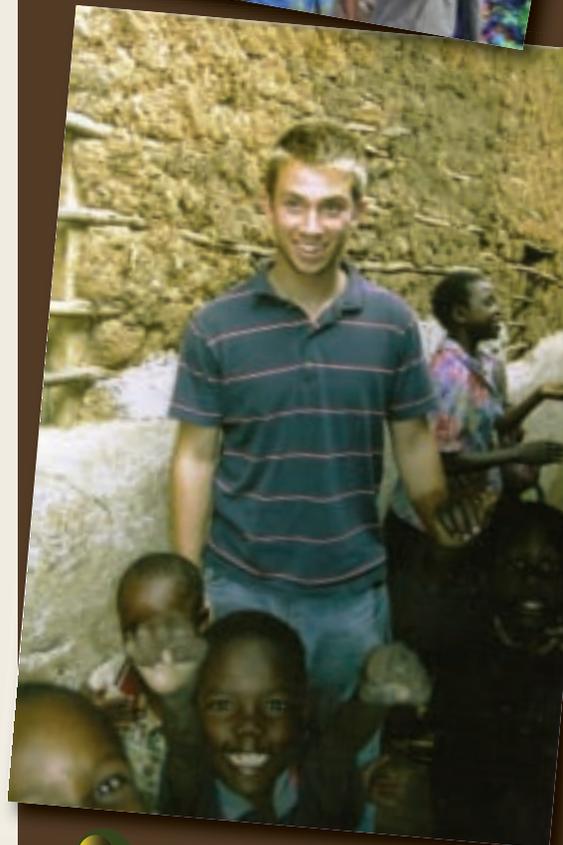
Despite facing ongoing health issues, Dan is persistent. He hopes to finish the film in time to enter the Sundance Film Festival in 2011.

"No matter how many ups and downs there are, there is always a consistent faith that this film is going to do something big," he said. "I believe God is going to use it and do something incredible when all is said and done. Sometimes the day to day causes me to see the ugly part of that."

Though the film's message has already reached many ears through news articles and television interviews covering the crash, Dan is excited for the finished product to filter throughout the church and world.

Dan said he is eternally grateful to Biola University for the training he received in the cinema and media arts department as he developed the idea for the documentary.

"I couldn't say enough about Biola," he said. "Without some of the classes I took or the influences I had at Biola, I wouldn't have known what I was doing or believed I could do it." *Biola*



ONLINE EXTRA: Visit www.biola.edu/biolamag for information on how to follow the progress of Dan Parris and his documentary.

Dispatches from Abroad

HOW A CHANGE OF SCENERY
CAN ENLIVEN OUR FAITH

By **BRETT McCracken**

What do we see when we travel? Is it just postcard scenery and famous landmarks? Confusing subway maps and exotic menus? Or can there be more to it than that?

G.K. Chesterton once said that the difference between a traveler and a tourist is that the traveler sees what he sees, while the tourist sees what he has come to see.

For anyone who has had the chance to live, study or travel abroad, it becomes clear that traveling is not just about seeing what we hoped to find; it's about finding what we never expected, and seeing — with new eyes — things we never imagined.

It's an education. Or at least a form of education that goes beyond classrooms and textbooks and sometimes the confines of comfort. It's an education of soul, mind and body, and for a university like Biola, which seeks to know this world better and impact it for Christ, it's absolutely essential.

In 2009, 321 Biola students participated in off-campus study programs, spread across the world from Indonesia to Costa Rica and on every continent but Antarctica. Whether it's on an Interterm art department trip to Italy or a summer environmental studies program in the Great Lakes, the number of Biola students experiencing the world off campus has exploded in recent years.

These sorts of cross-cultural opportunities will only become more integral and available for students as Biola moves forward in the next decade. In the newly unveiled Biola University Plan for 2010–2015, President Barry H. Corey writes, "It is more crucial than ever that our students be intellectually and experientially cross-cultural Christians." And fostering study abroad and off-campus programs that are affordable and attractive to students will be a crucial part of this.



But why is it so important? Beyond missions and evangelism, what is the value of cross-cultural traveling and “getting outside the bubble?” As Christians, what can we learn by traveling? How might it form us spiritually and better equip us to make an impact for Christ? Is there more to travel than just snapping photos and saying, “Been there, saw that?”

A Broader Perspective on God’s World

In 1857, Mark Twain famously said this about travel:

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

Twain was getting at the idea that travel — beyond mere pleasure and holiday diversion — has a knack for maturing us and broadening our worlds. For Christians, travel can expand our understanding of *God’s* world — his people, his church and all that he created.

“I think as Christians we can’t understand enough about God,” said Kitty Purgason, professor of TESOL in Biola’s Cook School of Intercultural Studies. “There are so many facets of his character, his will, his creation. Our experiences traveling or living in another culture help us understand that better.”

Purgason knows this better than most. She grew up in India and has lived and studied in Russia, Korea, China, Turkey, Turkmenistan and North Africa. She’s tasted and seen diverse wonders of God’s creation and learned important lessons about her faith along the way.

But many of us — especially us American Christians — would just as soon stay put, said Allen Yeh, an assistant professor in Biola’s Torrey Honors Institute.

Yeh, who has visited 45 countries, thinks that sometimes we become satisfied with our own culture and don’t recognize the value in venturing out and understanding the wider world, especially in terms of God and Christianity.

“The more you see of the world, the more you realize that Christianity is not an American phenomenon,” said Yeh. “The worldwide church together can piece together a fuller view of the gospel. It’s a mosaic.”

When we travel, we realize that our God is a global God, and we need to conceive of him as such, said Yeh.

For many Biola students who have gone overseas for the first time as part of an off-campus study program, this is one of the most valuable realizations they come to: that the Christianity they are a part of is much bigger and beautiful than they ever thought.

For Jennifer Grubbs, a senior intercultural studies major who did an internship with Food for the Hungry in Uganda this summer, the experience of living in another culture awakened her to the beautiful ways that God crafts his church in different contexts.

“I caught a glimpse of what heaven will be like when I was at church hearing the diverse languages worshipping our Lord,” she said. “It reminded me of how in heaven all the nations will worship together, yet each in their own unique and beautiful way.”

Senior Dustin McCurry participated in the Torrey Rome program in



Rachelle Brown

Washington Journalism Center (Spring 2009)

Senior – Print Journalism

Atending the inauguration of Barack Obama was mind-blowing. There was just so much anticipation and enthusiasm in the air. Everyone was excited. We left our apartment building at 6:30 a.m. and walked to the National Mall, where we ended up stuck in a giant mass of people. I could barely move. We made friends with the people around us, partially because we were physically touching everyone around us, and partially just because everyone was so friendly and wanted to share the excitement that they had for this particular event. It was frigid, to say the least, and I thought my toes were going to fall off at several points, but they showed a recording of the inaugural concert from a few days earlier for us on the screens, so we sang and danced and tried to stay warm with the movement. When the inauguration moment actually came, the roar of that crowd was deafening. Everyone was jumping, screaming, cheering and raising their hands. The crowd was stoked. And then when Rick Warren said the Lord’s Prayer, the crowd started saying it with him. There’s something about saying the Lord’s Prayer along with hundreds of thousands of your fellow Americans. I was blown away.



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Bethany J. Cissel

Biola London (Fall 2009)
Junior – Photojournalism

It was a bustling, brisk Saturday in London. The fall foliage was a vibrant juxtaposition to the blacks and grays of the weekend crowd's coats. After perusing the exhibits at National Portrait Gallery, a few of us meandered down a quiet street, away from the gigantic lion statues and bubbling fountains that attract thousands of tourists everyday. When we began our small ascent up the stairs on a bridge, I did not realize our location, but I quickly put the pieces together — we were in the heart of London. On the left there was the London Eye; on the right I could see Big Ben and the House of Parliament. Above me was a beautiful blue sky, scattered with clouds; below me was the constant wake of tourist boats slowly floating down the river. It was a tangible and highly photogenic reminder that I was *here* and would be here for the semester — studying, learning, exploring and soaking in the beautiful, historic city of London and beyond. It's a Saturday that I will always remember.



January and then spent the fall semester studying in Oxford. For him, the experiences opened up his appreciation for the deep history of God's faithfulness over time.

"It is so easy to be entrapped in my day-to-day life and forget those who have come before," he said. "However, being in Rome and seeing the millenniums of history contained in the city, specifically the Christian history, gave me a grander picture of God's people and the history of the church. Now it is much more enriching to marvel at God's faithfulness and the cloud of witnesses that have gone before us."

The experiences of Jennifer and Dustin are examples of how travel can wake us up to how expansive and diverse the body of Christ really is.

"Christianity is the most widespread religion in the world, as well as the most multiethnic," said Allen Yeh. "It is the only major religion in the world without a geographic center. Christians are everywhere, of every color and every language, and I think that's how it's meant to be. To not realize that or embrace that is to be very small-minded about what God is doing."

To travel, then, is to see God's world with new eyes, to be a learner of cultures and people so that we are better equipped for the Great Commission — for our going out and journeying alongside others toward the truth.

But it also helps us on our own walk, drawing us closer to the Savior and Creator from whom all the wonders of the road spring forth.

Encountering Christ on the Road

Sometimes travel can be difficult. You're in a strange place, away from the comforts of home and often without a support network. You don't speak the language, can't read the signs and occasionally you just have to rely on others.

But this is exactly how travel can be so transformative.

In his essay, "Why We Travel," British essayist Pico Iyer observes the connection between "travel" and "travail," pointing out the value of travel as both a personal test and an opportunity to identify with the challenges and sufferings of others.

"I travel in large part in search of hardship — both my own, which I want to feel, and others', which I need to see," wrote Iyer. "Travel in that sense guides us toward a better balance of wisdom and compassion — of seeing the world clearly, and yet feeling it truly. For seeing without feeling can obviously be uncaring; while feeling without seeing can be blind."

Traveling not only confronts us with the suffering throughout the world but it also forces us to recognize the good things we have at home.

When she is at home, Kitty Purgason thanks God for things like hot showers and public libraries. But traveling also makes us realize our own cultural weaknesses, she adds. "It prompts both humility and gratitude."

It also allows us to connect to the rich Christian tradition that goes back to the origins of our faith.

Movement and travel have always been part of the Christian experience. So many of the giants of the faith have been travelers — from Abraham (whom God called to "leave your country" ... Gen. 12:1) to Paul to the itinerant evangelists of the 19th century. And, of course, there is also Jesus himself, who from birth was a bit of a roving exile, frequently homeless and dependent on the hospitality of others on the routes he traveled.

Why is it that the journeying, nomadic lifestyle been such a hallmark of



Dustin McCurry

Torrey Rome (January 2009)

Senior – Biochemistry/Philosophy

We went to many churches that contained absolutely stunning works of art. These works ranged from sculptures and mosaics to frescos and paintings. Besides the sheer awesomeness of these works, I was also struck by the use of art in helping worship. It seemed like each piece of art was designed to hearken the viewer back to some biblical or early church narrative in which the viewer would worship with that narrative in mind. One of these works, Caravaggio's *The Calling of St. Matthew*, was especially impactful.

Looking at it, you feel like you are there as Jesus reaches out his hand to point at Matthew, who is seated shamefully at a table. You feel the rawness and awe-inspiringness of the situation and it helps put you in a position of humility.



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Sarah Rohrer

Uganda Studies Program (Spring 2009)

Senior – Intercultural Studies



All 16 or so of us American students who had been across Uganda in our tour bus had our eyes glued to the TV screen in front of us. It was a documentary about the Rwandan genocide and the single American who stayed out of hundreds of relief workers who had been living in the country. The video showed how they all got out, in tour buses just like the ones we came in on. I hated those people, who had space for their dogs, but not for the Rwandans they were leaving behind, whom they had claimed to come to serve. Suddenly my focus changed as the screen turned black, and I saw our reflections on the screen: a bunch of American Christian 20-somethings wanting to change the world. But if anything like the genocide broke out, we would be whisked away just as fast.



the Christian experience?

In his famous essay, "The Philosophy of Travel," George Santayana wrote, "There is wisdom in turning as often as possible from the familiar to the unfamiliar: it keeps the mind nimble, it kills prejudice, and it fosters humor."

A Christian might add that it enriches our identification with Christ and draws us closer to his presence by removing status quo comforts.

In some ways travel can be a sort of "monasticism on the move," writes Iyer. "On the road, we often live more simply ... with no more possessions than we can carry, and surrendering ourselves to chance."

It's an opportunity for us — away from our everyday comforts and routines — to truly rely on God, said Kitty Purgason.

"God has met me in my travels in ways he hasn't met me at home, and maybe it's because the usual props that I rely on are taken away, and the usual busyness that I fill life with is removed," said Purgason.

In this way, travel can reawaken our spirituality, getting us out of our rut and into a more thoughtful, introspective mindset, said Yeh.

"When you are yanked out of your comfort zone or when you are seeing new things, it will jar you in a good way and cause you to think," he said.

But it can also make you feel a bit uncomfortable, like an alien in a strange land who doesn't quite belong.

"But the discomfort is a good thing," Yeh said. "Everyone needs to know what it's like to be a minority. Everyone needs to know what it's like to be the odd one out, to not belong. Sometimes I don't feel like I have a home, because I've traveled so much. I feel at home everywhere and nowhere. And that discomfort can actually translate theologically in that we are aliens and strangers in this world. Ultimately our citizenship is in heaven."

And perhaps this is the greatest thing we can learn from travel — that the Christian experience is not meant to be one of cushy comforts, self-reliance and satisfaction with the way things are, but rather an experience of dependence on God and seeking out the sometimes-overwhelming grandeur and complexity of God's kingdom.

Travel is a way to meet Christ on the road and to feel the reality of his redeeming work in the world — not just by reading about it in a book, but by experiencing it in the flesh.

In his article on pilgrimage ("He Talked to Us on the Road," April 2009) in *Christianity Today*, Ted Olsen points to the story of the Road to Emmaus as an example of how travel — what we encounter *in person* on "the road" — can transform our understanding of a thing. The men on the road to Emmaus knew about the Resurrection, but they didn't *know* it in a transformative way until Christ appeared to them and they eventually realized who he was.

"It goes deeper than just grasping an event's historicity," writes Olsen. "It goes to its happenedness. We are not just minds created to soak up knowledge. We are bodies that stand in one place at a time, seeing and feeling our surroundings."

Travel is about more than just knowing God's goodness in our minds. It's about seeing and tasting and feeling it in his created world, and in our fellow man. And though strangers we may be in this world, the reality is that God is here, working in remarkable ways.

If traveling means we can witness all this a little more clearly, why would anyone want to stay home? **Biola**



Kendrick Shu

Middle Eastern Studies Program (Spring 2009)

Senior – History, Middle East Emphasis

Today was Galilee/Capernaum/Nazareth day, and I did it: I got baptized in the Sea of Galilee! A dear brother of mine, Dan, willingly accepted my request for him to conduct the baptism. So there we were: Dan and I, gowned in white in the crisp green Sea of Galilee. The history was crushing. Jesus walked on this water. On shore were 30 witnesses with cameras ready. All of us sang a hymn, and I shared a brief, (hopefully) gospel-riddled testimony. Then, in the three names of our Trinitarian God, Dan immersed and baptized me. There was no dove; nor was there a theophanous voice of God's pleasure with this sacred moment. But there was Dan, there were 30 witnesses, there was me, and most importantly, there were the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit present. Soaked and dripping, I exited the water and was welcomed by open arms. I am but one man, and this event will never find its way into a history book. But for one man this was a milestone forever engraved into my heart. To God be all glory, honor and praise!

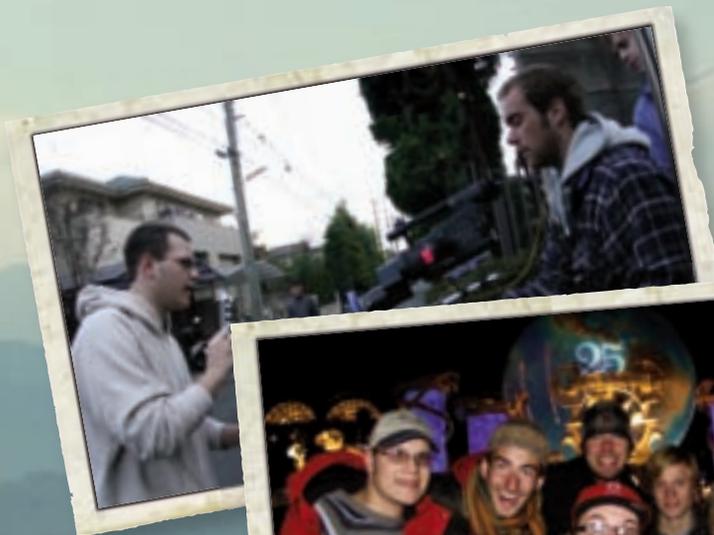


Jadon Gauthier

Cinema & Media Arts Trip to Japan (January 2009)

Junior – Film/TV/Radio

Hot chocolate in a can out of a vending machine; Silent rides on packed trains; Mount Fuji clearing up for a majestic view; God allowing things to be completely out my control so that I could accept my shortcomings a little easier. ... Those are some of the things that I remember from my trip to Japan last winter when I produced the film *Jitensha*, which has been accepted into major film festivals and won best short film at the Heartland Film Festival. Japan was a place where I definitely felt out of my comfort zone. It was only about 50 degrees each day, much colder than the weather in my hometown of Bakersfield, Calif. And you had to walk or ride a train most of the time to get to a destination. But beyond the cultural differences, the experience of producing a film abroad was one that changed my life.



What's the Best Fix for Health Care?



The health care system in the United States needs rehabilitation. On that, politicians on both sides of the aisle agree. With costs rising rapidly and consuming a growing share of the economy, and with millions of people unable to qualify for or afford the care they need, the current system can't continue as is, reform advocates say.

But how should it be fixed? For the better part of the past year, Congress has been bitterly debating overhaul options. In November, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would, among other things, set up a government-run insurance plan and bar insurance companies from excluding people with pre-existing conditions. Heading in to the Christmas break, the Senate was still attempting to settle on its version of a reform bill.

For a look at the issue, *Biola Magazine* sat down with Biola professor Scott Rae, who has served as an ethics consultant for several hospitals over the past two decades, authored several works on bioethics and lectured on the subject on Capitol Hill.

Scott, there are an estimated 46 million people in America who are uninsured. From a Christian perspective, what needs to be done about this?

I think the first response should be to make sure that the number is correct. That's a number that is widely thrown around, and I think it's misleading. It assumes that there are 46 million people who want to be insured, can't afford to be insured and are one major illness away from bankruptcy. I don't think that's quite true. Included in that group are people who choose not to buy insurance — such as young people who don't want to pay for insurance, and probably don't need to, except for catastrophes. Others are in between jobs, so they are temporarily without insurance. But they have been insured in the past and will be in the future. And then there is a group of people who are eligible for Medicare or Medicaid and have never applied for it. There are several million of those who are eligible and just don't take advantage of it. From what I've heard, the number of people who want insurance and don't have it because they

can't afford it is somewhere in the neighborhood of 8 million to 10 million — which is a sizeable number still, but it's not quite as alarming.

For those who want and can't get insurance, what's the appropriate Christian response?

Our obligation to those folks from a Christian worldview is to ensure that they get the treatment they need for illness and to ensure that it doesn't wipe them out to do it. Most people who are uninsured can get treatment for acute things; it's against the law for emergency rooms to turn people away. But that's just for acute things. So if I don't have insurance and I get cancer, I'm stuck. And the only way I can take advantage of Medicaid is to spend down all of my assets first, which basically bankrupts me before the fact, rather than after it. So we probably ought to make some distinction between being uninsured and not having access to treatment. Practically, those can be the same things at times, but those are not necessarily the same things.

How do you think the system should be reformed?

Well, first of all, I'm not in favor of the government taking it over. In my view, that's a cure that's worse than the disease. I think that there are some fairly simple things that can be done that can make a big difference. First, there is no reason why insurance companies shouldn't be allowed to compete across state lines. That would go a ways toward bringing the cost of insurance down. Second, the law should change so that all medical savings accounts roll over year after year — allowing for a long-term savings account rather than an annual account. There are some states where they do allow that, but we need to make that universal across the country. Third, I think we need to reconfigure how we view insurance. I don't expect my auto insurance to pay for oil changes and tire rotations and alignment. But I do expect my auto insurance to pay for major accidents, acts of God, that kind of thing.

The combination of medical savings accounts that roll over and competition for higher-deductible insurance that would protect people from catastrophes would go a long way toward controlling the costs. Part of the thing that keeps the costs inflated is that somebody else is paying for it. I would do all sorts of things for my car if somebody

else was paying for it, but I don't because I'm paying for it. I think taking the third-party payer out of it to some degree would bring incentives back to individuals to ration care for themselves.

The other thing — and this is not a simple thing — but the tort system where people can basically win the lottery through malpractice lawsuits has to be changed. Doctors won't stop practicing defensive medicine until that's changed. I would favor some sort of cap on malpractice settlements.

What do you think about the House and Senate bills that have been evolving over the past several months? Are there elements that you've been paying special attention to?

Both bills are way too long, unnecessarily cumbersome and inject government into health care decision making far too much. I don't think the "death squad" language is quite accurate, but if government is running health care, there will be incentives on physicians to cut costs.

More than there are right now?

Much more than there are now. What those exactly will look like is not quite clear. But that's the part that troubles me: What might happen to the patient-physician relationship? In the system that is emerging in both the House and Senate versions, our health care system is being asked to pursue goals that are simultaneously incompatible. We're asking the system to provide the highest quality care and innovation with full access to everyone who has need while keeping costs low and providing freedom of choice. You can't have all of those at the same time. You have to make choices. We've chosen — or defaulted — to maintain quality of care and, to some degree, freedom of choice. But our costs are soaring. And access is not universal. Now, you may not like the choices that we've defaulted into. But what I've been waiting for in the discussion of these bills is for someone to say, "We have to rank these priorities."

So everyone is just too idealistic?

Everybody is telling us that we can have it all. But neither the House nor the Senate bill is going to control the costs. My suggestion for the government option would be to fix Medicare first before

you take on the whole thing. Medicare will probably be bankrupt by the time I retire. To say that we'll just clean up the waste and the abuse and the fraud — certainly there is room for progress to be made on that. But that part is a drop in the bucket compared to the demographic landslide that is coming, both in terms of the baby boomers aging and the illegal immigrants requiring care. That's going to swamp the system. We have to make choices. We may decide that we're going to have universal access and the highest quality care, but we're going to limit who you can see, how often you can see them and the procedures you can have. But the costs are going to soar with that. To maintain the highest quality and access for everyone is just a very costly proposition. There's just no other way around that.

There are some who point to Europe as a better model.

In the U.K., they have made a different set of choices. I personally would not endorse their system, but at least they have made their choices a little bit more deliberately. Their costs are down, but they have virtually no freedom of choice. The care is not what it is here, but they have achieved access. The real costs come in terms of time: In England or Canada, you may wait months for an appointment. Let's say you need a hip replacement. You may wait six months for that. I think that's part of the reason why — despite what Michael Moore says — people don't go from the United States into Canada or Cuba to get their health care. People come here when they want the highest quality. It would be tragic if we chose a system that stifled innovation. I don't know how you stay innovative unless the private sector is the predominant engine that drives you.

Do you see anything that you like in the proposed legislation?

Well, it will be a good thing to standardize and to make more uniform what treatments will yield the best outcomes. If we can make progress on that, that will be great. And I think giving everyone who needs care the access to it is clearly a good thing. Not just for a matter of justice, but also for a matter of public health. I mean, that's the argument for why illegal immigrants ought to be covered. It's a public health nightmare if they're not. So, those, I think, are good things. And that will probably

“Our health care system is being asked to pursue goals that are simultaneously incompatible.”

prevent a lot of the immigrant communities and other uninsured from getting their health care in probably the most costly, least efficient way, which is through emergency rooms. We couldn't have designed it any worse than for people to go there. The law is the way that it is for good reason, but the unintended consequence is the large number of people using emergency rooms as their primary care physician, and it's just terribly inefficient.

Abortion has been an especially controversial component of the reform debate. The House version has language that prevents federal funding from being used for abortions. Are you confident that this will remain the case?

No. But the states already fund it, so preventing federal funding of abortions may be more of a symbolic victory than a substantive one. Uninsured women in California will still get their abortions funded; it just won't be by the federal government. I mean, there's probably wisdom in making sure that federal dollars don't go to that. But I'm not sure that really helps the plight of the unborn all that much.



Scott Rae is chair of the philosophy of religion and ethics department at Biola's Talbot School of Theology. He holds a Ph.D. in social ethics from the University of Southern California.

Playing Christ



"God, both true author and true spectator of this world's stage, sees Christ in us."

Pictured: Students perform in Biola Youth Theatre's production of "Godspell."

In what I take to be the kindness of God, I recently enjoyed with my students a rich discovery in an unplanned connection between our Scripture reading at the front end of class and our discussion of *As You Like It*. In our weeks together studying Shakespeare's comedies we are reading Colossians from the Geneva Bible, the first mass-published English translation of the Scriptures and the one that Shakespeare likely had in his home.

Our reading from Colossians 2:9–15 reminded us that we who are in Christ Jesus have been filled in him, circumcised in his circumcision, buried with him, raised with him and made alive together with him. Our reading detailed what Paul just a bit later says more succinctly: Your life is hid with Christ in God.

Then we proceeded to our academic task, to discuss the masks that characters take on in Shakespeare's plays and the relationship between playing a role and being one's self. As Shakespeare's Jacques famously holds forth:

*All the world's a stage
And all the men and women are merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances
And one man in his time plays many parts.*

It's not original to Shakespeare, this idea that all the world's a stage. The concept of the *theatrum mundi* — the theater of the world in which the human drama plays out before a divine audience — is as antique as the Ancients. But through Shakespeare the notion makes its way into English literature. He keeps reminding his audience that the play world is an analogy for the real world, one in which people are always wearing masks. To be a person is to be an actor.

My class eventually found this notion unsettling. Mere acting so quickly becomes hypocrisy, so readily facilitates an empty self. Are we always putting on masks before others, effectively role-playing at the cost of stable selves? How can we know who we are at core if we simply move from room to room, relationship to relationship, job to job, playing our part? If we are what we do, who are we apart from what we do?

And the answer came straight from Colossians. Our identity is not simply the sum of every part we play. Our very life takes place in the life of Christ. This disrupts the need to know who I am at core and relocates my attention to Christ in me.

A 16th century catechism, the Heidelberg,

identifies a radically relocated identity as the first and sole comfort for the Christian, asking its first question: *Christian, what is your only comfort in life and in death?* And the answer, borrowing Paul's words to the Ephesian church: *That I am not my own, but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.*

The comfort of the gospel is that though I would be lost in myself I find my self in Christ. We pray to God as Father only because we have been included in the life of his Son. We are no longer aliens and strangers to our Creator because we have been brought near in the fellowship of his Spirit. We are no longer dead in our sins — in the many and various ways we act as and become selves opposed to our created nature — because Christ in his life, death and resurrection has triumphed over sin and death.

I am not my own, but Christ's. So there is more good comfort: By including us in his life, Christ plays out his life in ours. Gerard Manley Hopkins captures this richness in his poem "As Kingfishers Catch Fire." After a first stanza capturing the richness of being that creatures possess by doing the particular thing they do, he considers the unique situation of the human creature:

*I say more: the just man justifies;
Keeps grace: that keeps all his goings graces;
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is—
Christ—for Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men's faces.*

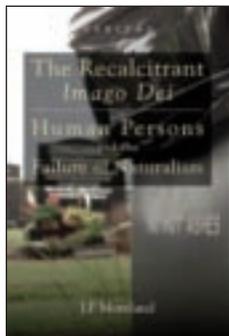
God, both true author and true spectator of this world's stage, sees Christ in us. Christ has given us a new role to play — his very life in the world. May we gladly and humbly enter into this great drama.

Melissa Schubert ('00)



Associate professor at Biola's Torrey Honors Institute; she holds an M.A. from the University of Dallas and a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University.

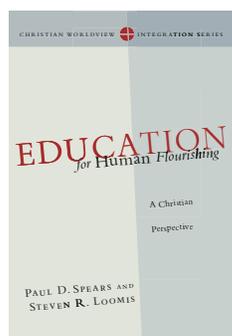
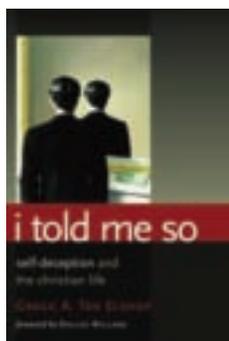
Books By Biolans



The Recalcitrant Imago Dei: Human Persons and the Failure of Naturalism, J.P. Moreland (distinguished professor of philosophy), SCM Press, May 2009; In *The Recalcitrant Imago Dei*, Moreland systematically sets forth how naturalism denies what is so obvious about ourselves, which is that we are conscious, rational souls that have the power to make undetermined choices for purposes. Through page after page of careful argument, Moreland shows all of us how deeply unnatural the naturalist account of ourselves is.

I Told Me So: Self-Deception and the Christian Life

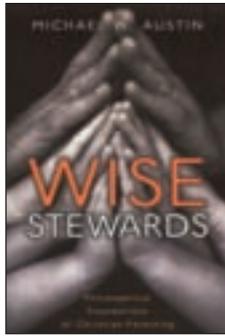
Gregg Ten Elshof (associate professor of philosophy), Eerdmans, June 2009; Scripture is peppered with talk of self-deception and its poisonous effects on the pursuit of holy living. Christians in the past thought long and hard about the ways we deceive ourselves. Strangely, though, self-deception has all but disappeared from our consciousness today. In *I Told Me So*, Ten Elshof reintroduces readers to self-deception and offers an explanation for its recent neglect in Christian thought. He explains the most successful strategies we use in self-deception and offers practical advice on how to confront and eliminate them. But readers will be surprised to discover that self-deception isn't always such a bad thing. Ten Elshof shows how sometimes it can even be a useful, God-given gift.



Education for Human Flourishing, Paul D. Spears (assistant professor, Torrey Honors Institute) and Steven R. Loomis (M.A. '96, M.A. '98), InterVarsity Press, October 2009; Education is arguably the foundation for human flourishing within any society. What do distinctively Christian educators have to contribute within the broad framework of public education found in pluralist societies of the West? How can Christian teachers make their voices heard within an increasingly hostile environment where technique and pragmatism are firmly entrenched and religious views are often suspect? Beginning with a robust view of human nature, Loomis and Spears build a case for a decidedly Christian view of education that still rightfully takes its place within the marketplace of public education.

Wise Stewards: Philosophical Foundations of Christian Parenting

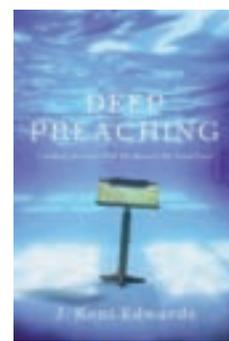
Michael Austin (M.A. '00), Kregel Academic & Professional, August 2009; A philosophical foundation may be the last thing that parents think about in



the middle of the day-to-day commotion of child-rearing. But, Michael Austin writes, a philosophical understanding of parenting is not only vital; it's also practical. In this insightful resource, Austin argues that wise parents should view themselves as stewards of their children, and with this mindset they can gain a new understanding of the family. *Wise Stewards* combines biblical, theological and philosophical reflection to construct an everyday ethic and practice of parenthood that is distinctly Christian.

Deep Preaching: Creating Sermons that Go Beyond the Superficial

J. Kent Edwards (professor of preaching and leadership), B&H Academic, August 2009; Edwards recalls a story that late pastor J. Vernon McGee told about seeing children in South Africa playing a game of marbles in the dust with real diamonds. The precious stones were being handled with no regard for their true worth. Edwards fears the same thing happens today when preachers offer scriptural truth to listeners without being completely overwhelmed by its greatness themselves in the process. *Deep Preaching* is his call to "rethink" preaching. Edwards encourages preachers to join him in casting off the lines that moor their ministries to the status quo and make every effort to steer their preaching out of the "comfortable shallows."



5 Things Any Congregation Can Do to Care for Others

Jason Cusick (M.A. '00), Wesleyan Publishing House, September 2009; In our age of brokenness and hurt, the Christian church is called to come alongside people with the life-giving gospel of Christ. Unfortunately, many churches assume that well-intentioned Christians not only know how to do this, but are actually doing it. Such is not the case. Pastors, lay leaders and church members will find in this simple resource ideas that empower and train people to minister to one another. Cusick offers practical guidance for every believer on ministering to the needs of others. Readers will be equipped to comfort the hurting, assist the needy, offer recovery for the addicted, encourage the aged and provide spiritual care training for everyone.



These books are available at discounted prices at www.biolabookstore.com under "Biola Authors." Add the code "bauthors09" at checkout to receive an additional 10 percent discount.

"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.

News & Notes

1950s

Mary E. Diehl ('55) recently authored the book *Our Purposeful God*, which takes the reader on a journey through the Bible to discover God's awesome purposes for man from Eden to eternity future. With chapter quizzes at the end, the book can also be used for Bible study at church, home or Christian school. Diehl received her B.A. in Christian education from Biola and has devoted her life to directing Christian education and children's ministries in the local church.

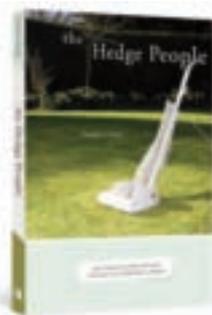
1960s

Craig Wright ('67) was honored, along with his 11th Armored Cavalry unit, at the White House on Oct. 22. Craig was an Army medic in a battle on March 26, 1970, in Vietnam. President Obama presented the Presidential Unit Citation to Craig's A Troop unit. Craig attends Whittier Area Community Church and just retired after 37 years teaching in the Montebello Unified School District.

Karen K. England ('68) and her husband, Gordon, are serving at North Sea Baptist Church in Stavanger, Norway, from October 2009 through January 2010. Gordon is serving as interim pastor. Since graduating from Biola, Karen has worked in youth ministry, as a missionary educator/speaker and substitute schoolteacher, as well as being a highly involved pastor's wife. She has traveled all over the world (including Indonesia, Israel, Japan and India) and throughout the United States.

1970s

Louise (Dean, '74) Carey recently authored *The Hedge People: How I Kept My Sanity and Sense of Humor as an Alzheimer's Caregiver*, published in September by Beacon Hill Press. The book is a collection of true stories in which Carey conveys attitudes and techniques for treating dementia patients with respect while also finding humor in the unusual and frustrating situations encountered by the caregiver. Carey is a freelance writer and women's conference speaker. She and her husband, Timothy, are members of Wycliffe Bible Translators and have worked among the Cakchiquel people in Guatemala for the past 28 years.



Dave Black ('75, M.Div. '80) is a professor at South-eastern Seminary in North Carolina, after having

taught at Biola for many years. He and his wife, Becky, have worked as self-supporting missionaries in Ethiopia for six years. One of the fruits of their work is Mohammed, who murdered a Christian. They met Mohammed in prison and he became a follower of Jesus. You can read more about his amazing story at Dave's website, www.daveblackonline.com, where you can also peruse some of Dave's articles, essays and books.

Thomas Cornman ('78) was appointed academic vice president and chief academic officer of Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, on July 1. Previously, Tom had worked for 27 years at Moody Bible Institute, as vice president and dean of the undergraduate school. Tom and his wife, Sue, have relocated to Springfield, Ohio. Laura, their youngest, is a senior at Biola in the art program.

Fred Popke ('78) recently published *My Utmost for Mediocrity: The Backslider's Devotional Handbook*, a humorous, tongue-in-cheek devotional that seeks to motivate individuals to pursue the higher spiritual things in life by depicting what life might be like if one merely settled for a mediocre lifestyle. It's like Oswald Chambers meets C.S. Lewis. The book is available to purchase on amazon.com.

1980s

After graduating from Biola, **Colin** ('82, M.A. '99) and **Becca (Beaty, '83) McDougall** spent 16 years as pioneer church planters along the border of Kenya and Ethiopia, helping to plant four congregations among the Samburu and Daasanach people. Since 2003 they have served on the pastoral team of Church of the Open Door in Glendora, Calif., while their three children complete high school and launch out on their own. One of their ministry goals has been to train and send 10 new missionary families before they return to Africa in 2012. So far three families have gone out and the other seven are making good progress.



Colin & Becca
McDougall

Jeffrey ('87, M.A. '95) and **Mary Clark** have pastored Valley Evangelical Free Church in Hemet, Calif., since 1993. Jeff completed his Ph.D. at Fuller Theological Seminary in June of 2007. Further, he accepted a call to Conference Baptist Church in Evergreen, Colo., to serve as senior pastor. Jeff also submitted an article to the Far West Evangelical

Theological Society (Spring 2009) titled "How the Church Fathers Appropriated Paul's Teaching on Meditation."

2000s

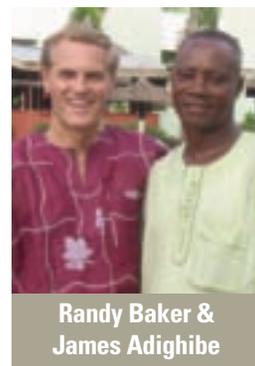


Claire Rogers

In May, **Claire (Smith, '04) Rogers** joined Back2Back Ministries as the director of marketing and donor relations. Back2Back exists to care for orphans, widows and impoverished people in Monterrey, Mexico; Hyderabad, India; and Jos, Nigeria, through partnerships with churches, businesses, schools and families. Back2Back serves over 1,000 orphans in 14 children's homes and 2,000 families in impoverished communities. claire@back2backministries.org.

William Casey Wells ('06) graduated this summer from the MIT Center for Real Estate with a Master of Science in real estate development with an emphasis in real estate finance and economics.

In May, **Randy Baker** ('72) accompanied his son and son-in-law on a trip to Aba, Nigeria, in support of a Nigerian pastor's efforts to assist the orphans of his community. To his surprise, the Nigerian pastor turned out to be **James Adighibe** (M.A. '02), a graduate of Biola's Cook School of



Randy Baker &
James Adighibe

Intercultural Studies. Adighibe and his wife have taken 15 orphans into their home, as AIDS and abandonment have left so many children orphaned in the region. They receive no governmental assistance for their orphan care and have hopes to construct a building to house them all.

Continued on page 32

Alumni Files

Celebrating the 'God Moments'

I was reminded again this week about the hearts of our students and how God's plan, even in the smallest detail, is an amazing thing.

I received a call from a friend of an alumnus, who was interested in having a Biola student fly with his 41-year-old daughter, who has a disability, from Los Angeles to Seattle over Thanksgiving, and then fly back to Los Angeles with her after the holiday. It seems her disability makes it mandatory for her to travel with someone, and this parent was looking for a way to make the flight possible so that the family could be together for the holiday. In return for this travel with his daughter, the parent was willing to pay for the flight of the student.

What a great opportunity for a student to get a free round-trip flight to Seattle and be home for Thanksgiving!

So our parent relations department got to work and — after a few phone calls and e-mails — found Kris, a student who was already booked on the very flights the man's daughter was taking. In both directions! Kris had already purchased his tickets, but suggested that, rather than pay for the flight, the parent could make a donation to an upcoming Biola mission trip that Kris was making to Uganda. A great call and the first God moment!



But there is more to the story. The day before this request was made, our willing student had a class in which the instructor had arranged the visit of four guest speakers — all people with mental and physical disabilities. Each had

talked about their faith and spirituality. Kris had felt so moved by the speakers that he had prayed for the opportunity to know more people like them! I love it when God's plan comes together!

Stories like this are happening all the time at Biola, both in and out of the classroom. And I want to thank the more than 1,000 new alumni donors who are giving through the Biola Fund, through class giving and through the President's Circle to make the Biola experience — and God moments — possible for this next generation.

Your response to our summer "Class Giving Project" was terrific, and it's still not too late to make a donation and have it count towards your class' total gift. (Just to refresh your memory: We asked all of our alumni to make a donation equal to the last year they attended Biola, such as \$19.72 for 1972.) If you haven't yet sent in your gift of your year of graduation, we would still love to hear from you and send you one of the Biola T-shirts in return. (They make great gifts!)

As we start 2010, I look forward to partnering

Just some of the students you have helped to support, posing at Midnight Madness in November.

with you in ministering to our nearly 6,000 students as they serve as God's hands and feet around the world. This year their needs for financial aid and scholarships are great. While the number of alumni donors is up, the total amount given towards the Biola

Fund and student scholarships is down. Your help is needed. (Enough said!)

The photo with this article reflects just a few of the students who were helped by your gifts this year. So, on behalf of all of us here at Biola, and the thousands of students and alumni like Kris who are celebrating the God moments in their lives, thanks for your prayers and support, and we hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year — and many God moments of your own.

Do you have a God moment in your Biola story? We would love to hear it and perhaps print it in a future article. You can send it along to me at rick.bee@biola.edu

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

Senior Director of Alumni Relations;
E-mail us at alumni@biola.edu or
call (562) 903-4728.



As we start 2010,
I look forward to
partnering with you
in ministering to our
nearly 6,000 students
as they serve as
God's hands and feet
around the world.

Christof Meyer ('06) has been busy since graduating from Biola. After running a small marketing consulting practice from 2006–07, he got accepted into the MBA program at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and moved to Charlottesville, Va., with his wife, Megan. He received his MBA from Darden in May 2009 with an academic scholarship and the faculty award for academic excellence. He currently works in New York on a short-term consulting engagement in financial services.



Christof Meyer



Brookens-Tittle Wedding



Haaland-Petermann Wedding

Marriages

Kristin (Brookens, '95) and **Jeremy Tittle** were married on March 28 at Cherry Hills Community Church in Denver, Colo. Biolans in the wedding party included Kari (Harder, '95) Anderson and Karin Flug ('96). Kristin currently works at a forensic engineering firm in Denver as the administrative coordinator and Jeremy is assistant men's soccer coach at nearby Metro State College.

James ('99) and **Kirsten (Haaland, '00) Petermann** were married on May 23 in Bellingham, Wash. Biolans in the wedding included Christianne (Serrato, '00) Squires and Mitchell Baker ('99). The couple had not seen each other since attending Biola and reconnected on Facebook in November 2008. They are currently living in Issaquah, Wash.

Sarah Nugent ('01) married **Jeff Swegles** on May 9 in Calabasas, Calif. Alumni in the wedding included Abigail Nugent ('03); Megan (Beck, '01) Bright; Sarah (Shurter, '01) Nzeribe with her daughter, Ruby;

Desiree Thomas ('01); Lindsey (Sandoval, '01) Kleiwer with her daughter, Shelby; and Erika (Dahlin, '00) Jones with her sons, Micah and Elijah. Jeff and Sarah live in Canyon Hills, Calif. Jeff is a Los Angeles city fireman and Sarah works at Anaheim Regional Hospital as an ER nurse.

Natalie (Janzen, '03) and **Curtis Lehmann** were married on Aug. 1 at La Habra Christian Church. The ceremony was officiated by Greg Stiles and Chad Miller ('00, M.A. '05). Other Biolans in the wedding party included Alicia (Allen, '02) Barnes. The Lehmanns attend Whittier Area Community Church and live in La Habra Heights. Natalie currently works at Coolidge Elementary School in San Gabriel as a school counselor, and Curtis is pursuing his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Mark Kaech ('05) married Mary Euler on April 26, 2008, in Tucson, Ariz. Biolans in the ceremony included Murray Decker (Biola professor and best man), Scot Keranen ('07), Sylvan Strohm ('07), Andrew Heath ('05) and Ruth Mansi ('06). The couple currently resides in Phoenix, where both work for the international development organization Food for the Hungry.

Stephanie Johnson ('07) and **Joel Liechty** were married on May 17 at the Oak Hill Mansion in Carmel, Ind.

Ben ('07) and **Diana (Romero, '08) Camp** were married on June 28 in Downey, Calif. A reception was held in Downey at the Rio Hondo Event Center. The bridal party included '08 graduates Jacklyn Fiktarz (maid of honor), Katie Tostado, Jessica Silva and Ashley Simons. Ryan Bestelmeyer ('04) officiated the ceremony.

Zach ('08) and **Ashley (Spoelstra, '07) Kushner** were married on July 26 in an outdoor ceremony in Temecula, Calif. Alumni in the wedding included maid of honor Ellen Lagasse ('07) and best man Carsten Hyatt ('08). Zach and Ashley now reside in Del Rio, Texas, where Zach is serving in the Air Force and training to be a pilot.

Caroline (Putnam, '08) and **Justin Griffin** were married in May. Justin currently attends Cal State Fullerton.

Matt Hielt ('09) and **Sheri Warkentin ('10)** were married on June 20. Matt graduated with a degree in business and Sheri will soon receive a degree in education. The couple currently lives in Fresno, Calif.

Births

Bill ('93) and **Julie Born** joyfully announce their new daughter, Maria Joy, born on Aug. 30, 2006, and "Born" on Feb. 19, 2008. You can watch a video of Maria's adoption story, hot off the press, at www.usforever.org. More recently they welcomed Benjamin Jackson into the family, born on July 1. Maria and Benjamin join their very proud older brother, Billy, 7.

Sean and **Jennifer (Cowen, '95) Fitzgerald** received a super blessing on Sept. 9, 2008, when their first child, Jackson Peter Fitzgerald, was born. The Fitzgerald fami-



Nugent-Swegles Wedding



Janzen-Lehmann Wedding

Continued on page 34

Where Are They Now?



Piloting Military Aircraft in Iraq and Afghanistan

Capt. R. Austin Smith ('04) is currently stationed at McChord Air Force Base in Washington state, where he works as a pilot and executive officer. Austin recently returned home

from a four-month deployment to Turkey with the 7th Airlift Squadron, where he piloted his C-17 into and out of Iraq and Afghanistan in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Austin describes the experience of piloting the powerful C-17 in this way: "Sitting at the controls and feeling the power of 160,000 pounds of thrust at your back leaves you in awe of God's creative order and the ingenuity of the man who bears his image and harnesses his creation for his own ends." When he's not deployed, Austin is still kept busy flying 10- to 14-day missions to Europe and the Middle East every month. Outside of work, Austin loves spending as much time as possible with his wife, Beth. Austin and Beth live in Tacoma, Wash., and are active in their church, Faith Presbyterian, as well as Officer Christian Fellowship (OCF) Bible studies each week. Austin also helps out with the Pacific Northwest chapter of the Alliance of Christian Musicians (ACM) and has played his violin at some of their conferences.

Creating "Baby Sophie" Educational DVDs for Children



David (Psy.D. '00) and **Marta** (Ph.D. '02) **Pickens** are clinical psychologists who specialize

in the social, emotional and spiritual development of children and their parents. They recently completed a Sesame Street-like DVD project designed to assist children in developing secure attachments. The two-DVD set includes "Baby Sophie and Friends: Exploring the World of Empathy," a half-hour educational video for children, and "The Gift of a Secure Attachment," a one-hour lecture distilling five decades of attachment research for parents. The DVDs were created with the help of Biola film students and some of the scenes were shot in Biola's studio. If you're interested in purchasing a copy, visit drsophie.org. Dr. Sophie is an organization David and Marta founded to educate children and parents in the skills that lead to a secure attachment. Their goal is to inform parents of the good news that it's never too late to begin building a secure attachment with your child. Since graduating from Biola's Rosemead School of Psychology, David and Marta have also taught Biola undergraduate students, supervised Rosemead students, taught at Western Seminary in Sacramento, started their own practices, lectured to professional colleagues, spoken in churches and had three kids.

Inventing the Egg-shaped Billiard Ball



Devra Robledo ('82) and her husband, Fred, started SOURCEnterprises in 2006 after inventing Bobble Ball, the egg-shaped billiard ball. Devra — whose primary business is carving pool table legs — got the idea for Bobble Ball after playing a game of bocce ball one night with some friends and then experimenting with how it might be played on a smaller scale on a pool table. They discovered that using all spherical balls on such a small surface did not work because when the balls would contact the "palina" ball (now

known as Bobble Ball), it would roll too far away, making it difficult to play strategically. After much experimenting, they found that an egg-shaped ball provided unpredictability and allowed for fun and strategic playing. "From our first night of inventing the game, my vision and hope has been for Bobble Ball to be used within the ministry," said Devra, who leads Bobble Ball activities within the local Anaheim Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Senior Community Center, and the Southland Senior Olympics (in which Bobble Ball is a competitive event). Learn more about Bobble Ball at www.bobbleball.com or purchase products at www.diriginal.com.



Working for Prominent D.C. Public Relations Firm

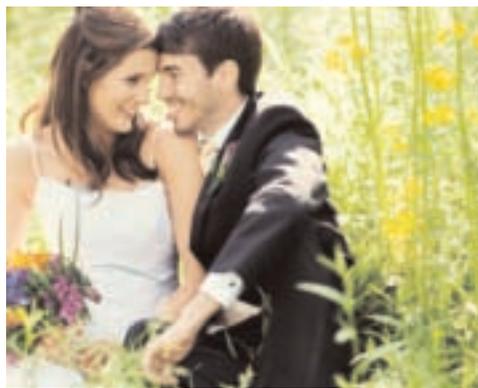
John Scofield ('95), who has worked in high-profile positions in Washington, D.C., for the past 15 years, is currently a principal at the Podesta Group, a

lobbying and public relations firm in D.C. After Biola, John took a job as a speechwriter for Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) and actually finished his degree by correspondence in D.C. He spent a total of 13 years working in Congress, including three years as press secretary to Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.), then eight years as the communications director for the House Appropriations Committee, where he had an office in the Capitol Building with a view down the National Mall. John was there for the Sept. 11 attacks and his committee was integral in preparing the resources for the response to the attacks. "That experience really affirmed my faith in our democratic system," said John, who lives with his wife just blocks from the Capitol. As part of the appropriations committee, John was also part of funding the response to Hurricane Katrina as well as the escalation of the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and got to travel all over the world, including Iraq, Afghanistan and even Antarctica. "I was fortunate to be a witness to some of the major events of our generation."

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?"



Euler-Kaech Wedding



Johnson-Liechty Wedding



Spelstra-Kushner Wedding

ly lives in Fullerton, Calif. Daddy is a senior director at Townsend Public Affairs and mommy is a political fundraiser who works from home so she can take care of Action Jackson.

Jonathan Cole ('96) and **Stephanie (Davila, '95) Cole** are blessed to announce the birth of their twin daughters, Emma and Sophia, on Oct. 21, 2008. The girls are joyfully welcomed into the family by big sister Kylie, 7, and big brothers Jonny, 5, and Ethan, 2.

Luke and **Melanie (Edwards, '96) Sunukjian** welcome the birth of their third child, Noelle Geneva. She is a peaceful addition to her siblings, Leah and John. Her dad is still a middle school math teacher in Washington, D.C., and her mom is still an offspring and habitation development specialist.

Chris ('97) and **Susan Stark** ('97) **Tweedy** are thrilled to announce the arrival of Sierra Grace, born Jan. 10, 2009. Sierra joins her adoring sisters, Savannah and Ashley. The Tweedys serve with Greater Europe Mission in Germany. E-mail them at stweedy@gemission.com.

Jeff ('97) and **Jessica** ('99) **Eschen** welcomed their fifth blessing, Naomi Amelia, on Dec. 28, 2008. She joins her energetic siblings, Andrew, 8, Gwen, 6, Leah, 4, and Luke, 2. She enjoyed swimming into the world, born at home in the tub. Jeff is a CPA in Salem, Ore. Jessica, a retired RN, stays home to school and care for their brood.

Philip and **Andrea (Hall, '00) Hoverstock** are happy to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Kirsten Marie, on Feb. 10. Kirsten loves to smile at

everyone and tries to be involved with everything happening around her. She never stops moving! Callie and Kirsten are adorable together and have so much fun talking and playing with one another. Phil is the pastor of Greentown United Methodist Church in Ohio and Andrea works part time as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Akron Children's Hospital.

Michael and **Melissa (Ward, '00) Ice** joyfully welcome the gift of their daughter, Micheya Renee Ice, born July 16 in Glendale, Calif. Micheya weighed in at 7 pounds, 0.5 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

Noah and **Cindy (Johnson, '02) Brock** joyfully announce the adoption of their first baby, Malachi Michael. Malachi was born on May 7 (weighing 5 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 20 inches long) and was first placed in his parents' arms on May 8. They live in Forest Lake, Minn., where Noah works in sales and Cindy is enjoying caring for Malachi at home. cbrockupnorth@hotmail.com.

Meredith (Hicks, '03) and Alan ('02, M.A. '05) **Conrow** announce the birth of Evelyn Ruth, on May 3. Evelyn joins big sister Adeline Elizabeth, born June 23, 2007. Alan is youth director at Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church in South Lyon, Mich., and is currently seeking ordination in that denomination. Meredith is a stay-at-home mom. merealan@gmail.com; conrowfamily.blogspot.com.

Steve and **Teresa (Castro, '03, M.A. '08) Pregizer** are proud to announce the birth of Nathan Karl. He was born on April 23 in Nashville, Tenn., and shares his birthday with Teresa. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. Steve has a post-doctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University and Teresa is a stay-at-home mom.

Patrick ('04) and **Samantha (Frias, '03) Torres-Wright** welcomed Corinne Amara into this world on July 14. Patrick is the art director for Mosley Tribes in West Hollywood, Calif. Samantha works at Whittier Pregnancy Care Clinic as the director of special projects. The family lives in Whittier.

Michael ('05, M.A. '06) and **Abby** ('05, M.A. '06) **Clark** celebrated the birth of their first child, a daughter, on Oct. 2, 2008. Kate Elise was born at 32 weeks, almost eight weeks premature, measuring 17.5 inches long and weighing 3 pounds, 11 ounces. Kate is now a 21-pound, healthy girl! The Clarks praise God for his hand of mercy and grace upon their family, and know that the Lord's plans are greater than their own (Jer. 29:11). Michael works in the graduate admissions department at Biola and Abby enjoys staying at home with her bouncy, joyful little girl.

Phillip (Ph.D., '06) and **Trihscha Atkinson** were blessed by the arrival of their first child, Lilyana Constance Atkinson, on Jan. 17, 2009. The Atkinsons live in North Carolina, where Phil is a psychologist serving in the United States Army and Trihscha is a stay-at-home mom to Lilyana.

Jeff (M.Div. '06) and **Robin (Kilfoyle, '03, '07) Jennings** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Evangeline Lucille, born on July 3 at 1:32 a.m., weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. The Jennings attend Christ Community Church in Laguna Hills, Calif., where Jeff serves as pastor of young adults and community life. Robin serves as the director of international students at Capistrano Valley Christian Schools.

Clint ('05, M.A. '09) and **Ingrid (Thronson, '02) Rothell** are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Isaac Timothy, who was born on Aug. 10. The Rothells recently moved to Michigan, where Clint is the director of high school ministries at a local church and Ingrid is transitioning from working at Biola to being a full-time mom.

Bjorn ('06, M.Div. '08) and **Esther (Vorherr, '03, M.A. '08) Dixon** praise God for the birth of their daughters, Liana Sophia and Amaya Noel. They were diagnosed with Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome in utero and given a 50 percent chance of survival. Esther underwent laser surgery and 13 weeks of bed rest. The girls were born 10 weeks early on May 4, weighing 2 pounds, 6 ounces, and 2 pounds, 12 ounces, respectively. After seven weeks in the NICU, they are

Continued on page 36



Romero-Camp Wedding

Biolans Up Close

Russ Hiebert Works for Change in Canadian Parliament

When he ran for Associated Students president during his first year at Biola, Russ Hiebert ('94) lost. But that didn't end his political career. Two decades later he's a third-term Member of Parliament in Canada in the Conservative Party, working closely with the prime minister on issues like border safety, crime and human rights. He recently shared some of his story with *Biola Magazine*.

I received a B.A. in communications at Biola. I had a great experience. It's just an amazing community of people who are on the same path and share the same perspective.

I did my last semester of Biola at the American Studies Center in Washington, D.C. It was a great program — very helpful in learning how to apply my faith to real-world problems. During this time I was an intern at the Canadian embassy. That experience really benefits me now, because I return to Washington a couple of times a year to meet with my counterparts in the United States House and Senate to deal with issues that are of concern for both our governments.

The plan that emerged while I was at Biola was to go to law school. I got my law degree at the University of British Columbia and worked for a little while as an attorney before going back to school to receive my MBA. After that I practiced law for a little more, before getting involved in politics.

I had been encouraged by a number of close friends to consider politics. I was very concerned about the direction the country was going at that time, and felt like I could be part of a solution. So in 2004 I decided to throw my hat in the ring.

My district — my constituency — is on the border with Washington state. I was first elected to take an initiative on border relations between Canada and the U.S. So I go down to Washington to collaborate with my counterparts to help facilitate a safe and secure border between the two countries. We have the largest border crossing in my district here in western

Canada. So that's a real concern, especially with the Olympics coming up. We want everything in place for all the visitors we will have.

I had the opportunity in early 2007 to travel to Afghanistan, where Canada has a very large contingent of forces. I was able to work with an organization called the Wheelchair Foundation of Canada, the executive director of which is from my community. Working with them, we donated 500 wheelchairs to people who had lost their limbs in Afghanistan because of the improvised explosive devices that are all over the country. It was very meaningful for me personally to meet these people and to see them receive wheelchairs.

Like the rest of the world, Canada is facing the same economic challenges. But we have cultural challenges as well. Like the U.S. and Western Europe, we have an aging population and we have social problems like crime and drug abuse. Those are the focuses of our government right now — to address the immediate concerns of the economy but also issues like crime.

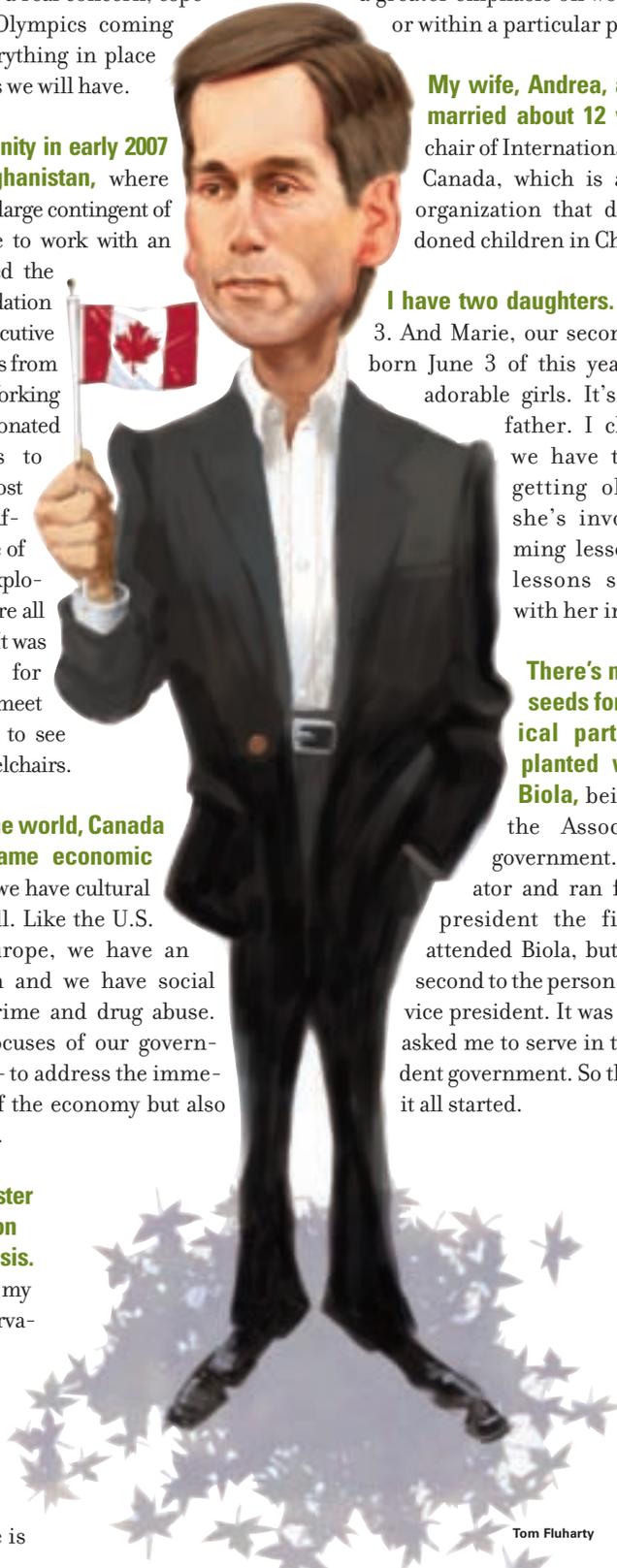
I see Prime Minister Stephen Harper on almost a daily basis. He's the leader of my party — the conservative party. In Canada we have the parliamentary system of democracy, and in the parliamentary system there is

a greater emphasis on working as a team, or within a particular political party.

My wife, Andrea, and I have been married about 12 years. Andrea is chair of International China Concern Canada, which is an international organization that deals with abandoned children in China.

I have two daughters. Kate is just over 3. And Marie, our second daughter, was born June 3 of this year. They are two adorable girls. It's so fun being a father. I cherish the time we have together. Kate's getting old enough that she's involved in swimming lessons and skating lessons so I participate with her in that.

There's no doubt that the seeds for my future political participation were planted while I was at Biola, being involved with the Associated Students government. I was an AS senator and ran for student body president the first year that I attended Biola, but came in a close second to the person who was then the vice president. It was after that that he asked me to serve in the senate of student government. So that's really where it all started.



Tom Fluharty



Grandparents of Biola students are invited to spend a fun-filled day on campus with their Biola student on Friday, March 26. This **FREE** event will allow grandparents to experience their grandchild's home away from home, as well as enjoy breakfast with President Corey, guided golf cart tours of campus, special musical performances, lunch in the Café with your student and more!

Please visit www.biola.edu/parent or call 1.800.99.BIOLA to reserve your spot now.

Let us honor you for the impact you have had in your grandchild's life. Come to Grandparents Day 2010!



(Sorry parents, this is grandma and grandpa's day. Please do not plan on attending unless your student's grandparents need assistance.)



Putnam-Griffin Wedding

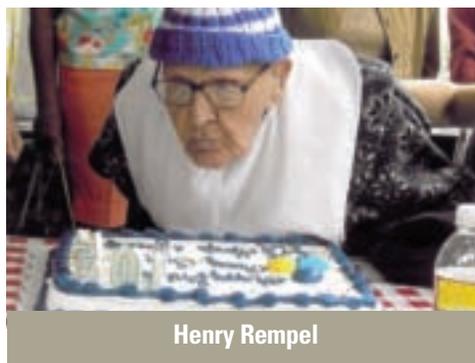


Warkintin-Hiett Wedding

healthy and at home. The Dixons live in Elk River, Minn., where Bjorn serves as the director of new worshipping communities at Central Lutheran Church and Esther stays home with the girls.

Justin ('07) and **Beth (McConnell, '07) Brunett** joyfully announce the birth of their first son, Jackson Everett Brunett. Jackson was born May 13 in Palm Springs, Calif. He weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 21.5 inches long. The Brunetts are currently living in Idyllwild, Calif.

Deaths



Henry Rempel

Henry Rempel ('27) passed away in La Habra, Calif., on Aug. 14 at the age of 105. He was sitting comfortably in his favorite chair after breakfast. A former member of Biola's President's Circle, Rempel was honored during an alumni chapel in 2007 where students went wild after Rempel was introduced as Biola's oldest living alumnus. Rempel was born in 1904 in Manitoba, Canada, in a God-fearing Mennonite home. At 19, a pastor encouraged Henry to enroll at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, where he "crowded two years into three" and completed a certificate in music. After leaving Biola, Henry was hired by the Second Brethren Church of Los Angeles to be their minister of music. He would eventually attain his Master of Divinity from Grace Theological Seminary and would go on to pastor churches in Indiana, Pennsylvania, California and Washington. Henry was married twice, first to Laura Mayhon, who died of cancer after 28 years, and second to Helen Reuter, who died in 2001 after 32 years of marriage. In his life, Henry was able to travel around the world — including Japan, India, Africa, Israel and Europe. In his final years, while living in a total-care residential facility in La Habra, Henry gave several inter-

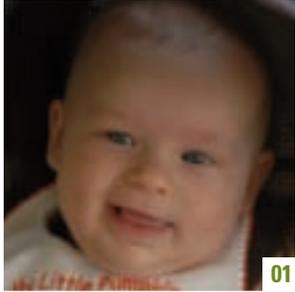
views as his birthdays came around. He would always say, "It is through the grace of God that I have lived 100 years." But he was always looking for the next "graduation," which came 105 years and 5 months after his birth.

Joseph Marden Copeland ('40) was called home on May 27. He was a man of great faith whose enduring influence made a difference at The Pocket Testament League and in thousands of lives around the globe. Joe was born Nov. 6, 1915, and spent his first years living in tiny Hope, Ark. As a young man, Joe committed his life to the ministry and moved out to Los Angeles to attend Biola, where he met his wife, Gene. When World War II entered their lives, Joe enlisted in the Army, where he was assigned to serve in the intelligence branch in Peking, China. After a near-fatal illness, he was discharged and returned to the U.S., where he continued ministry studies at Westmont College. After serving as an interim pastor, Joe and Gene joined The Pocket Testament League in 1952 and began their missionary lives. Because China's doors were now closed, the family went instead to Japan, where League members had helped fund a special initiative to ship 11 million gospels, spearheaded by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Thus began a nearly 40-year ministry of evangelism on five continents. Joe and Gene influenced thousands of lives. Wherever they went, they inspired people to get involved in sharing the Word of God.

Grady L. Etheridge ('45) arrived in heaven on Pentecost Sunday morning, May 31. He departed this earthly life with friends holding his hand in Cape Girardeau, Mo., where he was an elder at Christ Church of the Heartland. Grady was born July 26, 1923, in Davidson, Okla. He grew up in western Texas on a cattle ranch and attended Baylor University before coming out to California to attend Biola in the 1940s. After graduating from Biola, Grady earned a degree from Pioneer Bible College, took classes at Southeast Missouri State University and was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by Christian Life Bible Institute in 1990. He spent 69 years of his life as a teacher/preacher of the Bible, planting and pastoring churches in California, Texas, Illinois and southeast Missouri, writing a book for new Christians (*Your Walk With the Lord*) and offering hours of solid Bible teaching on Total Christian Television Network (TCT). Surviving him are his daughter, Karan Marie Thatcher, and his wife of 30 years, Myrna L. Goehri.

Continued on page 38

Baby Biolans



01



02



03



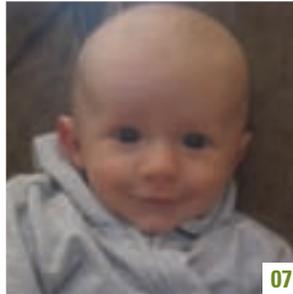
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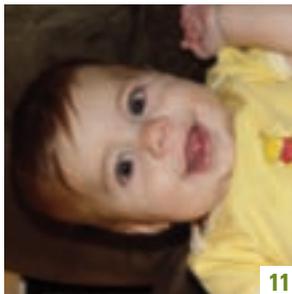
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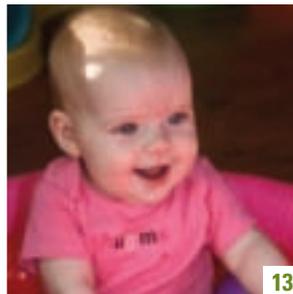
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17



18



19

- 01) Benjamin Jackson Born
- 02) Corrine Amara Torres-Wright
- 03) Elias Aiden Vincent
- 04) Emma & Sophia Cole
- 05) Evangeline Lucille Jennings
- 06) Evelyn Ruth Conrow
- 07) Isaac Timothy Rothell
- 08) Jackson Everett Brunett
- 09) Jackson Peter Fitzgerald
- 10) Kate Elise Clark

- 11) Kirsten Marie Hoverstock
- 12) Liana Sophia & Amaya Noel
- 13) Lilyana Constance Atkinson
- 14) Malachi Michael Brock
- 15) Sierra Grace Tweedy
- 16) Micheya Renee Ice
- 17) Naomi Amelia Eschen
- 18) Nathan Karl Pregizer
- 19) Noelle Geneva Sunukjian
- 20) Maria Joy Born



20

Paul Matossian ('55) was called home to heaven on May 22. Born in Los Angeles in 1933, Paul attended the downtown campus of Biola and worshiped at the Church of the Open Door, where he met his wife, Marie ('59). Paul worked in banking and aerospace, before eventually taking the position of data processing manager at Thru the Bible Radio in Pasadena, Calif. Marie joined him there until his retirement in 1998 and hers in 2000. Paul and Marie were looking forward to celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this September. Paul is survived by Marie, children Nancy Lomen ('83), Ron Matossian and Christy Ostrander, and four grandchildren.

William F. Roberson ('56) died peacefully on Sept. 28 with his wife and family at his bedside in their home. Bill struggled with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes. His wife and family thank everyone for their support and prayers.

Musa Dogonyaro ('74), one of Nigeria's great athletics heroes, passed away in August 2008. Musa represented Nigeria at the Mexico Olympic Games in 1968 where he ran the 400 meters quarterfinal round in a time of 46.1

seconds. In 1969, he enrolled at Biola, where he ran 400 meters and 800 meters and also played soccer. He played soccer for Biola in 1969, 1970 and 1973. In those three years, he scored a total of 55 goals, and he currently holds the single-game record of six goals scored in a 9-3 whooping of Pomona College in 1969. He ran the 400 meters and 4-by-400 relay for Nigeria at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, was a member of Nigeria's silver medal winning 4-by-400 relay team during the 1973 All Africa Games in Lagos, and represented Nigeria at the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1974. Musa was also highly accomplished academically. He earned a Ph.D. in physical education from Claremont Graduate School in 1979, making him the first Nigerian international athlete in any sport to earn a Ph.D. from an accredited university. After completing his education, Musa returned in 1981 to Nigeria, where, after a few hard years, he was selected as the director of sports for Kaduna State. He was later appointed zonal director for the National Sports Commission. Four years ago, he was posted to the Ministry of Sports in Abuja, where he acted briefly as the director of sports development before he retired. Musa is survived by his loving wife, Lami Alheri Dogonyaro, and four beautiful children.



FOUR GENERATIONS OF EAGLES
 (left to right) **Karinne (Deegan, '99)**
O'Ram, Dora Mae (Hubert, '51) Kliewer,
Marilyn (Kliewer, '76) Deegan,
 celebrating the birth of **Anna Grace**
O'Ram, Biola Class of 2021.

100% COMPASSIONATE

Danika Dahlin brings water to the thirsty.

In the small African country of Malawi, where thousands die every year because of a lack of fresh water, this Biola student is working to make a difference.

Each summer, Danika travels to Malawi with Water Wells for Africa, a nonprofit organization started by her family. There, she has been instrumental in both building wells and providing the education and resources needed to maintain them. Biola has given Danika the strong academic

grounding that she needs to help effectively run an organization. And Biola's commitment to a distinctively biblical worldview has equipped her with the tools and understanding to spread the gospel — and more effectively serve the world for Christ.

That means she's not just quenching physical thirst. She's providing living water to people in need.

BIOLA UNIVERSITY High school students: Interested in Biola? Come visit us at Biola Spring Preview Day on Feb. 14-15 | biola.edu/compassionate

The Best Verses You May Have Ever Skimmed

The Bible is full of memorable and meaningful verses, but some of the richest treasures are often unfamiliar to the average Christian. What are some of the underrated verses or passages in the Bible that rarely make it onto the memory flashcards but are nevertheless worth remembering? We asked a few Biola professors to weigh in.

Proverbs 4:18–19

I love the word picture these verses give of our life as a sanctified journey on a road facing into the dawn, headed into the daylight. So as we walk in the right way following our Lord Jesus as his righteous ones, we have more and more light as the sun comes up and we can see temptations coming; we know and recognize them and we can avoid stumbling! Jesus is the light of the world!

– Betsy A. Barber, associate professor of spirituality and psychology; associate director of the Institute for Spiritual Formation, Talbot School of Theology

Nehemiah 8:10

There can be much sorrow in life: financial problems, hurtful relationships, loss of loved ones, emotional and physical pain and suffering. Yet through all of life's trials, God offers us not happiness as unbelievers know it, but a joy that only God can give us in the midst of troubled times. When we lose our joy we are weak and vulnerable. ... Joy comes from knowing our Lord intimately as the Great Provider, the Great Physician and the Great Comforter, no matter how our circumstances may appear.

– Annette Browning, associate professor of nursing

Lamentations 3:18–32

Lamentations is a book depicting both rugged history and poetic beauty. It is a dense treatise of the counterintuitive ways that God works in our world and among his people. In this passage, God allows the un-retouched shame of his people's disobedience to intersect with his radical displays of mercy and grace. In Lamentations, we see ourselves and find God.

– Freddy Cardoza, associate professor; chair, Christian education department



Joel 2:25

This verse reminds me of the Lord's faithfulness. After we go through a difficult season of loss and suffering, the Lord still has something special in mind for us. Maybe it won't be until we see Jesus, but for me I am overflowing with the blessings promised in this verse.

– Tom Finley, professor of Old Testament and Semitics

Ephesians 1:18

When Paul prays for the church at Ephesus, he doesn't merely pray that their minds will be enlightened, but that their hearts will be awakened with God's truth. The word *heart* in the New Testament refers to the center or focus of our personal life, the motivation of all of our desires, motives and choices. The great danger of studying and teaching at a Christian university is that God can become a subject and the Scriptures a text to be studied. Paul's prayer is a great reminder to me that my faith shouldn't be merely an intellectual exercise, but something that touches all of me.

– Tim Muehlhoff, associate professor of communication

Jeremiah 12:5 (NRSV)

This verse conveys the importance of our present effort and ability for the *future* applications of a more complex or advanced nature. As a biblical principle, it communicates the need to be diligent and responsible "in the here and now" with

one's work ethic, discipline and personal endeavors in order to be prepared, trained and capable for eventual achievement and success. For college students specifically, this can be applied to graduate studies, career pursuits, personal relationship matters or spiritual/ministry involvement.

– Marc Apkarian, associate professor of kinesiology

Jeremiah 2:13

This verse reminds me that I too often do not seek God as my source of refreshment but try to stockpile resources that will meet my needs. What I choose is always inferior to what God offers me. What I think will meet my needs in the future dissipates in the waiting. I am reminded that God is a fountain of living waters that is always there. He deserves my honoring him and always brings me fulfillment as I wholeheartedly seek after him.

– Tim Stranske, professor of education and chair of graduate studies, School of Education

Psalms 116:7 (NIV)

In times of difficulty and struggle, this verse is a reminder that God has been good in the past and so will be good in the future. It is an instruction to myself to rest in God's goodness. Note to self: God has been good!

– Jason McMartin, assistant professor of biblical and theological studies



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