As Biola makes a push to return to its birthplace, meet some of the Biolans who are serving, studying and shaping the City of Angels.
Construction on the *new* Talbot School of Theology building is underway, but we aren’t finished yet!

To date, supporters have given 96% of the $18.2 million needed to fully fund the new Talbot building. With your contribution, we can complete this important project and give students and faculty a new place to study the truth of God’s Word starting in the Fall 2011 semester.

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WE LOVE L.A.

It’s where Biola grew up. Now, as the university makes a push to return to its roots, meet some of the Biolans who are serving, studying and shaping the City of Angels.

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I was recently skimming through a 1910 issue of Biola’s first magazine, The King’s Business, when a fascinating article about the early work of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles caught my attention.

Just two years into the school’s existence, the institute was quickly becoming a rallying center for the study of God’s word, the article said. Hundreds of young people were enrolled in free weeknight Bible classes offered throughout Los Angeles and neighboring cities, and their joint monthly gathering was “one of the most impressive and blessed meetings ever held in our city.”

God was at work, and it was clear to Biola’s founders that Los Angeles was the ideal place for the school.

“Our wonderful climate affords the privilege of living out doors all the year around,” the article reads. “The living is cheap, the cosmopolitan character of the city makes possible the study of the peoples from all sections of the earth, and gives opportunity for practical work in their midst.”

These days, the living might not be so cheap, but the Southern California climate is still wonderful — Biola was recently named one of Newsweek’s top 25 “Great Schools with Great Weather” — and the city is more cosmopolitan than ever. And although Biola left its downtown Los Angeles home for the La Mirada suburbs in 1959, the city and the surrounding region still offer a one-of-a-kind place for Biolans to study, serve and share the truth of God’s word.

Recognizing all this potential, Biola has begun taking steps to connect with Los Angeles in significant new ways in the months and years ahead. The university’s leadership recently launched an initiative to establish more of a presence in the urban environment of Los Angeles, with plans to eventually open a new center within the city and offer additional programs to expose students to cross-cultural experiences. (Expect more coverage in future issues.)

With this issue of Biola Magazine, we’ve chosen to spotlight some of the ways that Biola is already serving and learning from this great city. Over the following pages, we’ll introduce you to a handful of Biolans who are serving God in various vocations throughout Los Angeles; a group of students who have built deep friendships on the rough streets of Skid Row; and a popular program that’s making waves in Hollywood.

You’ll also find some extras on our website — www.biola.edu/biolamag — including some amazing shots of the city from freelance photographer Laurel Dailey (’05) and the results of a poll about Biolans’ favorite restaurants, museums, beaches and other hot spots in the Greater Los Angeles area, voted on by readers like you.

Now, as a century ago, this is an ideal place to be, and God is doing great things in our city. How blessed we are to be a part of it all.
Time to Rest

We thoroughly enjoyed and agreed with the article titled “God’s Invitation to Rest” (Winter 2011)! Within the last six years we have also discovered this new/ancient secret and the renewal that occurs to maintain our physical bodies and spiritual focus. We have also discovered the day following our Sabbath rest is incredibly productive! We also appreciated Dr. Taylor’s statement, “As much as most of us complain about having too much to do, we harbor some pride that we are in such demand … since being busy is how our culture measures worth.” We have discovered this also to be true! It seems to be kind of a silent, hidden idol that our busyness serves. Thank you for giving this perspective! I wish I had known this when I was a student at Biola and was falling asleep in the library because I was so exhausted — and who was I trying to please? But beyond just the issue of our bodies needing rest, it seems to be an exercise in submission to our Creator, and believing that he knows best. I hope the current students and others will heed Dr. Taylor’s wisdom!

Suzanne (Griffith, ’89) Rogers
Scottsbluff, Neb.

Pour Choice
Whoever authorized the publishing of the picture of John pouring water on Jesus’ head as his baptism should get an “F” in biblical theology. (“Think Bigger.” Winter 2011). Matthew 2:16 states Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water. Jesus’ baptism pre-figured his death, burial and resurrection. (See Romans 6:3–4 and Colossians 2:12). Pouring doesn’t symbolize anything. In John 3:23, John the Baptist was baptizing in Aenon because there was much water there. Why go to Aenon or the Jordan River while pouring 8 ounces of water would do it? “F” in theology and biblical history.

Rev. Paul Richins (’49)
Paradise, Calif.

Worship Leaders: Be Quiet
Most worship leaders seem to operate out of a fuzzy and inadequate definition of worship (“Weightier Worship,” Fall 2010). Why else would so many of them feel the need to be some combination of performer, cheerleader, exhorter, teacher, testimony-giver, lyric-paraphraser, etc.? Until they grasp the foundational truth that worship is the Spirit-led response of a child of God to the presence of God, they will fail to see that the role of a worship leader is to facilitate intimacy between worshippers and their Lord. If I could offer one piece of advice to worship leaders about what they do in worship services, it would be this: Shut up! I’m trying to get more connected to God. Your constant talking to me, between and during songs, is a hindrance to worship. Instead of being the worship leader, be the lead worshipper.

Roger Snyder (’86)
Carnation, Wash.

Correction
Just a slight correction to our recent blurb in the “Where Are They Now” section (Winter 2011). Debbie (Yarrall) Nesbitt graduated in ’96, not ’06. I know I got a young one, but not that young!

Leslie Nesbitt (M.A. ’02)
Thailand

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.
On a March day when much of the United States was still bundled up in coats and jackets, Biola students spent a beautiful afternoon picnicking and tossing a Frisbee around on Metzger lawn. The university’s sunny climate is one of the reasons Newsweek recently put Biola on its top 25 “Great Education, Great Tan” list — reserved for schools with terrific weather and a smart student body.
A 29-Year-Old Question Finally Answered

Biola University facility administrator, Ken Bascom, had an idea 29 years ago. Before Sam Sutherland — Biola’s president from 1952 to 1970 — could no longer recall his vision for Biola, Ken decided to ask him some questions and record them on a cassette tape. I’m so glad he did.

The questions he asked Dr. Sutherland in 1982, 12 years into his retirement, were about Biola’s growth. Particularly, Ken wanted to chronicle this former president’s dreams for how big Biola would ever get. Here is a transcript of part of that conversation, a recording I first heard just a few months back:

Ken Bascom: What was the scope of your vision for the size of Biola in the future? You had around 700 students at that time?

Sam Sutherland: Yes.

Ken: And what was in your mind … your glorious dreams for how many students we’d have out here?

Sam: I thought that we would have a student body of around 1,800. In my wildest dreams, I anticipated maybe a student body of around 2,500, but that was two generations hence. I don’t care what happens!” Well, he had a bigger vision than I did.

In the Biola of Sutherland’s day as well as of Corey’s day, the role of the Bible is still to call and enable us to think from the center of all knowledge — to know that God is the author of all truth. Our students are still confronted with the question, “How then should I live in a way that honors Christ and brings glory to God in the world of finance or law, medicine or politics, art or the media, the family or in nonprofit volunteering?” Do I have a core that informs all I do?

At Biola, we have a strong idea what our ideal graduate looks like. It’s clearly stated in our mission statement. We will be a biblically centered university equipping students in mind and character to impact the world for Christ. Biblical-centeredness matters. The cornerstone of the evangelical movement from its starting point was an ineradicable belief in the authority of the Bible and a call for radical religious reform by going “back to the Bible.” The great challenge today for Christians is remaining authentically biblical in a culture that is increasingly uninterested in the Bible’s claims. A commitment to biblical fidelity is a virtue vital to the preservation of the Christian community. It is a virtue that we at Biola will not erode, even with a growing student body and expanding educational programs.

Biola students and alumni have a lot to offer Los Angeles, and we have a lot to learn from it as well. As a university, we are working anew to link arms with churches and organizations in the many ethnic or underserved communities of Greater Los Angeles. We are building on our inroads and becoming even more involved with the cultural influences of Los Angeles through music, media, film and commerce. We are impacting this city as students and graduates equipped with a biblical worldview serve Christ through internships, careers and ministries.

In an increasingly pluralistic city and world, where brokenness abounds, we need the unifying and sense-making grounding of Scripture at our core. If we are to be thought leaders in the places God calls us to serve, if we are to be equipped for good works empowered with a Christlike spirit of bringing the gospel to bear on all of life and culture, then we need a robust grounding in the Bible and its doctrinal truths. All Scripture “is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” Why? So that we “may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16).

Among today’s rising generation of Biola students, I see a return to the depths of wanting to know Scripture. I have to believe that as Biola University has been growing, it has been in part because students want a centeredness to their education.

I’m glad Ken Bascom asked that question of Dr. Sutherland 29 years ago, reminding me of the great potential in this community, seen then and seen now. Just imagine with me what will happen when today 6,123 students — God’s daughters and sons — resolve to believe with conviction and courage in what God can do in their lives, in the lives of this university, and through them throughout the world for the sake of his glory.
At a time when society seems ever more confused about the meaning of right and wrong — or even if we should believe in such absolutes — Biola University and the Colson Center for Christian Worldview are urging Christians to stand strong in defense of virtue, ethics and moral living.

That’s why on Feb. 5, more than 700 people packed into a sold-out Sutherland Auditorium for the “Do the Right Thing” mini-conference, featuring speakers Chuck Colson, Sean McDowell (‘98, M.A. ’03), John Stonestreet, Scott Rae (professor of philosophy of religion and ethics), and Frank Pastore (M.A. ’94).

Born out of the partnership between Biola and the Colson Center, the Saturday morning event was the first stop on the multi-city “Doing the Right Thing” tour, which also made stops in cities like Dallas and Chicago this spring. The tour was held in conjunction with the release of a six-part DVD series exploring ethics in a variety of cultural arenas (business, government, bioethics, etc.).

After an introduction from President Barry H. Corey, the event began with Chuck Colson, former special counsel for Richard Nixon and founder of Prison Fellowship, who outlined the importance of advocating for objective truth, morality and ethics.

“If we are going to have any chance of surviving as a free nation, we have to have a restoration of ethics on the part of the people,” said Colson. “Freedom cannot be sustained without the cultivation of virtue.”

Colson also praised Biola for standing up for a biblical worldview, saying that as an institution strongly committed to applying biblical Christianity in all areas of life, Biola University was “unparalleled.”

Alumnus Sean McDowell followed Colson and spoke about subjective and objective truth. Before we can begin to argue for what’s right, he said, we have to make the case that a “right” even exists. McDowell pointed out that even though some people claim that objective morality doesn’t exist, “everyone wants to be treated as if morality was an objective feature of the universe.”

Other speakers included John Stonestreet, executive director of Summit Ministries, who spoke about how we cultivate virtue in our lives and in society, and Talbot School of Theology professor Scott Rae, who spoke specifically about bioethical concerns and the need to protect infants, the unborn and the elderly at a time when things like euthanasia and eugenics are increasingly normalized.

The event at Biola, hosted in partnership with KKLA, came on the heels of a series of lectures on Friday by Eric Metaxas, author of the acclaimed new Dietrich Bonhoeffer biography, *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. Metaxas spoke on campus in chapel and at the president’s faculty luncheon about Bonhoeffer, who famously stood up to the Nazis and did the right thing in his day, suffering martyrdom because of it.

More information on the *Doing the Right Thing* DVD series and ethics tour can be found at http://www.colsoncenter.org/ethics.

— Brett McCracken

**ONLINE EXTRA:** Watch the “Do the Right Thing” event online on Biola’s iTunes U portal: www.biola.edu/itunesu.

“If we are going to have any chance of surviving as a free nation, we have to have a restoration of ethics on the part of the people. Freedom cannot be sustained without the cultivation of virtue.”

— Chuck Colson
T
he year was 1975, and after losing his first 10 games as a college basketball coach, recent Biola graduate Dave Holmquist was beginning to wonder if things would ever get better.

"I thought, 'Gee, are we ever going to win a game?'" he remembers. "When we finally won our first game, I felt like we had won the national championship."

What he didn’t know then is just how familiar the feeling would become — or that he had just begun to embark on one of the most successful careers in college basketball history.

This season — his 31st as coach of the Biola Eagles and his 34th overall — Holmquist joined the ranks of elite coaches who have 800 or more career victories, a mark he reached on Dec. 29. Among the 15 other men’s college basketball coaches to reach the rare milestone are such legends as Bobby Knight, Mike Krzyzewski and Dean Smith.

With his career record of 816–300 at the season’s end, Holmquist now stands alone as the winningest college basketball coach in California history, having surpassed Eddie Sutton of the University of San Francisco, who had 804.

In his office at the close of the regular season, Holmquist reflected on the success as one might expect from a true team player: by passing the credit to others.

"Coaching matters, but you really have to have good players to win," he said. "It’s just been a very fulfilling feeling to have done it together with a number of people that I feel really close to."

Holmquist’s career started at Fresno Pacific University, where he spent three seasons building up a struggling program and earned his first 36 victories as a coach. When he took over at Biola in 1978, he inherited a program that had never won more than 25 games in a season or advanced to a national tournament.

That quickly changed. In the years since, the Eagles have averaged 25 wins a season and finished with a losing record only once. They’ve advanced to the national tournament 19 times, including the 1983-84 season, when they won the National Christian College Athletic Association championship.

Over that time, Holmquist said his approach to coaching has remained much the same. He still focuses heavily on defense and shot selection, and practices are still tough, though much less grueling than they were at the beginning, he said. If anything, the biggest change has been a greater emphasis on making the game meaningful for his players.

"Nobody looks back when they are older and wishes that they had wasted more time or laid around the dorm more," Holmquist said. "A lot of people look back and wish that they had worked harder on the sport they love, so I try to talk about those kinds of things. You only get to play college basketball for a brief window of time and then it’s over."

On Jan. 29, many of Holmquist’s former students returned to Biola to celebrate his latest milestone. Following a victory over Cal Baptist, the community honored him with a plaque, tributes and a basketball signed by current and former players, including United States Sen. John Thune, who played for Holmquist during a few of the coach’s first seasons at Biola.

"What an awesome, awesome accomplishment," Thune said in a video tribute. "I wish you great success on the next 800, because I expect you to be around for a long time."

Indeed, as one of the youngest coaches to ever reach 800 wins, further milestones are definitely within sight. But Holmquist says he doesn’t have any long-term goals. He just wants to keep playing one game at a time.

"I’ve spent the past 34 years just trying to get ready for the next game and not thinking too much beyond it," he said. "As far as how long I’ll coach? As long as I still enjoy it." — Jason Newell

Dave Holmquist, Biola’s athletic director, has become one of just 16 men’s college basketball coaches to reach 800 wins.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
816–300 career record (.731 winning pct.)
National Association of Intercollegiate Atheltics (NAIA) Hall of Fame Inductee, 2002
NAIA Coach of the Year, 1982
Golden State Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, 1997, 2002 and 2004
NCCAA National Champion, 1984

EDUCATION
B.S., Biola, 1974
M.S., Cal State Fullerton, 1976
Ph.D., University of Southern California, 1983
M.A., Biola, 1984
M.A., Cal State Fullerton, 1993
M.A., Biola, 1997
M.A., Cal State Long Beach, 2004
Biola has struck oil — olive oil, that is.

For the first time in decades, trees in Biola’s historic olive grove are being used to produce olive oil, thanks to the efforts of Biola parents Karen and Gordon Wiebe, co-owners of Bari Olive Oil Co. In November, nearly 100 students and staff helped harvest the olives by shaking branches and holding tarps to collect the olives before they were trucked to Bakersfield with the Wiebes to be pressed.

The grove, once part of Andrew McNally’s estate (of Rand McNally publishing fame), was known to produce the best olive oil in the nation in the 1800s. Now, Biola has set out to reclaim La Mirada’s claim to fame.

“This year, because we’re a little late, we will get about two gallons,” said Gordon, who plans to come back and help produce more olive oil this fall. “There is potential for about 100 gallons, but this is a learning experience for everybody, how to pick it, what we need to do to make it happen for next year.”

While the oil was being produced, teams of art students got in on a competition to design the bottle label for the oil. The design that won represents Biola’s historical relationship with olive oil.

“Our inspiration for the design really needed not to look any further than Biola’s story,” said senior John Choura, one of the winning team’s designers. “This being the transition from downtown Los Angeles to the olive-grove-covered landscape of La Mirada, which is the hallmark of the olive oil itself.”

But don’t expect to use Biola’s olive oil in your recipes any time soon; only about 100 small bottles and four large bottles were produced from this year’s harvest. However, in future years with larger harvests, the oil may eventually be sold in the Biola bookstore or be auctioned off to raise money for the university. — Jenna Bartlo
The Great .com Mission
‘Good Book Blog’ shares biblical scholarship with online masses

Anyone who has attended Biola University or its seminary, Talbot School of Theology, knows that the Bible and theology faculty are top notch, full of helpful wisdom and resources. Now, the entire world can benefit from those resources.

That’s because in February, 30 professors at Talbot launched a new faculty blog where they are sharing some of the academic insight and teaching that you might expect to find in the classroom: material from lectures, essays, book chapters, devotionals, sermons, responses to current events, biblical exposition and more.

The blog, titled “The Good Book Blog,” is meant to serve as a resource for anyone seeking solid biblical scholarship that engages contemporary ideas from a decidedly evangelical perspective. Talbot Dean Dennis Dirks thinks the blog is a perfect fit for the school.

“With its goal of resourcing the wider Christian world with the insights and scholarship of Talbot professors, the blog fits well the mission of Talbot to train men and women in the study of God’s word for the service of his world,” Dirks wrote in an e-mail to Talbot students and alumni.

The idea for the blog came out of a partnership with Talbot and University Communications and Marketing (UCM), which was looking for new ways to promote Talbot and share its resources through new media technology.

“The blog is significant because it’s a way for Talbot to further its mission of training others in the Word of God,” said Albert Rios, UCM’s advertising manager, who first conceived of the blog with Brett McCracken, Biola Magazine’s managing editor and social media manager for UCM. “Professors are able to share their ideas and their hearts in a format that’s able to reach anyone in the world.”

“At a time when biblical literacy is at an all-time low and there are so many muddled, uninformed views of the Bible, something like The Good Book Blog is such a breath of fresh air,” noted McCracken.

The Good Book Blog is one example of how Biola University is fulfilling its 2010–20 strategic plan, which includes an aspiration to extend the university’s educational reach throughout the world. The newly released University Plan (read it online at http://offices.biola.edu/president/university-planning/) states, “In service to the larger evangelical community across the world, we will make our most beneficial educational resources available. Whenever possible we will widely disseminate what we learn and produce, moving from a proprietary to an open-source mentality.”

Rios added that, in addition to its mission of education, the blog has great potential for advertising, branding and recruitment for Talbot.

“As an advertiser, I’m always looking for ways to convey the message of Talbot as clearly and compellingly as possible through media forms that are interesting and new,” he said. “A blog is a really effective and efficient option to get the word out there.”

In its first few months, The Good Book Blog has received tens of thousands of visitors and has spawned several popular posts, including a series of posts on prayer by professor Ken Berding, a post by Gary Manning on how to better read the Gospel of John and a post on the theological importance of an historical interpretation of the Bible by Edward Klink. The 30 faculty members blogging on the site include well-known professors like Clint Arnold, Ken Berding and Dave Talley, as well as newer professors like Rob Price, Ken Way and Freddy Cardoza.

With new posts scheduled to go up nearly every day on subjects ranging from biblical exposition, theology and philosophy to spiritual formation and Christian education, The Good Book Blog promises to be a valuable new tool for sharing Talbot’s intellectual resources with the world.

As Torrey Honors Institute professor Fred Sanders recently wrote on his blog: “Why doesn’t every seminary do this?”

HIT THE BOOK

Find The Good Book Blog at www.thegoodbookblog.com. After you’ve bookmarked the site or subscribed to its RSS feed, check out some of these popular posts:

“Why Did I Study with the Rabbis?” Ken Way
“Teaching our Children through Prayer,” Ken Berding
“Making a Case in the Church for Expository Preaching,” Joe Hellerman
“Prayer from Psalm 1,” Rob Price
Furthering the Impact
Donors help make Talbot building project a reality

Carl Camp’s first exposure to Biola University came nearly 40 years ago, around the time that an exciting new building was being constructed to accommodate the school’s growing seminary.

In the years since, Carl’s father, wife, brother and three of his four children have earned degrees from Biola, and the seminary — Talbot School of Theology — has continued its exponential growth. But no new Talbot building has gone up since Feinberg Hall was completed in 1974.

So when Carl and his wife, Judy (M.A. ’02, M.A. ’05), learned a couple of years ago that an innovative new home for Talbot was in the works, they were eager to offer their financial support. The longtime Biola supporters are among several major donors to the Talbot project, whose generosity is helping to make the $18.2 million project a reality. When it’s completed this fall, the building will add 34 faculty offices, eight classrooms, two conference rooms, a prayer room and some much-needed study space to campus.

The Camps recently sat down with Biola Magazine at the offices of their family-owned financial planning firm, Eclectic Associates in Fullerton, Calif., to talk about the significance of the Talbot project and why they’re supporting it.

Carl and Judy, there is no shortage of worthy charitable causes out there that need financial support. Why have you chosen to give to the Campaign for Talbot?

Judy: We love Biola. We feel very strongly about Biola’s mission. Having been in classrooms at Talbot and knowing the need for better faculty offices, this is really important. We want to see Biola continue strong.

Carl: We especially love Biola’s mission and we think that the spiritual impact that Talbot has on the whole world is really significant. That gets us really excited to work to improve that impact. We know there’s a need, and we’re happy to help out.

How are you expecting God to use this building in the coming years?

Carl: This building is about training men and women in terms of the whole of Christianity — not just theology, but a pretty broad spectrum of the whole person — and then having these graduates from Talbot going around the world. Whether they’re in a “secular job” or the ministry, they will be prepared to speak for the faith and help people grow in their walk by what goes on in this building. This better, larger facility will allow Talbot to grow and further its impact.
Get to Know
Aaron Kleist, English professor extraordinaire

With his sharp intellect and vast imagination, English professor Aaron Kleist is always looking for ways to push the educational envelope.

His classes are known for their creative names, their heavy workload and their ridiculous semester-ending activities. Take, for example, this spring’s “Beowulf: The Hero, the Monsters and the Cultural Text”—which will culminate with Viking longship warfare in Biola’s swimming pool. Then there’s “IRIS,” a much-buzzed-about interterm class that he launched last year, which combines multiple subjects and classes into one.

“We get some of the best professors on campus into a single room,” Kleist said of the class. “Instead of students going from biology class to Bible to English to philosophy … we put them in a room with professors who are committed to an interdisciplinary conversation with a common goal, which is to see Christ in his creation more clearly and to be transformed into his likeness as a result.”

Kleist came to Biola in 2001 from the University of Cambridge, where he earned a Ph.D. in Old English literature. In the years since, he has published prolifically and has been honored with prestigious Fulbright and National Endowment for the Humanities grants.

Here’s your chance to get to know him.

Favorite Book: His rotating list routinely includes the likes of Crime and Punishment, Anna Karenina, Beowulf, King Lear, Hamlet, The Death of Ivan Ilyich and The Brothers Karamazov. “The Russians know something about suffering and the soul, and they’re able to say it in very poignant, memorable ways.”

Modern Minstrel: Kleist has been known to perform ’50s rock songs in class, putting his own literature-themed twists on the lyrics.

Top Hobby: When he’s not reading, writing, teaching or spending time with his wife and two kids, Kleist enjoys riding his motorcycle—though preferably not in L.A. traffic.

A Nose for Adventure: He enjoys his fair share of derring-do, including sabre fencing and whitewater rafting during the Biola Shakespeare program he leads in Oregon. He once broke his nose while unicycle jousting!

Voice that Launched a Thousand Grads: Kleist’s enthusiastic reading of his students’ names has become a highlight of Biola graduation ceremonies. “Seeing them beam on their day of glory is deeply exciting.”

Appetite for Fun: One of his classes built historical replicas of castles on McNally field using 4,000 pounds of cardboard boxes. “We had siege warfare and proceeded to annihilate them all over the course of an afternoon.”

Wayfarer: The son of missionaries, he grew up in Saipan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and has also lived in Illinois, Texas, Indiana and his favorite place of all: Cambridge, England. “It’s a place that has astonishing charm and cultivates reflection well. It’s far from the madding crowd.”

Stephen Hernandez
A Revival of Hearts and Minds

In my living room in April 2010, I shook the hand of a humble and rather shy man named Zenzo from Malawi, Africa. Accompanied by Anthony Petrucci, a prayer leader in Boston, I had been told that Zenzo possessed an amazing vision for revival in Boston. Over the past three years through his ministry, Boston Night of Worship (www.bnow2010.com), Zenzo had held small worship revivals on the campus of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I was intrigued because I had been actively trying to follow the model laid out by professor J.P. Moreland. In my classes with him, he emphasized that the church needs a revival of both the heart and the mind. In my courses at Biola and through the books I was exposed to, like Moreland's *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, I found that to experience God's fullness, one must engage both the heart and the mind.

My meeting with Zenzo seemed to help lend me that opportunity.

After prayer, Zenzo shared with us the roots of the Boston Night of Worship. Interestingly, he told me about how he was thankful for Europeans and Americans coming to Africa to preach the Good News of Jesus. He told me of how they came to risk their lives and often lost their lives to help a people bedeviled by witchcraft and hopelessly clinging to paganism. He was here because God told him that he was in Boston to repay America for its sacrifices in bringing the gospel to Africa.

Zenzo was here because America was losing its spiritual heritage and turning its back to the Living God who had brought so many blessings to our great country. He was here to present his vision to bring forth the gospel through a revival and worship meeting. The meeting’s goal was to call desperately upon the Lord to declare that Jesus is Lord over Boston and have him move over the city through unity in the body of Christ. He would do this by cutting through different races, cultures, social lines and denominations.

As he exclaimed his vision, power seemed to descend upon him and his words seemed to flow like a charging river. He looked at me and invited me to be part of this vision. His goal was to fill a concert hall of about 2,500 people. Immediately, I was compelled to tell him that we could do much better.

Over the next five months, we worked to build our team to spread that word of unity and praise around the city of Boston. On Oct. 29 at 7 p.m., we were waiting with anticipation to see if Boston would respond to the call. I found myself questioning, how could this happen in Boston? Boston has become the proverbial “rocky soil” for the gospel. As I looked around though, the stadium began filling with worshippers.

Over the past five months, I had learned that Zenzo was passionate about Jesus. I also found that his feet were planted solidly in the gospel. He did not just want to play a revival concert. He wanted to use the gathering as a worship service where we desperately asked the Lord Jesus for forgiveness, then declare him to be Lord. Unlike some modern worship music, where the singers rejoice about their being saved, Zenzo's music reads more like a psalm declaring the glory of God.

The night did not disappoint, as more than 6,000 people jammed into the stadium and were moved by an amazing experience. Interestingly, we had partnered with Paul Baloche and Integrity Music. They played for about 30 minutes. Their music was wonderful but was very different. When Zenzo was playing, it felt more like a revival concert where the whole of the audience was part of the worship service. When the Integrity performers were on stage, it seemed to change gears to a traditional worship concert.

Amazingly, after the Integrity set was done, Paul Baloche stayed on stage and became just another member of the worship choir. After the concert, he stated that this was one of the most amazing nights in his life. At the climax of the concert, an evangelist gave a bold and compassionate call to all those who would like to give their hearts and minds to Jesus.

Over 300 people gave Jesus their hearts that night. Our prayer is that they give their minds as well.

Daniel McCarthy (M.A. ’07) is founder and CEO of Taggle (www.taggleworld.com), a site where Christians can connect and discuss various philosophical and religious topics. He also serves as president of the Boston chapter of Reasons to Believe.

ONLINE EXTRA: Watch a video of the Boston Night of Worship at www.biola.edu/biolamag.
We love L.A.
Long before this cluster of buildings became one of the most recognizable skylines in the world, Biola had a special place in the city of Los Angeles.

It may be difficult to imagine now, but when the original 13-story Bible Institute of Los Angeles building was completed in 1914, it stood taller than all others in the city. Thousands of people came to attend its classes and church services, and tens of thousands came to Christ through its graduates, its publications and its Biola Hour radio show. For decades, its landmark rooftop neon “Jesus Saves” signs proclaimed a simple gospel message to millions.

Today, Biola may no longer be located within the heart of Los Angeles, but we still have plenty of love for our birthplace. Located just 20 miles from the university’s suburban La Mirada campus, the city still offers Biola students and graduates plenty of unique cultural, educational and ministry opportunities — and Biola still has plenty to offer the city.

As the university prepares to return to its roots exciting new ways over the coming years, meet some of the Biolans who are serving, studying and shaping the City of Angels.

Photos by Laurel Dailey
L.A. Stories

Andy Bales  (CEO, Union Rescue Mission)

When the Rev. Andy Bales was a student at Biola in the late ‘70s, he spent time living in Stewart Hall — the dorm named after Lyman Stewart, who founded Union Rescue Mission in 1891 in downtown Los Angeles. Little did Bales know then that one day he would run that very mission, living Stewart’s legacy in outreach to the down-and-out on Skid Row.

Bales, who gave Biola’s fall commencement address in December, has been working in outreach to the homeless in L.A. for 20 years and has made significant progress as the head of URM — the largest homeless shelter in the United States. In his time at URM, he has helped in the development of transitional housing for mothers and their children living in and around Skid Row and has played a pivotal role in reshaping hospital and governmental policies related to “dumping” of homeless patients from hospitals onto the streets of Skid Row.

Bales’ effective service to Los Angeles has been featured on CBS’s 60 Minutes, NBC’s Dateline and CNN, and has won him numerous awards and honors — such as being named the 930th Point of Light by President George Bush in 1992.

Bales was inspired to serve the homeless by his father, who experienced homelessness as a child, and after a sermon that Bales once preached from Matthew 25:31.

“I preached the message six times on a Friday to Christian school students who I hoped would change their attitudes toward the least of these, the ‘losers’ of the world,” said Bales.

“I told them that the way they treated others was the way they treated God. … That Sunday, a man experiencing homelessness approached me and asked for my sandwich. I turned him away. It felt like a hammer from heaven hit me in the head. I hadn’t practiced what I preached. I found him on the streets several weeks later, fed him, and began to practice what I preach. That was 24 years ago.”

— Brett McCracken
For more than 16 years, Elizabeth Koo Edwards (M.A. ’94) has been working to protect the most vulnerable citizens of Los Angeles County. At the county’s Department of Children and Family Services, Edwards serves as a senior children’s services administrator and executive assistant to the medical director, whose bureau attends to the medical and mental health needs of 36,000 children countywide. Because she worked for years in the field as a social worker, she is able to encourage and empower staff members as they make crucial decisions for the care of children of abuse and neglect.

On a daily basis, Edwards must respond to an onslaught of critical, time-sensitive requests and inquiries concerning the needs of thousands of children, including the most medically fragile.

“To work here with the department, you really have to be well equipped, while being totally dependent on the Lord,” Edwards said.

Dealing with the ongoing difficulties of children in abusive or other dangerous situations can be emotionally draining, but Edwards said she is able to pray with other staff members regularly, and credits her godly husband for his support.

Edwards also draws strength from John 15:16: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.” – Betsi L. Freeman
Steve Janney
(Janney & Janney Attorney Services)

When Steve Janney ('80) graduated with a degree in Christian education, he didn’t expect to join the family business. But when his father and brother, who weren’t Christians at the time, needed his help with their attorney service, Janney said, “I really felt that the message of the gospel couldn’t be, ‘I love you, you’re in trouble, but the church is more important.’” Janney found that he enjoyed the work, and his initial one-year commitment became a career. He now shares oversight of Janney & Janney Attorney Services’ five Southern California office locations, including one in Los Angeles. The company functions as a “connection between the attorneys and the courts” — picking up, copying, certifying and filing court documents, conducting research and serving notice documents to defendants prior to litigation.

Janney makes a point of dealing with client concerns personally. Keeping his word has given him credibility among those who don’t yet know Christ, he said.

“When I went into business, there were a lot of people who said, ‘Oh, the business world chews up and spits out Christians,’” Janney said. “And I found just the opposite to be true, as long as you’re consistent with what you say and what you do. … I’ve had a great opportunity to share Christ in a variety of venues, and people receive the message well.” — Betsi L. Freeman
Allison Israwi (L.A. County Teacher of the Year)

Allison Israwi impacts young lives each day, formerly as an elementary school teacher and now as vice principal at Rio Hondo Elementary School in Downey. Last fall, she was named a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year — an honor given to just 16 of the county’s 80,000 teachers last year.

In her nearly seven years of teaching, Israwi (’02, M.A. ’03) has made an effort to see that her students reach their fullest potential. She regularly employs teamwork, educational rap songs and hands-on activities to help promote interaction and engagement.

“It is imperative that teachers teach with positive energy, dedication and a sense of humor,” Israwi said. “I consistently reflect upon this ongoing question: ‘If I were a student in my classroom, why would I care?’”

Some of her most rewarding experiences have been seeing transformations in at-risk students, she said. She will never forget the tears of joy one student’s mother shed at an open house night as she shared the visible change that had occurred in her young son.

“There is absolutely no greater reward than the daily impact I can make on a child’s life,” Israwi said. “The rewards you receive in teaching a child how to read, giving a child confidence, teaching a foster child the meaning of success, seeing non-English speaking students leave your classroom in June fully able to read a book … are immeasurable.”

— Jenna Bartlo

James Yim and Ray Causly
(Co-pastors of Living Way Community Church)

James Yim (M.Div. ’99) and Ray Causly (’98, M.A. ’01) are changing the way people in Los Angeles view church. In their ministry through Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles in Chinatown, they work against the casual social culture of Sunday mornings and toward a mission of studious, biblical discipleship.

“If people want to hang out at our church, they can do that somewhere else,” said Causly.

Yim founded Living Way in 2000 and partnered with Causly in 2006. Together, they began what they call a “church plant within a church plant.”

The ministry involves both outreach and “inreach.” Church members minister to each other through their discipleship and small groups. For outreach, members are challenged to be intentional in finding eight to 15 people they can reach for Christ.

Their desire is to grow not wide in number but spiritually deep in Christ.

“We really began to look at our own congregation and see that the people had a false understanding, or a poor understanding, of true discipleship to Christ and what that really means — the radical, reckless abandonment to his cause,” said Causly. “There was just this surface adoption to church attendance and being a good person, living a respectable life, but not living a radical life.”

“We just want to do what the Bible says,” said Yim. “We want to be an unstoppable force for good.” — Amy Seed
Reel World
How Biola has earned a leading role in the entertainment capital of the world

When many people think of Christianity and Hollywood, they think of protests, pickets, boycotts and “curse-counter” reviews. They think of Hollywood’s longtime reputation of being worldly and scandalous, and the subsequent reluctance for Christians to have much to do with it.

But where Hollywood can feel alien and “other” to many Christians around the world, for Biolans, it is much closer to home. Situated just 25 miles from Biola’s La Mirada campus, Hollywood is the defining industry of Los Angeles and the reason why many people flock to the Golden State in the first place. And it’s in Biola’s backyard.

Biola’s proximity to the global center of the entertainment industry has not been seen as a liability, but rather an opportunity. The cinema and media arts (CMA) department at Biola has become home to one of the most sought-after majors at Biola and one of the most prestigious film programs of any Christian university. It’s a program that is committed to working in and with Hollywood, making alliances and establishing a reputation of excellence and partnership rather than mediocrity and protest.

FLASHBACK: THE EARLY DAYS
Classes in film and television were first offered at Biola in 1971. In the early days, film production classes used the stage in Sutherland Hall as a soundstage, with a makeshift editing room in one of the closet-like rooms off the stage. Everything had to be struck down and cleared away after each class.

But in spite of this crude setup, pioneer department chair Tom Nash grew the program and helped solidify crucial relationships with Hollywood industry professionals who would serve as connections, mentors and financial backers for the program over the course of its development. In the early ’90s, Nash developed the Studio Task Force, seeking out Hollywood professionals to invest their time, expertise and resources into students.

“Tom was never pushy, but he would always try to set up a meeting, set up a breakfast,” said longtime faculty member Mike Gonzales. “He and Rick Bee (founding member of the Studio Task Force) would go out diligently and talk to a lot of people.”

A coup for the task force came with the involvement of TV producer Michael Warren (Family Matters, Step By Step), who served as the first Studio Task Force chairman and whose personal and financial support was instrumental in the success of the program. With the help of early supporters like Warren, Biola was able to build its first real production center. Today, the facility has been newly renovated into a state-of-the-art, 10,256-square-foot complex complete with two sound stages, a control room, 11 editing bays, an equipment room and a convergent journalism newsroom.

A RISING STAR
In 2003, upon Nash’s retirement, Craig Detweiler became chair of the new mass communication department and expanded the program by doubling the existing faculty and revamping the curriculum. Under his tenure, enrollment surged and Biola gained a reputation as a premier film school among Christian universities.

by Brett McCracken

WE LOVE L.A.
Meanwhile, the department’s “Biola Media Conference,” which had brought Studio Task Force members to speak on campus since the mid-’90s, grew in scope and influence. In 2008, under the guidance of co-directors Peggy Rupple and Kathleen Cooke, the conference moved to the CBS Studio Center in the heart of Hollywood. That same year, with the new name of “Cinema & Media Arts” the department hired its current chair, Jack Hafer, whose vision is to make the department even more industry focused, potentially with a facility in the heart of Hollywood or downtown L.A.

In addition to its growing popularity as a major at Biola, CMA is increasingly making a name for itself nationally and internationally through its innovative programs and industry connections. On top of the Biola Media Conference, a thriving internship program and a program at the Sundance Conference, a thriving internship program and a program at the Sundance Film Festival, Biola film students have the unique opportunity to travel overseas to create short films. Over the last several years, professor Dean Yamada has led interterm groups of students to Tokyo and Berlin to make short films. One of them, 2009’s *Jitensha*, was screened at more than a dozen film festivals around the world and picked up several awards.

**A BRIGHT FUTURE**

Though the relationship between Christians and Hollywood has sometimes been tenuous, the CMA program seeks to be part of a movement toward a more collaborative interaction between the worlds of faith and film. “When I first moved here in ’91, there was really nothing in the industry for Christians,” said Cooke. “But now, Christians are connecting and good films are being made by Christians. We’ve used the model of Christians working in the mission field, where you don’t protest the culture as much as you learn about their culture, work with them, love them and pray for them. I think now we are starting to see the fruit of this model.”

Part of the posture of Biola’s CMA department toward Hollywood has included an insistence on humility, service and representing Christ, which has helped Biola gain a great reputation in the industry, adds Cooke. “Every time one of our students’ films has to go out into the city and use it as a location, we leave a good witness,” said Cooke. “We always remind our students that it’s bigger than them and that they are representing Christ.”

**STARRING ATTRACTIONS**

An inside look at some of the features that make Biola’s cinema and media arts program unique

**STUDIO TASK FORCE**

In existence for more than 20 years, the Studio Task Force is a group of over 250 Christian professionals working in the entertainment industry who meet quarterly at CBS Studio Center in support of Biola’s cinema and media arts department. The task force has become a bridge to the industry for CMA students, with each member providing instruction, inspiration or internships to prepare students to pursue their ambitions. Prominent members include Mark Zoradi (former president of Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Group), Ralph Winter (producer, *X-Men, Fantastic Four*), Ken Wales (producer, *Amazing Grace*) and Scott Derrickson (writer/director of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*).

“With the Studio Task Force we model that when you get to a certain level in your career, you need to start giving back,” said Rupple. “It’s investing in the kingdom of God through visual media.”

**BIOLA MEDIA CONFERENCE**

Since its inception 16 years ago as the “Christian & Media Conference,” the Biola Media Conference has been the marquee event for the CMA program. With the desire to gather the collective wisdom of people of faith successfully working in Hollywood and impart that wisdom to the next generation, the conference has annually connected students, faculty members, churches and aspiring filmmakers with a who’s-who roster of notable Christians in the entertainment industry. For the past three years, the conference has been held in the heart of Hollywood, “on the lot” at CBS Studios. Attendance has grown to more than 750 attendees, representing 19 states and four countries. The 2011 conference will take place on April 30 at CBS Studios, with keynote speaker Kevin Kelly, co-founder of *Wired* magazine, headlining the speaker roster. For more information or to register, visit www.biolamedia.com.

**BIOLA SUNDANCE**

During the January interterm each year, more than 20 Biolans make the trek to Park City, Utah, for the annual Sundance Film Festival, one of the most important independent film festivals in the world. During the festival, Biola students and faculty watch films and dialogue with filmmakers as part of the Windrider Forum, a faith-based organization seeking to spark meaningful engagement with films and filmmakers. Biola Sundance provides an immersive plunge into the art and commerce of the entertainment industry, giving students a taste of the independent film market and the realities of the distribution process. But it also inspires students to more thoughtfully process the themes of film through the lens of their faith, said Rupple, which in turn benefits the filmmakers, who may not have encountered this perspective on their film before.

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS**

One of the most valuable assets of Biola’s proximity to Los Angeles is also the CMA department’s most important academic asset: internships. Many CMA students have gained real-world practical experience by landing internships at places like Fox, Warner Brothers, New Line Cinema, Disney Studios and National Geographic Channel.

Internship program coordinator Kathleen Cooke notes that these experiences provide invaluable practical experience for students, but also help get Biola’s name out there in the industry in a way that is associated with quality. “I had a student who did an internship at Pixar last summer and did a glowing, amazing job,” said Cooke. “One of the questions on the evaluation form for the employers was, ‘What can this student do to...”
A Heart for the Streets

The streets of Skid Row are some of the bleakest in the nation. Within this 50-square-block area of Los Angeles resides the country’s largest population of homeless people — many of whom suffer from serious mental disorders and addictions.

For Doran Brown, this area has become a place both of rich friendship and deep emotional turmoil during her time as a Biola student.

Two years ago, on a hot Los Angeles afternoon, she and a friend were headed to their weekly student ministry at an inner city after-school program. That’s when an idea hit them: What if they started parking a few blocks farther away and handing out bottled water to some of the people living on the streets?

“It was an icebreaker,” Doran says. “We just wanted to get to know them.”

The water proved to be a great conversation starter. Soon, it was part of their weekly routine. As time went on, Doran met dozens of people and — despite her demanding schedule as a nursing student — began making trips more often to spend time with her newfound friends.

As she earned their trust, they began to share their stories and their prayer requests. One woman opened up about being abused by the boyfriend she lives with on the streets. A cancer-stricken man confided that he hadn’t seen his children in 10 years.

Doran soon began recruiting other Biola students to join her on Friday evenings or Saturday afternoons. Sometimes they brought guitars to lead worship services along the sidewalks. Other times, they brought hamburgers or tents — paid for from their own dwindling bank accounts. At one point last spring, a group of students hosted a sidewalk barbecue, grilling up dozens of hot dogs and playing a game of football in the street.

“The main thing is to build relationships,” Doran says. “Down there, they hear the gospel so much. They hear the gospel before meals, after meals. But they don’t have a lot of true friendships. So it’s been huge just to hear their stories and do life with them. … We want to preach the gospel while also serving them with God’s love.”

On this particular March night, the group of Biola students — some regular visitors and some first-timers — has been invited to the small church service by a woman they recently met. After the worship, several students wait awkwardly inside the office, not sure if anyone will take them up on their offer to wash feet. But eventually the people start shuffling in.

A gray-haired man named Brother Johnson takes a seat facing Biola alumnus Jason Williams (’06), who puts on a pair of latex gloves and grabs a baby wipe.

“I better pray for you if you’re going to be washin’ these feet,” Brother Johnson jokes as Jason goes to work between his toes. “Man, it’s like you’re detailing a car.”

All around the room, students are scrubbing away, rubbing lotion on cracked feet, and asking questions. “Your shoes look like basketball shoes. Do you play?” “Where are you from?” “Can I pray for you?”

Soon, prayerful murmurs are filling the room.

“I tell you what,” Brother Johnson says, “washing people’s feet — that’s God right there.”

Story and photos by Jason Newell
Homeless

After three hours, the outdoor church has finally closed up for the night. On the walk back to their cars, the students stop to visit with some of the people who are beginning to settle into their sleeping bags. They chat briefly with a woman named Mary and joke with a friend called “Bling Bling” about his newly acquired Twister board.

Eventually, two cars head back for Biola, but Doran and a few others want to stick around a bit longer. Down Gladys Avenue, they strike up a conversation with LaSaul, a large man with a passion for Scripture and plenty to say about life on Skid Row.

“Jesus had compassion with power,” he tells them in the commanding voice of a Southern black preacher. “We’ve got empathy with no power. We need God’s power.”

He rattles off story after story — some amusing, some heartbreaking. After about an hour, it’s finally time to go home. But before this last group piles into their car, LaSaul looks Doran squarely in the eyes.

“What you’re doing down here is good,” he tells her in a slow half-whisper. “Don’t you give up.”

“Remember what Paul said in Galatians 6,” he continues. “Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

D own on the streets of Skid Row, the people are used to well-meaning volunteers coming and going, Doran says. While they welcome handouts, they’re often skeptical about the motives of outsiders, she says.

“We don’t want [what we do] to seem like charity,” she says. “We want to maintain a person’s dignity. I don’t think it helps to maintain a person’s dignity when you’re just going down there to do charity work, in that sense.”

One of the biggest needs she and others seek to fill is the need for human interaction. So many of the people living on the streets are deeply alone, with no friends or family to care for them, she says.

She mentions a woman who recently died alone of pneumonia after three months on the street by herself.

“Who will take notice?” she asks. “Someone should notice and care when a soul leaves this earth.”

As she’s built friendships over the past two years, she’s had opportunities to help in ways big and small: finding transitional housing where possible, making phone calls, performing first aid. Some days, conversations have stretched on for hours about Jesus and salvation. Some of the people have expressed a desire to be discipled or enter drug recovery programs.

“We’ve definitely seen fruit,” Doran says. “It’s always hard because you want to see people get clean and get their lives together. But I definitely know that I didn’t become a Christian by one person telling me the gospel one time. It was definitely a process.”

Ultimately, she wants to do more, she says. She dreams of one day opening a clinic where she can use her education as a nurse and also enlist other doctors and nurses to volunteer their services.

But for now, she can only do so much as a student, she says.
What’s the Key to a ‘Sunny’ Marriage?

I

n parts of the United States, checking the weather forecast is an important part of people’s morning routines. (Or so we’re told here in perpetually sunny Southern California.) But did you know that it’s equally important to make a regular check of your “marriage forecast”?

At least that’s what marriage expert and Biola University professor Tim Muehlhoff says. In his latest book, *Marriage Forecasting: Changing the Climate of Your Relationship One Conversation at a Time*, Muehlhoff advises couples on how to weather the storms that can arise in any relationship — and what it takes to create and maintain a healthy, sunny climate.

He recently sat down with *Biola Magazine* to share some insights that might be helpful in your “neck of the woods.”

Tim, one of the premises of your book is that marriage is a lot like the weather. What do you mean by that?

I’m from Michigan, where they just got hit with an ice storm. My brother couldn’t go to work. My mom had to cancel a doctor’s appointment. People are having to adapt to the weather. Well, as soon as two people start talking, a communication climate is developed that is just as real as what the people in Detroit are having to deal with. You can’t just say, “I’m just going to pretend it didn’t snow 10 inches. I’m going to ignore it and go about my business.” It’s the same thing in communication theory. You cannot ignore a communication climate. It is the backdrop to all communication. If you do ignore it, you really inhibit your ability to have a successful conversation. Communication climates really do determine how productive your conversation is.

How can you determine what kind of a climate your marriage has?

Communication theorists have been studying this for quite a while, and they’ve come up with four different aspects of what a communication climate is. First is the level of commitment between two people: Do you feel like this person is absolutely committed to you and to the marriage? Second is the idea of trust: If I don’t trust your words or your intentions, if I’m always suspicious, that really inhibits a communication climate. Third is acknowledgment: Do you feel like your perspective is acknowledged or do you feel like it’s always being belittled? Or maybe something really important to you is met with detached neutrality from me? Last is expectations: What did you expect your wife or husband to be like? When I say something like “being a spiritual leader in the home” — my goodness, what does that mean? So when we talk about communication climates, you can live in one, for example, in which there’s no trust — you feel that person’s career or the kids are more important than the marriage. That climate no doubt is unstable.

Is it possible for people to be living in an unhealthy climate without necessarily realizing it?

Yeah, with some couples it takes a third party to look into the relationship and say, “I can’t see how this is healthy for you guys, spiritually, physically, emotionally.” But what I tend to find mostly are couples who know there are areas where they just don’t go anymore — she doesn’t know why he’s so defensive; he doesn’t know why she feels devalued. They can see the storm clouds, but they just have no idea what to do. Most couples tend to ignore it and push through those finance discussions or those in-law conversations. Or, they shrink the marriage so that they just don’t talk about finances or sexual intimacy or church involvement anymore because they’ve had conversations that didn’t go well. They just are resigned to the fact that they have a negative climate, and they just don’t know what to do to improve it.

Before we get to how to improve it, is it true that the divorce rates among Christians are virtually identical to the divorce rates among non-Christians?

That was really a sobering part of my research. Barna Research Group would say that statistically it’s virtually identical. In their first marriage, within the first 40 years of their marriage, people within the church are calling it quits roughly the same average as people outside the church. That’s really discouraging.

Why do you think that is? Would you expect there to be a difference?

What I find is that people lack a theology of marriage. They don’t understand from a biblical standpoint that a marriage is supposed to represent Christ’s love for the church. As a husband I’m called to love my wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her. Noreen, my wife, is to respect me as she does the Savior himself. Why? So that people will look at this marriage and see something of what God’s unconditional, unyielding love actually looks like. Being a Christian doesn’t
preclude you from going through some tough times. Christian marriages aren’t spared from the same kind of struggles that non-Christian marriages face. But there’s a bigger purpose to it all. C.S. Lewis said to men that precisely when your wife is acting least Christ-like is when you need to love her, because God loved us when we were at our lowest. But that takes a rich theology of the purpose of my marriage — not just the American idea of what my marriage is supposed to be.

And not just a theology, but you say in the book that the first step to improving the climate of your marriage is to focus on the climate of your relationship with God. In many ways that’s true. And the reason that’s true is because I was created to experience divine love — a type of unconditional, divine love. There are a ton of reasons why my relationship with God might not be very healthy. We talk about expectations between people? Well, you better believe that I bring into my relationship with God a ton of expectations. And over a while, prayers do not get answered in the way or timing that I want, or I go through a tough time in my life or marriage, or one of my kids gets sick, or — God forbid — one of my kids passes away. I am now angry with God, so I stop going to God to get divine love, but I turn to my spouse. But our spouse really can’t do what God can do. I start that chapter with a C.S. Lewis quote: “Human beings can’t make another really happy for long. You cannot love a fellow creature fully till you love God.” And that’s because God fills up that divine need, and then I can accept the imperfect love of my wife.

With that as the starting point, what are some of the simple changes that couples can make to start improving their climate?

There are two ways to check the climate of your marriage. One is to throw open the window, pop your head out and look up. It’s not super sophisticated, but it works. So if we just ask those four big questions — Do I trust that person? Do I feel acknowledged? Are my expectations generally being met? — those four can really give you a quick, broad reading of your relationship.

But in looking at the weather, we also know that we have very sophisticated meteorological instruments. So, first take the quick read, and then go in depth to find out what’s causing the problem. For example, is it the fact that you have expectations that your spouse is just not fulfilling? The next step is to dive in and ask, “OK, what expectations in particular can you put your finger on, where did those expectations come from, and how reasonable are those expectations?” That’s really important to ask. Noreen’s dad was Mr. Fix-It. He could fix anything. He could make a bomb out of rope. He is unbelievable. Obviously, she grew up in that kind of environment, so walking into marriage she had expectations that I was going to be the Mr. Fix-It guy. I’ll never forget early in our marriage, Noreen came in and said, “Honey, the van won’t start.” And I said, “Bummer.” I was a theater major.

An interesting thing that you suggest in the book is that it’s healthy for couples from time to time to take a look back at their history together.

One of the top marriage experts in the country, John Gottman, says that nothing can tell you more about the health of a couple than how they retell their past. I encourage couples that they really need to keep mementos. Whenever we go places as a family or as a couple, we buy a Christmas ornament. When we decorate the tree, it will literally tell the story of each one of the kids and it will tell the history of the marriage. It’s a lot of fun to be able to look at it and remember when we went to the Grand Canyon or to see something from our first anniversary or our honeymoon. The Scriptures are filled with this — of God saying, “I want you to remember. I want you to be purposeful in remembering.” Couples tend to get out of that habit, but it’s very important to sit down and consciously remember the good times.

You must get questions all the time from students looking for marriage advice. What’s your best advice for couples thinking about marriage?

Well, the concept of communication climates applies to everything: family relationships, dating relationships, marital relationships, evangelism, apologetics. I would say to a couple thinking about marriage: “What’s your climate like?” And I would walk them through those four aspects of what a good climate is. Your climate — what you’re seeing on a day-to-day basis — is what the climate of marriage is going to look like. People don’t just change overnight. So I would do dating forecasting as you’re dating this person. I would fairly regularly say, what is the climate here?

I would also say that if your relationship with God is everything and really impacts a human communication climate, then you better be looking at this person and be asking, “What is their communication climate like with God? Am I always the one bringing up spiritual issues, or suggesting that we go to church?” That’s very important. I love to say to students — and I often do, “If nothing changed about this person — it didn’t get worse, it didn’t get better — would you be content?” And so many times people say, “Oh, I’m not sure.” And that’s a yellow light. That’s a warning sign, because you can’t bank on the fact that when you get married things are going to change. That’s why time is on your side. Get a long track record.

Tim Muehlhoff, an associate professor of communication at Biola, holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He and his wife, Noreen, are frequent speakers at FamilyLife marriage conferences.

Marriage Forecasting was released by IVP Books in November.
Finding Your Voice

"Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."
— God, to Moses (Exod. 4:12)

Moses. Here is a man known globally and generationally by only his first name. His towering reputation as a consummate leader and divinely inspired oracle is an unquestioned maxim. Yet the larger-than-life mega-prophet was, at least in his mind, an unlikely candidate to be the mouthpiece of God and the author of the Torah — a magnum opus in the storied history of human literature.

Divine irony and polarity of extremes would characterize Moses’ life: tragedy and triumph; victory and defeat; glory and ignobility; posh excess and paltry existence.

Born in obscurity and saved from the watery grave of the Nile that claimed the lives of his male compatriots, he was raised as the son of a princess in the palace of Pharaoh. Like other more recent world leaders that include the likes of Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein, Moses received his formal education in Egypt. He was undoubtedly afforded every available resource to cultivate both deep intellectual acumen and broad leadership prowess. Moses fully exploited these opportunities, but the comforts of borrowed royal privilege did not eliminate his primal convictions about justice and truth.

In early adulthood, Moses had a flashpoint that crystallized his understanding about the exploitation of his Hebrew relatives. He was eyewitness to the public beat down of an extended relative by an Egyptian master — an event that triggered a reservoir of rage within him, resulting in an ancient form of vigilantism and the manslaughter killing of the Egyptian offender. Though the defense of his countryman was understandable, it was unjustified. This led Pharaoh to form a wanted-dead-or-alive posse charged with the capture or killing of the fair-haired child that once lived in his own household. Moses was now on the lam, and entered the second phase of his still-incomplete training — something those of us in Christian education call “field education.” Unlike formal education, which is primarily cognitive and cerebral, field education is more affective and behavioral. So Moses began his on-the-job training. It was here that God would use a host of experiences to shape Moses into the man he needed to become in order to do what God wanted him to do.

A serendipitous encounter involving an unconsumed burning bush and the presence of YHWH (the One and Only True God) led Moses to his life mission: to champion the complementary causes of loving God and loving people — the essence of the law Moses would later receive and give to the people he was called to liberate.

Moses was promised divine presence, protection and provision as he carried out God’s plan for his life. Yet even being armed with the Rod of God and the Sword of the Lord, he felt inadequate to the task. Moses’ primary problem was unction — the ability to speak truth to power and people. After pleading his case, God allowed Moses’ golden-tongued brother, Aaron the Levite, to join him on the platform that God would give them in order to speak on his behalf.

The rest is history. Though Moses continued to complain about his “faltering lips” — speak for God he did. Indeed! He was soon weaned off his perceived need of Aaron’s skillful rhetoric. Moses had found his voice. Now armed with a voice and a cause, Moses led the Hebrew children with deft skill and strong distinction. He confronted Pharaoh and challenged the people. His voice was heard and heeded.

Like Moses, friends and family of Biola University — particularly Biola alumni — have had their share of life’s opportunities and challenges. You have enjoyed formal education while in university studies and endured field education through the School of Hard Knocks. Through it all, God has used those experiences to filter and forge you into a powerful instrument to do his bidding. I encourage you to take the next step in advancing the cause of Christ by learning these three secrets of finding your voice.

Like we see in the message of Moses, speaking for God wherever he has placed you requires you to:

Be a voice of clarity. Speak.
Be a voice of conviction. Speak the truth.
Be a voice of compassion. Speak the truth in love.

Freddy Cardoza
Professor and chair of Biola’s Department of Christian Education; Cardoza also serves as executive administrator of the North American Professors of Christian Education (NAPCE). He holds a Ph.D. in leadership from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.
surveys of past and current theologies with contemporary emphasis on exegetical, philosophical, practical and theological questions; 3) substantial interaction with various Christian movements within the Protestant, Catholic and Orthodoxy traditions, as well as the hermeneutical issues raised by postmodernity; and 4) charts, sidebars, questions for discussion and an extensive bibliography, divided into different entry levels and topics.

When Couples Walk Together: 31 Days to a Closer Connection, by Hugh (’91) and Cindi McMenamin (’83). Harvest House, December 2010: Are the demands of everyday life constantly pulling you and your spouse in different directions? Do life’s obligations and distractions make it a challenge to find quality time alone? If you’ve longed to rekindle the intimacy and companionship that first brought you together, join Hugh and Cindi McMenamin as they share 31 days of simple, creative and fun ways you can draw closer together again.

Business for the Common Good: A Christian Vision for the Marketplace, by Scott Rae (chair and professor of philosophy of religion and ethics) and Kenman L. Wong (’86). IVP Academic, March 2011: Is business just a way to make money? Or can the marketplace be a venue for service to others? Rae and Wong seek to explore this and other critical business issues from a uniquely Christian perspective, offering up a vision for work and service that is theologically grounded and practically oriented.

31 Days to a Younger You: No Surgery, No Diets, No Kidding, by Arlene (Kho, ’92) Pellicane, Harvest House, January 2011: If 40 is the new 30 and 50 is the new 40, how is the average woman supposed to keep up? There’s got to be an easier way to look younger than Botox treatments, yo-yo dieting or plastic surgery. Pellicane offers readers a less troublesome (and less expensive!) solution to looking younger and feeling younger in just 31 days. Women of all ages will benefit from Arlene’s beauty and health tips, along with her biblical encouragement to “grow more beautiful from the inside out.”

The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way, by Michael Horton (’87). Zondervan, January 2011: This book is written for a growing cast of pilgrims making their way together and will be especially welcomed by professors, pastors, students and armchair theologians. Features of this volume include: 1) a brief synopsis of biblical passages that inform a particular doctrine; 2) surveys of past and current theologies with contemporary emphasis on exegetical, philosophical, practical and theological questions; 3) substantial interaction with various Christian movements within the Protestant, Catholic and Orthodoxy traditions, as well as the hermeneutical issues raised by postmodernity; and 4) charts, sidebars, questions for discussion and an extensive bibliography, divided into different entry levels and topics.

The Church: A Guide for the Perplexed, co-authored by Matt Jenson (assistant professor, Torrey Honors Institute), T & T Clark International, October 2010: This book offers a rigorous, comprehensive introduction to the doctrine of the church by taking the task of walking readers through the internal logic of ecclesiology. Rather than simply offering a compendium of perspectives on each issue that arises, the authors seek to teach and model thinking theologically, with the grain of Scripture and ecclesial reflection, about the church.

Marriage Forecasting: Changing the Climate of Your Relationship One Conversation at a Time, by Tim Muehlhoff (associate professor of communication). IVP Books, November 2010: Marriages are as variable as the weather, and every marriage has a climate. Some are chilly and lack intimacy. Others are stormy and filled with conflict. But while the weather outdoors is beyond our control, the communication climates within our homes can be changed — for the better. In Marriage Forecasting, communication specialist Tim Muehlhoff provides practical ways for couples to rebuild a warm relational climate.

Love3: Three Essentials for Making Love Last, by Jason Cusick (M.A. ’00). Wesleyan Publishing House, December 2010: Love. The word is used so many ways that it has virtually lost any meaning. Many people are skeptical that there is such a thing as true, lasting love. But what if we’ve simply forgotten an ancient, time-tested approach for making love last? Or worse, what if we’ve set it aside as somehow not worth the effort? In this book, Cusick reveals three ancient principles for building a loving relationship that lasts — whether you’re dating, engaged, newly married, rebuilding or starting over again.

Routes and Radishes: And Other Things to Talk about at the Evangelical Crossroads, co-authored by Allen L. Yeh (assistant professor of history and theology). Zondervan, October 2010: Routes and Radishes invites you into a conversation about what the evangelical movement has been and what it is going to be. Five influential, younger-generation evangelicals discuss their passions for shaping the evangelicalism of the future. They encourage you to consider the challenges and opportunities that face rising leaders within diverse evangelical communities.
News & Notes

George Pontius ('61) recently published his first book, an autobiography titled Grace Over the Long Run. It is published by iUniverse and can be found on Amazon. In June, George and his wife, Marilyn, will celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary. He was recently among others honored by the Greater Spokane Association of Evangelicals for more than 30 years of pastoral service in this area.

Steve Blount ('72), a former Alumni Association board member, was elected to the Cypress School District Board of Trustees in November. In the 115-year history of the district, Steve is one of only two people to defeat an incumbent.

John Stewart ('74, M.A. '76) recently released a new book, Text Messages From God, published by Xulon Press and available on Amazon. The book, Stewart's third, is a fictional story about Dave, a hard-driving, successful attorney whose self-centered existence is suddenly turned upside down by text messages he receives from a mysterious person claiming to be God. John speaks and teaches internationally through Rolling Stone Ministries (rollingstoneministries.org) and, along with his wife, Laurie, is an allied attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund. Find out more about John Stewart at his website, johnmarkstewart.com.

Vernal Wilkinson (M.Div. '76) recently released a book about preaching and teaching in small churches: The Bible, Live: A Basic Guide for Preachers and Teachers in Small Churches. It is available through Outskirtspress or Amazon.

Kristine Naas Lowder ('82) was recently elected chair of the Grays Harbor Republican Party in Washington. Her husband, Chris Lowder ('80), was elected vice-chair. Together, they serve on the executive committee of the local chapter for Child Evangelism Fellowship, co-pastor The Sheepfold, and are the founders and leaders of the Grays Harbor Chapter of Christians for Biblical Equality: www.cbeinternational.org. They are also active in outreach to the Hispanic community.

Greg Nickel ('95) received the Kansas Association for Court Management's 2010 Outstanding Court Clerk Award in February 2011. This award for talent, dedication and commitment to excellence is not granted every year. Greg has worked for the court in Newton, Kan., for almost seven years and when living in California was employed in Biola's IT Department. Greg lives in Newton with his wife, Holly (Williams, '95) Nickel, and children, Ben and Louisa.

Nathan Hitchcock ('99) received his Ph.D. in systematic theology from the University of Edinburgh, New College, in November. He did his work on Karl Barth and the doctrine of the resurrection of the flesh, and is currently an assistant professor at Sioux Falls Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D.

William Casey Wells ('06) was recently admitted into the Johns Hopkins Master of Science in Biotechnology and Bioscience Regulatory Affairs dual masters program via their part-time Advanced Academic Program. He also recently accepted a position with Wells Fargo’s Commercial Real Estate Equity group. William is eager to continue representing both Christ and Biola in the realm of finance.

Jared ('03, M.A. '07) and Candice Begg brought their son, Isaiah Charles Akhiles Begg, home from India on Dec. 4, 2010. Jared is in his fourth year overseeing Bowman House, a freshman men’s residence hall at Indiana Wesleyan University. Candice and Jared are blessed that their son is adjusting well to their family and to the on-campus community.

Weddings
Stephanie Frazier ('04, M.A. '05) and Ryan Hilton were married on July 12, 2009, in Portland, Ore. Biolans in the wedding party were Janelle Lopez ('04) and Alicia (Bleecker, '04) Simmons. Stephanie and Ryan honeymooned in Kauai, Hawaii. They live in Vancouver, Wash., where Stephanie is a middle school teacher and Ryan is a case manager helping special needs families. Both are active in their church through youth ministries.

Amy (Steck, '05) and Joe Rovetto wed on July 10, 2010, in Irvine, Calif. Biolans in the ceremony included the officiant Matt Rouse ('98), who chairs Biola’s communication disorders department, bridesmaids Chrissie (Flaming, '96) Rouse and Elane Parker ('94), groomsman Rudy Cortez ('08) and guitarist Paul Aung ('94). After the ceremony, the bridal party released butterflies as a symbol of God’s transformation in their lives. Both teach elementary school and currently live in Foothill Ranch, Calif.

Michael Drake ('09) and Cali Celinski ('09) were married March 19, 2010, in San Clemente, Calif., at The Garden Cottage Bed and Breakfast. The wedding was officiated by the groom’s father, Marshall Drake ('88), and was attended by many

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Alumni Files

Is it Biblical to Ask for Financial Support?

I recently received a letter from a Biola alumnus reflecting on his Biola experience, prompted by a letter that he had received from us that encouraged support for the class-giving campaign. This alumnus attended the downtown campus and his letter recalled life-changing Bible teaching and career preparation throughout his time at Biola. “We had to move fast,” he remembered, “but it was rich and rewarding.” He also remembered former Bible department chair J. Vernon McGee serving as pastor of the Church of the Open Door and ministering through the Thru the Bible radio broadcast.

He referenced Saturday nights in Pershing Square and trips to Hollywood to hand out Bible tracts and “testify to those who would listen.” All these experiences happened while he was enrolled at the Bible Institute more than 50 years ago, and while many of the names have changed, the experiences sound similar to those of students enrolled today. It’s nice to know that Biola has remained true to our mission for 103 years!

But then he retold a story about how as a student he was asked to go out in the community to raise funds for the relocation of Biola to La Mirada and how this had really troubled him. He struggled with asking people outside of the Biola community, to whom he had been witnessing, to participate in fundraising for the new La Mirada campus. This alumnus really had a problem with Biola asking for money then, and still has a problem with Biola asking for money now. His philosophy of fundraising was and is to not ask, but wait upon the Lord for his provision. He shared of his longtime partnership with a group of Christians who believe the same thing and share the same philosophy.

I value this alumnus’ opinion and find this an interesting perspective that perhaps reflects what some of you are thinking or believe. But I also find passages like 1 Corinthians 9, where Paul talks about the importance of supporting those in Christian service. (And I believe that Biola is on the front lines of preparing men and women for ministry.) Then I observe how Nehemiah laid his requests out for King Artaxerxes, explaining what he needed and why (Nehemiah 2). I love this great fundraising book!

So, what should Biola do? I think there is a biblical model for how to raise funds. I think we should continue to lay our requests out for you, explaining what we need and why. We won’t be manipulative. We won’t threaten closure or panic. But we will tell you about the wonderful work of God in the lives of our students, faculty and staff. Then we will wait upon the Lord to provide in amazing ways, in his way, in his timing.

As alumni director, I’m aware that our alumni giving percentages are lower than some schools of our size, and while many of our alumni are in ministry and unable to give big gifts, there are still many alumni who just don’t give. If these alumni were to give, they would not only support Biola students directly; they would also increase Biola’s ability to receive donations from external groups. That’s because many organizations and foundations that support education consider alumni giving to be a litmus test of a good school and valuable education.

Were you blessed and prepared by your experience at Biola? I was! That’s why I give back … and our students need your help now more than ever.

Thanks to this alumnus for the great letter. I’d love to hear your opinion!
Biola University recognized five alumni during a special awards chapel Feb. 18 for their outstanding contributions to society. At the chapel, titled "2011 Alumni Awards: Living the Legacy," four awards were presented in the following categories: lifetime achievement, young alumni, cultural impact and missions.

Larry Acosta ('83, M.Div. '88) received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in urban communities. After graduating, Acosta noticed a large quantity of urban communities had few quality mentors to help keep youth off the streets, and he desired to help. He went on to launch a series of significant ministries, where he continues to serve as president: the Urban Youth Workers Institute, the Hispanic Ministry Center and KidWorks. Through the Urban Youth Workers Institute, over 22,000 urban leaders across the U.S. have been trained to disciple and serve youth in cities. Acosta also pastored Grace Church in Los Alamitos, Calif., for 12 years.

The recipient of the Young Alumni award was Matt Anderson ('04), who blogs at Mere Orthodoxy and is the author of Earthen Vessels: Breathing New Life into a Broken Faith, an upcoming book from Bethany House. A public speaker who has been quoted by Fox News and the Associated Press, Anderson also contributed to The New Media Frontier: Blogging, Vlogging, and Podcasting for Christ. He also chairs the local Biola alumni chapter in St. Louis, Mo., where he lives with his wife, Charity ('04).

Norma Blackwater ('79) was presented with the Cultural Impact award. Blackwater is of Native American descent from the Navajo Tribe of the Many Goats. She taught biology and life science in Long Beach, Calif., before deciding to attend medical school. After graduation, Blackwater worked as a general pediatrician for the Community Health Foundation of East Los Angeles. Through her position, she served Native American and Mexican American communities. Currently, she is the medical director for the United American Indian Involvement in Los Angeles.

The Clyde Cook Missions award was given to George ('82, M.A. '93) and Wendy (Weber, '81) Payton for their work in the mission field and service with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Africa. The couple served in the mission field for 30 years before moving back to the United States. They currently work at Biola but are still involved in their efforts for Wycliffe. George is an adjunct faculty member for the Cook School of Intercultural Studies, and Wendy is a secretary for Biola’s accounting office. They have four children who have each attended or are currently attending the university. – Amy Seed

Biolans. Both the bride and groom received their degrees in music in worship. The couple currently lives in Reno, Nev., and is part of the worship team at Reno Christian Fellowship.

Births

Joe and Lynell (Johnson, '96) McCrary celebrated the birth of their daughter, Makiya Brynlyn McCrary, on March 9, 2010. Makiya weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 19.75 inches. Joe is a youth pastor and Lynell is working in connections ministry at a church in Danville, Va.

With joy, James and Amy (Jones, '96) Payton announce the birth of Annabella Kate. She was born Aug. 7, 2010, weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. Her name means “gracious, merciful, beautiful, easy to love and joy.” Her older brother, Griffin, 3, thinks she’s pretty cute too! The Paytons live in Oakdale, Calif., where James is the pastor of Oakdale

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Where Are They Now?

Pursuing Aviation Opportunities
Scott Cutshall (’98) was recently promoted to vice president of marketing at TWC Aviation. Scott is responsible for pursuing new business opportunities and handling marketing and communication initiatives. After Biola, Scott attended flight school, earned four aviation licenses and became a certified flight instructor for several different levels of aviation. He worked briefly as a flight instructor for AFI in Fullerton, Calif., before joining TWC Aviation in 2000. Scott’s dream is for Biola to partner with AFI and begin producing pilots through a school of aviation. He got his start with TWC as a flight dispatcher and charter sales representative. In 2005, he opened a new office for the company in Orange County and became director of sales in 2007. Scott is married to Biola alumna Jennifer (Tierney, ’97) Cutshall. The couple lives in Yorba Linda, Calif., with their two daughters, Regan, 7, and Riley, 5. The Cutshalls are active at Rose Drive Friends Church and help lead its Awana program. Scott still plays soccer once a week as a reminder of his days as an athlete at Biola.

Promoting Excellence in Arizona Schools
Josh Tabor (’94, M.A. ’98) teaches algebra, AP statistics and statistical reasoning in sports at Canyon del Oro High School in Arizona. He was recently named one of five 2011 Ambassadors for Excellence for the State of Arizona. As part of this award, Josh had the opportunity to march in the Fiesta Bowl Parade. After graduating from Biola, he taught algebra and AP statistics from 1995 to 2007 at Glen A. Wilson High School in Hacienda Heights, Calif. Over the years, he has been heavily involved in the AP statistics program and has served as an exam grader for the past 12 years. He also served on the committee in charge of writing the AP statistics exam for four years. He leads workshops for other AP statistics teachers throughout the country and wrote the Annotated Teacher’s Edition for the fourth edition of The Practice of Statistics. Josh recently wrote Statistical Reasoning in Sports, published by W.H. Freeman, which will be available in December 2011. He married his wife, Anne Tabor, in 2004 and their daughter, Jordan, was born in 2007. They attend Northwest Bible Church in Tucson, Ariz.

Leading a Major Ministry Conference
Gary Dixon (M.A. ’77) is co–chairman of the Northwest Ministry Conference in Seattle, Wash. He has spoken at ministry conferences for over 30 years and was asked to become the chairman of the NW Ministry Conference in 1998. At the time, the conference was in debt and had 600 attendees. Since his time on staff, the conference has grown to include over 400 churches and 3,000 attendees. In his effort to promote conference growth, Gary and his team paid attention to feedback from attendees and started gearing the conferences toward their interests. He learned that “activity produces vitality.” Part of his responsibilities include recruiting speakers and sponsors as well as handling all of the marketing. This includes writing handwritten letters thanking attendees for their support. He works with two other Biola alumni, Ken Pendergrass (’89, ’90) and Jan (Bergthold, ’88) Pendergrass. After graduating from Talbot, Gary served as a youth pastor and minister of education at Calvary Baptist Church in Huntington Beach, Calif. He also worked for 30 years as a consultant and manager for David C. Cook publishing house. He and his wife, Julie, live in Woodinville, Wash., and their daughter, Chloe, is a senior at Seattle Pacific University.

Designing Baby Blankets
Leslie (Anderson, ’84) Brogden developed and founded SwaddleBaby in 2003, which has also been branded as The Nurture Blanket. She patented the blanket after her daughter, Hayley, 7, was born. Leslie discovered that most other blankets were too small to effectively swaddle infants, so she created her own prototype. A majority of her business is conducted with hospitals and Women, Infant and Children (WIC) agencies. Consumers can also purchase the blankets directly from her website, www.swaddlebaby.com. Since launching her business, Leslie has encountered couples across the country using her blankets. More immediately after her graduation from Biola, Leslie attended Cal State Dominguez Hills in 1988 and earned her MBA. She also worked as director of marketing for restaurants such as Sizzler and Fosters Freeze. She began her own marketing firm and now manufactures in China and India. Leslie has recently been developing more products and hopes to begin advertising through infomercials in the future. She currently resides with her daughter in Fullerton, Calif.

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?”

 SPRING ‘11

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Family Church of the Nazarene, and Amy is blessed to be a stay-at-home mom and work part time from home.

Scott (’98) and Karise (Buhler, ’98) Buell welcomed Braden Scott Buell into their lives on July 29, 2008. He is Mr. Sunshine, a total ham and best buds with his big sister (by 19 months), Addison, whom he affectionately calls “Ads.” Scott has returned to residential appraising after a two-year stint in commercial appraising and Karise is a full-time stay-at-home mom to Addie and Braden, as well as a part-time wellness/weight loss coach. The Buells live in Orange County, Calif. buells@scottandkarise.com.

Andrew (’99) and Aimee (Hawkins, ’99) Calderon joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Claire Elizabeth, on March 13, 2010. Big brothers Caleb and Aaron adore their baby sister. The family lives in Orange, Calif. Andrew is an attorney in Tustin and Aimee stays busy at home with the children.

Keith and Madison (Brunkehorst, ’99) Kimball welcomed their daughter, Avalon Kalalea, into the world on Aug. 20, 2009. She joins her 4-year-old big brother, Saxon. The Kimballs live in Kapaa, Kauai. Keith is a project supervisor for a construction company and Madison is enjoying being a stay-at-home wife and mother.

Steve (’99) and Esther (Lochmoeller, ’99) Sherman announce the birth of their fifth blessing, Lilyanne Rose. Lily was born Feb. 11, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 19.5 inches. Her two sisters, Karise Joy, 6, and Zoey Abigail, 3, are very excited to have another sister. Her two brothers, Josiah Andrew, 5, and Caleb Daniel (2 in May), are also enjoying her beautiful face. Esther is busy at home enjoying her family and homeschooling the kiddos. Steve is a pastor of a small church in North Brunswick, N.J.

Nathan and Mindy (Pierce, ’01, M.A. ’08) Dunn are celebrating the arrival of their third son, Daniel Jordan. Daniel was born on Flag Day, July 14, 2010. This little patriot has already been loved on, squeezed, kissed and played with by his two older brothers, Caleb, 4, and Luke, 3 (and he is loving all the attention). The Dunns live in Downey, Calif., where Nathan has enjoyed teaching AP biology this year at Downey High School and Mindy has begun the adventure of homeschooling.

Kevin (’02) and Amber (Wiens, ’02, M.A. ’04) Grant joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Lila Eve. Lila was born on Oct. 5, 2010, weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces. Lila is welcomed by big brother Logan, 2, and big sister Charlotte, 2. Amber stays at home with the kids. Kevin works at Biola as the director of the Learning Center.

Brian (’02) and Brooke (Twellman, ’02, M.A. ’05) Ristow are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Tatum Paloma. Tatum was born in Bad Soden, Germany, on April 14, 2010. She was so anxious to enter this world that she just couldn’t wait! Her daddy delivered her in the parking lot of the hospital! The Ristows recently moved back to Southern California where Brian is teaching special education and Brooke stays home with the girls.

Todd (’03) and Jennifer (Harrison, ’02) Wright are overjoyed to announce the birth of their son, Matthew Michael Jeremiah, born Jan. 22, 2011. Todd and Jen adopted Matthew and 11 of his siblings as frozen embryos through Nightlight Christian Adoption Agency’s Snowflake program. Matthew and his parents live in Mesa, Ariz., where Todd is self-employed in the auto industry and Jen enjoys being Matthew’s stay-at-home mommy. To catch up with the Wrights, or for more information on Embryo Adoption, email them at tjrightr@cox.net.

David (’04) and Robyn (Thomas, ’06) Clinton welcomed their firstborn, David Clinton IV into the world. He came surprisingly fast, and was an unintended, unassisted home delivery! Thanks be to God for the preparation of Bradley classes! The Clintons currently reside in Salt Lake City, Utah, where they strive to make their home a kingdom outpost for sharing the gospel.

Brian and Melissa (Salios, ’04) Douma are pleased to announce the birth of their baby boy.

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As a freelance violinist in New York City, Biola alumna Louise Owen (’91) makes frequent appearances at Carnegie Hall. But she is nationally recognized for a different, more unique ability: Owen was featured prominently on CBS’s 60 Minutes last December for her highly superior autobiographical memory that allows her to remember every day of her life since age 11. Owen, who attended Biola for two years before leaving to study at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, has been working with neuroscientists at UC Irvine for over a year to research her rare memory. She recently shared some of her story with Biola Magazine.

On March 22, 1986, we were in San Diego visiting my grandmother. It was Easter week and we’d gone down to stay for a couple of days. My grandmother gave me a calendar. … I was so excited about it I started writing down everybody’s birthdays—friends and family members. And then I just started filling in what had happened every day since Jan. 1, and it was March 22 when I was doing this.

For a long time I didn’t know it was unusual. I thought that everybody remembered what happened on every day.

My specific day-by-day memory begins when I was 11, but I have many isolated dates even before that time.

I can remember things that happened to me before I was 1. Things that I’ve talked with my parents about and they’ve said, “How do you possibly remember that?” and I say, “Well, I was there.”

I can remember pulling all of the clothes off my changing table. That’s a strong one.

I basically grew up in the Biola music department. I was always hanging around the music building, I played in the orchestra and my dad (Marlin Owen) is the conductor of the orchestra.

I was a student when I was 16 and 17. … I was always the little kid hanging out with the college students. It was great. I had a great time, and made some really good friends.

If you say a date to me, I am instantly transported back to that day as though it happened five minutes ago. I am remembering the emotions of the day. I remember the events, the conversations I had with people. I remember what the weather was like. Sometimes I know what I ate that day or what I was wearing.

It’s like time travel. It’s not a photographic memory where I just look at a page of something and read it once and then I can recite it back verbatim. It doesn’t work like that. It’s more emotionally photographic in that I can replay the entire day in my mind in an instant.

One of the great things about having this is that I feel like it really inspires me to want to live in such a way that life is worth remembering.

On a spiritual level, too, I feel like God has shown me so much grace through this. And yet, it’s a total perspective-blower; I remember a lot of things that most people don’t, and yet compared to God and the things that he remembers, I don’t remember a thing.

There are only a very small handful of people who have been found to have this same kind of memory and for whatever reason, I am one of those people. It’s been an incredibly fascinating and exciting and thoroughly humbling experience to be part of the research that’s happening at UC Irvine.

The first time that I went to UC Irvine for a whole week of interviews and tests, they had 25 years worth of datebooks and calendars that I had filled in over the years. It was like going into an exam where it was like there were 9,000 possible different questions that they could have asked me. … And it was like, “Ok, give it your best shot. I’m ready. Whatever you want to ask me, I’ll talk about it.”

But I don’t think I ever quite imagined that someday I would be giving 25 years worth of calendars to these scientists or to a 60 Minutes film crew and have them just pick dates at random.

They had their largest viewing audience in several years that night. About 19 million people were tuned in.

In the next three days after the 60 Minutes piece was aired, I had concerts at Carnegie Hall three nights in a row. I had people coming up to the front of the stage, waiting for me at the stage door to say, “Oh, we saw you.”

And the thing about it is that I’m exactly the same. I haven’t done anything differently. This is the way I’ve always been.

Read the full interview with Louise Owen at biola.edu/biolamag.

**We want to know your news. Send it in!**

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

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

Photos must be at least 1 megabyte for digital photos. Photo inclusion is based on space availability. Print photos will not be returned.

Your update will appear in the first available issue.

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Lucas Dean Douma. He was born on July 13, 2010, in Kirkland, Wash. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Brian and Claire (Smith, ’04) Rogers are proud to announce the birth of their first child, born Dec. 7, 2010. Ava Hope Rogers arrived weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 21 inches. The Rogers reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Brian serves as a student ministries pastor and Claire works as the marketing director at Back2Back Ministries.

Josef Thomas (’04) and Jessica (Barrett, ’01) Simpson joyfully announce the birth of their daughter. Eleanor Anne Barrett Simpson was born June 2, 2010. The Simpsons live in the Washington, D.C., area. Josef is a Ph.D. student in the philosophy program at Johns Hopkins University and Jessica is a program officer at the U.S. Department of Education.

Jacob and Christina (Marangakis, ’05) Bullock are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child. Gabriella Alicia entered the world via water birth on April 17, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

Mark (’05) and Danielle (Brokke, ’03) Finzel joyfully announce the birth of their twins, Ireland Grace and Elias Daniel. They were born Aug. 20, 2010, and weighed 5 pounds, 11 ounces and 5 pounds, 12 ounces. Their big brother, Asher, 3, enjoys helping mom and dad take care of them. The Finzels live in Colorado Springs, Colo. Mark is vice president of marketing at LearningRx (www.learningrx.com) and Danielle is a stay-at-home mom.

Joe (’07) and Hayley (’07) Gallucci are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy, Eli Rocco Gallucci. He was 8 pounds, 1 ounce, 20.5 inches long and was born on April 24, 2010, at 11:57 a.m. The Galluccis live in Laguna Hills, Calif. Hayley recently wrote a Christian novel geared for high-schoolers called My Darkness, which can be found on Amazon.

Kees (M.A. ’07) and Fatima (’96, M.A. ’99) van Hartingsveldt are excited to share the news that William Alexander was born on June 6, 2010. Kees works as a field technician for Biola’s IT department and Fatima teaches at Dulles Elementary School in La Mirada, Calif. (Childcare is working out great!)

Phil (’09) and Megan (Orr, ’09) Martin joyfully announce the arrival of their daughter, Chloe Isabella Martin, who was born on Oct. 26, 2010. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Phil, Megan and Chloe live in Escondido, Calif. Phil is a manager at a law firm and Megan works part time as a personal assistant.

Kwangsu Tim Lee (M.Div. ’10) and Hyesun Grace Shin (’10) joyfully announce the birth of their son, Elliot Lee. Elliot was born on Dec. 3, weighing in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. He is their first son. Kwangsu is doing youth ministry, and Hyesun is doing children’s ministry in their churches.

**Deaths**

Ray Mainwaring (’49), 94, died Nov. 6, 2010, of natural causes at his home in Mesa, Ariz. Ray was a rural missionary out of the First Baptist Church in Shelton, Wash., and pastored churches in Woodland, Calif., Seattle and Alaska. He was a founder of Solid Rock Bible Camp in Soldotna and Alaska radio station KSRM on the Kenai Peninsula. Ray played the violin and sang, producing an album, “The Song of the Soul Set Free: Songs Sung in Alaska by Ray Mainwaring” (Word Records). He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an ardent gardener. Ray is survived by his wife, Myra Mainwaring, daughters, Janice (Mainwaring, ’59) Swanson, Karin Newcomb, and Susan Mainwaring, and son, Paul Mainwaring, as well seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

James Allen Speer (’65) passed away at home in Colorado Springs on Dec. 16, 2010. Jim was a native of Colorado Springs, born to Guy Speer and Edna Blomquist Speer on June 30, 1943. At Biola University, he met and married Donna O’Neal (’65). He attended Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and served as a pastor of churches in Illinois, New York and New Jersey. He completed doctoral studies at Drew University and served for 10 years as a professor at Trinity.
Baby Biolans

01) Annabella Kate Payton
02) Ava Hope Rogers
03) Avalon Kalalea Kimball
04) Braden Scott Buell
05) Chloe Isabella Martin
06) Claire Elizabeth Calderon
07) Daniel Jordan Dunn
08) David Clinton IV
09) Eleanor Anne Barrett Simpson
10) Elliot Lee
11) Gabriella Alicia Bullock
12) Ireland Grace and Elias Daniel Finzel
13) Lila Eve Grant
14) Lilyanne Rose Sherman
15) Lucas Dean Douma
16) Makiya Brynlyn McCrary
17) Matthew Wright
18) Tatum Paloma Ristow
19) William Alexander van Hartingsveldt
Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. In 1996, he returned to Colorado Springs, where he created and managed a successful website development company. He is survived by his wife; children, Susan, Leslie Cruz and Andrew; son-in-law, Tim Cruz; grandchildren, Jesse and Casey; brothers Bob, Jack and Doug; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Richard Gehle (M.Div. ’73) graduated to glory on June 8, 2010, after struggling with health issues for over 41 years. During his life, Rich worked as a mechanical engineer but also had a heart for missions. During his time at Talbot Theological Seminary and through Granada Heights Friends Church, Rich met and married Claudia Jones, with whom he had two children: Tim Gehle and Debbie Anderson. Rich served faithfully in many capacities at East Whittier Friends Church: teaching, leading Bible studies and getting to preach on many occasions. He passed away peacefully in the presence of family and friends, transferred from this imperfect earth to a perfect hereafter where he is now with the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for all eternity.

Harry William Wilson (’74, M.Div. ’85) arrived in the presence of the Lord on Feb. 5, 2011. Born on Sept. 12, 1928, Harry overcame a serious childhood bone infection that had threatened to claim his mobility or even his life, and as a young adult enlisted in the Marine Corps. He spent 23 years in the Marines, serving in both Korea and Vietnam, before retiring at the rank of master sergeant in 1970 in order to answer God’s call on his life to serve in pastoral ministry. In 1974, he graduated from Biola with a B.A. in biblical studies. Over the next several decades, he served as a pastor for various churches throughout the Los Angeles area. During this time, he also earned an M.Div. from Talbot Theological Seminary and eventually learned Spanish in order to minister to Spanish-speakers. After retiring from the pastorate, he continued to serve as an elder at his church for 14 years, balancing his passion for God’s Word between intermittent preaching and regular teaching until his death. Harry is survived by his wife, Inez, his mother, Stella, his brother, Arthur, his children, April (’76), Harry, and Paul (’80), his children’s spouses, 12 grandchildren, four (soon to be six) great-grandchildren and other extended family.

William Bradford Houg (M.A. ’05) passed away from lymphoma at age 46 in January of 2011. His life was greatly enriched by Biola professors like Craig Hazen, J.P. Moreland, John Mark Reynolds and others. He is survived by his wife, Sheri, and sons Jacob, 1, and Matthew, 3. In blog posts during his final months, he affirmed his faith in the God who can heal and his trust in the One who may not. He attributed all of life’s blessings to acts of God’s mercy.

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The Word Made Fresh
Alumna leads national campaign to promote biblical literacy

When Willow Creek Church surveyed church members in 2004 to find out what they wanted from church, they discovered something surprising. Churchgoers said they weren’t primarily interested in finding connection, affirmation and love at church; they wanted their pastors to help them to understand the Bible better.

To meet that need, Randy Frazee, then a teaching pastor at Willow Creek, turned to *The Story*, a 31-chapter overview narrative of the Bible, published by Zondervan. The resource weaves Bible stories together into one chronological narrative, retaining major stories and characters while omitting genealogical lists, dietary laws and other passages that are difficult for first-time Bible readers to understand. Some stories are excluded, and transitional paragraphs fast-forward the reader between some sections of Scripture.

As Frazee took a Wednesday night class through *The Story*, he discovered his accompanying website accumulated more hits than all the other Willow Creek sites combined.

Frazee, together with pastor Max Lucado, subsequently taught through *The Story* in 31 weeks at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas, and asked age-related ministries to develop curriculum to accompany the teaching. Their efforts were rewarded with dramatic success; students came away with high scores on biblical literacy tests.

"People want to understand the Bible, but the Bible itself can be daunting for people who are just new to it," said Shelley Leith ('80), who serves as general editor and handles account relations for Zondervan’s new promotional campaign for *The Story*, which is set to launch in fall 2011, following the June release of a new edition that uses the New International Version.

*The Story* is being marketed as a 31-week church program to span a full calendar year. Leith recommends creating a schedule that allows the story of Christ’s resurrection to fall at Eastertime, and allows for a four or five-week break for the Christmas season. The campaign is intended to be non-denominational, and congregations in 100 churches ranging from Catholic to Baptist, Methodist and charismatic have been testing the materials. Leith estimates 1,000 more have purchased *The Story* products so far.

Zondervan’s materials include curricula for early elementary, later elementary and youth, so that families can cover the same material and discuss it at home. Sermon outlines are also provided, but Leith emphasizes that there is plenty of room for pastors to follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in choosing their sermon topics for each given week.

“One thing that we are suggesting that pastors use as an overarching tie-in, a thread that ties in the whole scope of Scripture, is a theme that we’ve dubbed Upper Story and Lower Story," Leith said. "We find that Christians tend to drive right to application when they read the Bible … when the text itself doesn’t necessarily support that application. We’re forcing you to read Scripture in context and we believe that the concept of Scripture … is God’s story. It’s the story of God moving his hand through history. His story is the Upper Story. Our story is the Lower Story.”

Rather than attempting to replace traditional Bible reading, Leith said *The Story* curriculum encourages readers to bring both their Bible and their copy of *The Story* to church so they can compare the two side-by-side.

“What we’re hoping that this will do — one of our slogans is, ‘Read the story, discover the Bible.’ Another slogan is ‘Turn average people into devoted Bible readers,’” Leith said. “So our goal with this book is to draw people back to the Bible, and we’ve seen that happen again and again.”

Leith said even faithful Bible readers who were initially skeptical, dismissing *The Story* as "Bible lite," have found themselves impacted in life-changing ways by reading it together with their congregations.

Scripture references are given in the back of the book so readers can discover where passages are in their Bibles, but Leith said those who complain about not having footnotes or other references in the book’s pages — lending *The Story* a novel-like look and feel — may benefit from the discomfort of seeing the words of the Bible in a new context.

“If it takes away the Scripture references and the chapter references, you don’t know where you are, necessarily,” Leith said. “Now all your comforts are stripped away and your standard structures that you’re used to are gone. So you’re reading through this like a story, but you’re seeing it fresh.”

—Betsi L. Freeman
THE Lyman Stewart LEGACY

“It is my earnest desire that my children and grandchildren shall, according to their several ability, support and protect the work of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, first however accepting as their personal Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who has redeemed us all with His own precious blood.”

— Biola co-founder Lyman Stewart, in his last will and testament

Since its founding in 1908, Biola University has received significant financial support through the wills of alumni, parents and friends. Today, more than 700 supporters are members of the Lyman Stewart Guild — a group of people who have committed to support the mission of Biola University through planned gifts, wills and trusts.

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Remember Biola University in your will.