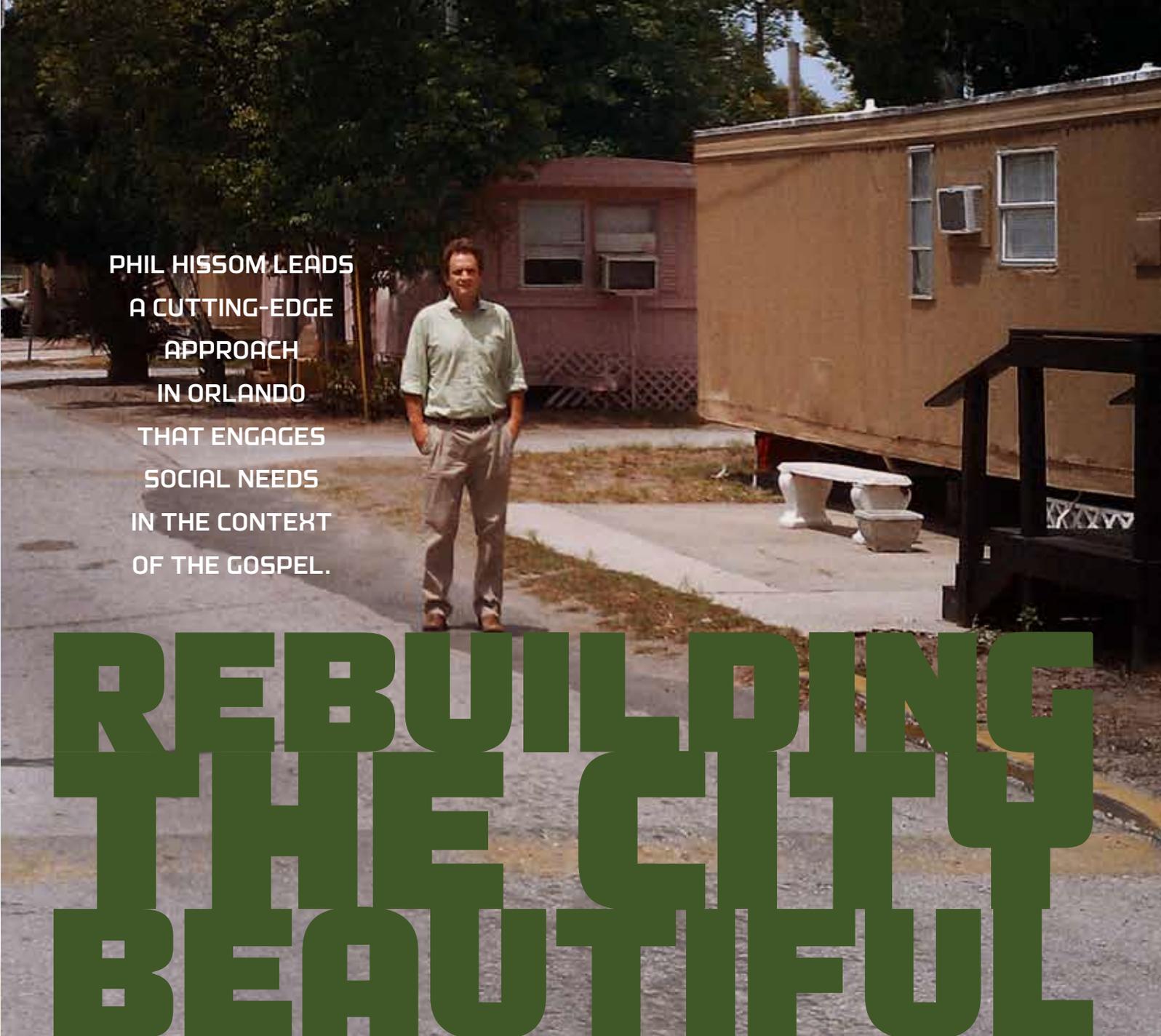


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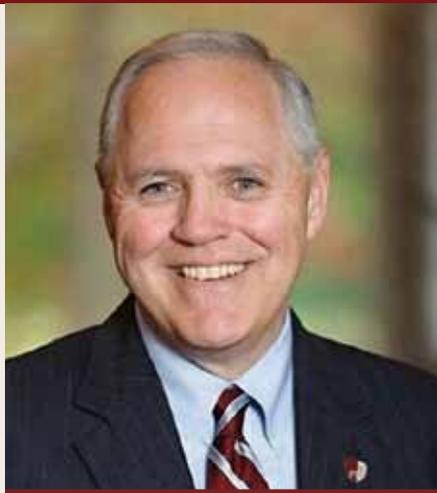
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LEADERSHIP



PHIL HISSOM LEADS
A CUTTING-EDGE
APPROACH
IN ORLANDO
THAT ENGAGES
SOCIAL NEEDS
IN THE CONTEXT
OF THE GOSPEL.

REBUILDING THE CITY BEAUTIFUL



Michael Milton

Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer Elect

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WHO WE ARE

Reformed Theological Seminary exists to serve the church by preparing its leaders through a globally accessible program of theological education based on the authority of the inerrant Word of God and committed to the Reformed faith. This program promotes biblical fidelity, confessional integrity and academic excellence, and seeks to prepare students marked by "A mind for truth. A heart for God."

As such, Ministry & Leadership exists to show how God is working through the ministries of its graduates, faculty members and students.

As I come on board as chancellor of RTS, I am bound to give thanks to God, and express gratitude to Dr. Ric Cannada, my friend and my beloved predecessor, as well as our esteemed Board of Trustees. I thank them all for putting their trust in me. I feel a godly burden, which should bring about a godly vision. In fact, I believe I have been entrusted with God's truth to extend God's grace in our generation. And when I say I have been given this burden and vision, I mean that this burden and vision belongs to all of us who labor for the vision and mission of RTS: our faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors and prayer supporters, and the churches and friends scattered throughout the world who support this ministry. We all are in this together.

I begin my time with you in this column by reminding us — that is, reminding myself — that we labor for Jesus Christ in light of eternity. How many times have we heard the cliché, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life"? Or perhaps you have listened to that viral video in which the late Steve Jobs, addressing the graduates at Stanford University, said, "Remembering you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart."

The truth is, the Bible tells us we do minister today in light of eternity. The

apostle Paul knew this when ministering to the saints at Thessalonica. In 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, in lamenting his separation from the saints because of the devil, the pastoral Paul lays his heart before that congregation when he writes, "For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy."

Paul was laboring in light of eternity. He was doing ministry, giving of himself, seeking to fulfill the redemptive plans of God within that congregation so that there would be "souls safe in the arms of Jesus" when Christ came again. I want to begin my ministry among you all by making that statement as well. Before all the supporters, encouragers, colleagues and friends of RTS, I say that we must also — like Paul — labor in light of eternity and work to see souls safe in the arms of Jesus.

There's no greater joy, no other "crown of boasting" we have than this: our faithfulness offered today so that Christ's vision is fulfilled tomorrow. We want to be used by the Lord to prepare servants of God to shepherd churches, proclaim that the kingdom has come, "repent and believe," and declare the whole counsel of God. We do this so that the covenant of God's grace is broadcast through the generations to people we do not even know or who do not even exist right now, to the glori-

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Lyn Perez, Editor in Chief

Paul Schwarz, Managing Editor

Bill Henderson Design, Graphic Design

Stephanie Hartley, Dawn Kilgore, Editorial Assistants

Ministry & Leadership promotes RTS through articles designed to edify its readers through solid biblical instruction, and through reports that focus primarily on the national and global impact of RTS students, faculty and alumni. Our goal is that readers will become partners with RTS through prayer, financial giving, educational experience and student referral, as well as providing placement opportunities.

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PUBLICATIONS

Dr. John Currid's commentary on the Book of Ruth, *From Bitter to Sweet* (part of the Welwyn Commentary Series), will be published by Evangelical Press in May.

Dr. Ligon Duncan contributed the chapter "Baptism and the Lord's Supper" to *The Gospel as Center* (Crossway, February).

Dr. John Frame's *Salvation Belongs to the Lord* (P&R) was recently translated into Korean.

Dr. Chuck Hill co-edited (with Michael J. Kruger) and contributed to *The Early Text of the New Testament* (Oxford University Press, due May) the chapter "'In These Very Words': Methods and Standards of Literary Borrowing in the Second Century." The paperback edition of his *Who Chose the Gospels? Probing the Great 'Gospel Conspiracy'* (Oxford University Press) is also due in May. He also wrote "The Canon of the New Testament," in *Understanding Scripture: An Overview of the Bible's Origin, Reliability, and Meaning* (Crossway). Dr. Hill also wrote two chapters, "Irenaeus, the Scribes, and the Scriptures. Papyrological and Theological Observations from P.Oxy 3.405" and "The Man Who Needed No Introduction: A Response to Sebastian Moll" in *Irenaeus and His Traditions* (Fortress Press, due August).



Dr. Michael Milton's academic paper "In Jesus Name I Pray: Exclusivity in Public Prayer" was published in *Monergism* in November 2011.

The convocation sermon he delivered at Chaplain School, Fort Jackson, S.C. ("It's a Growing Time: Resting in God Before Running in Ministry"), was published by *Reformed Perspectives* magazine (Sept. 11-17, 2011). His sermon "Angels Rejoicing in Starbucks" was published on Gospel Coalition in November. He was also invited by Peter Lillback to speak on the continuing importance of Calvin's *Institutes* for the church today, and to reflect on the legacy of Martin Luther as part of a

television series being produced for Providence Forum. Dr. Milton continues to film and produce Bible studies for the *Faith For Living* television program. His *Hit by Friendly Fire* booklet was published in expanded book form in January.

Dr. Scott Swain's article "A Ruled Reading Reformed: The Role of the Church's Confession in Biblical Interpretation" will appear in the *International Journal of Systematic Theology* (April).



Dr. Don Sweeting has written *How to Finish the Christian Life: Following Jesus in the Second Half* along with his father, Dr. George Sweeting. The book was

published in February.

TRAVELS (U.S.)

Dr. James Anderson will teach an evening class titled "Worldview Apologetics" at Matthews Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Matthews, N.C., for 10 weeks this summer.

Dr. Robert C. (Ric) Cannada attended a meeting of the board of World Reformed Fellowship in Sydney, Australia, before which he and his wife, Rachel, visited RTS alumni and friends in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Ric preached at the Reformed Evangelical Church in Jakarta. He will participate in the meeting of The Gospel Coalition Council in Louisville, Ky, May 22-24.

Dr. Steve Childers preached at the first annual mission conference of the Orlando Chinese Evangelical Christian Church on April 1 and spoke at the Treasuring Christ Together National Church Planting Network at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Apr. 18-19.

Dr. Jim Coffield spoke at the MNA Disaster Response National Training Workshop, March 14-15, Grace Presbyterian Church, Dalton, Ga.; at a marriage retreat at Redeemer Church, Miami, March 29-30; and at Restoration Church, Port

Orange, Fla., April 1. He will speak at the Coaches Honor marriage retreat, St. Augustine, Fla., June 1-3, and at X-Track for Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ), Boulder, Colo., July 5-9.

Dr. Ligon Duncan spoke at the Simpsonwood Retreat, Atlanta, Feb. 6-7; at the Reason for Faith conference at Clemson Presbyterian Church, Clemson, S.C., Feb. 24-26; at the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology, Grand Rapids, Mich.; and at the Together for the Gospel conference (where he was also a panelist).

Dr. Mark Futato spoke at a men's retreat for Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, Calif., May 4-6, and will speak at the young professionals retreat for First Alliance Church, Erie, Pa., May 11-13. He will present a paper at the Conference on Business Ethics Today, Philadelphia, June 1-2; make a presentation at a pastor's conference sponsored by Logos Bible Software, Chicago, June 7; and teach Old Testament Survey for Cru's Institute of Biblical Studies, June 18-29.

Dr. Bruce Lowe spoke at a men's breakfast at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, May 5.

Rev. Tim McKeown preached at Mill Creek Church, Bellview, Texas, May 6, and will preach there again on July 8.

Dr. Michael Milton is the keynote speaker for the National Conference on Preaching, Atlanta, May 14-15. He spoke at the World Missions Conference for Highlands Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Miss., in February; at the Trinity World Conference, Statesboro, Ga., in March; and taught a chaplain course at Fort Jackson, S.C., April 16-20. He will officially begin his role as the new chancellor of RTS on June 1 (see page 2).

Dr. Andy Peterson will speak at the Conference on Christian Business Ethics Today, Philadelphia, June 1-2. In March he spoke at the Distance Education Roundtable for Evangelical Seminaries, Portland, Ore., and at the annual meeting of ACCESS: Collaborate, Innovate, Educate, Columbus, S.C.

Dr. Scott Swain will teach the course Humanity, Christ, Salvation at the Institute of Biblical Studies training for Cru at Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., June 18-29.

Dr. Don Sweeting spoke at the Acts 29 Members Conference in January and at a missions conference at Village Seven Presbyterian Church, Colorado Springs, in February. He will speak at a world summit sponsored by WRF, Lausanne and others at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Mass., June 1; preach at First Presbyterian Church, Orlando (new to the EPC), June 3 & 10; and be interviewed on the Dr. Gary Chapman Show, June 16, 11 a.m. CST.

Dr. Daniel Timmer participated in the 2011-2012 Lily Theological Research Grant conference, Pittsburgh, Feb. 24-26, and presented a paper at the Southeast regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, March 2-4.

TRAVELS (INTERNATIONAL)

Dr. Steve Childers will teach applied theology for D.Min. students at Southeast Asia Bible Seminary in January 2013.

Dr. Jim Coffield will teach a class at Shalom Presbyterian Church, Merida, Mexico, June 18-22. It is an intensive course on counseling teenagers offered by the Institute of Youth Ministry of San Pablo Theological Seminary, but will be attended by counseling students from the two-year diploma in biblical counseling program as well as parents, pastors and youth leaders.

Dr. Sam Larsen is scheduled to teach two D.Min. modular courses on leadership and Reformed ecclesiology at Andrew Jumper Graduate Theological Center, Sao Paulo, Brazil (where RTS has a joint D.Min program with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil), Aug. 6-17.

Dr. Elias Medeiros will speak at the First Reformed Faith Conference in Brazil, May 17-19.

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Rethinking Resurrection

JOHN 5 LENDS FRESH INSIGHT INTO AN OFTEN-MISUNDERSTOOD DOCTRINE.



SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I WAS SITTING IN A PEW listening to a pastor wax eloquently about living in light of eternity. He then made a statement that has never left me: “Christians, live as though you are on the other side of heaven.” The point was forcefully made, and several congregants nodded and said Amen. The pastor was asking the audience to *imagine* — in other words, pretend — as though they were already living in eternity. After thinking about this for quite some time, I realized that this pastor was not alone in his statement. Many pastors and teachers I have heard through the years echo this identical outlook.

But though this teaching isn't heresy, it is unbiblical, and can lead to a grave misunderstanding of the Christian life. What Jesus and the New Testament authors state is nothing short of astounding: Christians have experienced resurrection, albeit spiritually, and do not have to pretend they are living in eternity. Indeed, they are already living on the “other side of heaven.” Let us turn to John 5 to see Jesus' teaching on this matter.

LORD OF THE SABBATH

John 5 opens with Jesus healing an invalid (vv. 1-15). This particular healing episode, however, was not primarily about a disabled individual, but about Jesus' actions on a certain day of the week. Verses 9-17 are the heart of the discourse, and verse 9b introduces the problem: “Now that day was the Sabbath.” Evidently, a handicapped man had violated Sabbath regulations because he did work by “taking up his bed and walking.” According to the Jews, this man had broken the Sabbath — an action that incurred the gravest of penalties.

We now arrive at the heart of the problem in verses 16 and 17: The Jews were “persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.” Throughout Jesus' ministry, the Sabbath is one of the most important issues that Jesus confronts. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, therefore He has authority over it (Mark 2:23-28). Furthermore, in verse 17, Jesus makes one of the most tantalizing statements in all of John: “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

Jesus claims that God is “working.” He then goes on to say that just as God is working, “I am working.” As God is sovereign over the affairs of the cosmos, so is Jesus!

RAISING THE DEAD

Verse 18 summarizes verses 19-47 and the main point of verses 1-18: “This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath (vv. 6-16), but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” In other words, *Jesus is functioning as God*. We now enter into an arena that both the Father and the Son share — namely, raising the dead (v. 21).

Though the Old Testament writers did not fully develop the nature of the afterlife, they do mention it in a few passages (Job 19:26-27; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:1-2; Hosea 6:2). By the time of the New Testament, the issue of resurrection had undergone considerable development in Judaism. Various sects held to different views of the resurrection, yet the New Testament is very clear — there will be a bodily resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:35-53). We will not be garbed in our old mortal bodies but will be fashioned in a new, resurrected physical body, just like the body of Christ (1 John 3:2).

Coming back to John 5:21, we can now understand in more detail what this text is communicating. “The Father raises the dead” means that God is committed to the great act of redeeming the cosmos and humanity. Verse 21 ends with the Son also “giving life” and implicitly “raising the dead.” Just as the Father raises the dead, so does Jesus.

TRANSFER FROM DEATH TO LIFE

The beginning of verse 24 highlights the need for faith in Christ in order to obtain “eternal life.” But how is “eternal life” defined here? Verse 24b says the one who believes “does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” According to this verse, eternal life is *the transfer from death to life*. Notice how this is past tense — the believer has crossed the line, as it were, from death unto life.

The phrase “passing from death to life” sets the tone for the next several verses. In fact, verses 25-29 further explicate the meaning of eternal life. Verse 25 begins with a very strange yet salient description: “[An] hour is coming, and is now here.”

Most pass over this statement, but doing so defangs the point of the verse, for the clause tells us “when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God.” The term “hour” plays a prominent role in John (4:21, 23; 12:23; 16:25, 32; 17:1) and most likely originates from the Book of Daniel (8:17,19; 11:6,35,40). Of special interest to us is Daniel 12:1-2: “At that time [literally “hour”] ... many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” The Greek translation of Daniel 12:1-2 uses the same word found here in John 5:25.

A RADICAL NEW VIEW

So when we read Jesus’ statement that “an hour is coming, and is now here,” we can now fully appreciate His saying. The “hour” or timing of the resurrection has *now begun in the ministry of Christ*. This is not simply an exercise in biblical theology or exegesis; Jesus’ teaching on the already / not yet aspect of resurrection entails a radical new way of viewing the Christian life. Obtaining “life” or “eternal life” does not *primarily* mean to live forever (though, obviously, that is in view secondarily), but to be joined to God’s future redemption in the new heavens and earth (Revelation 21-22). The future (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22) has broken into the present.

This doctrine is not esoteric, with little or no application to our daily lives. Indeed, this New Testament teaching on the resurrection has manifold, concrete applications.

It’s like a wheel: at the center is our resurrected state, and the protruding spokes are the various ways in which it affects us. It assures us of our future resurrection and salvation. Since God has already “regenerated” (or better, resurrected) us, we are assured that our future, bodily resurrection will come to pass. The process has already begun, and at some point in the future, it will be completed. This view of the resurrection gives us courage and hope in the midst of trials and tribulations. The world and the devil are powerless against it, and can do nothing to prevent it. We are *already* victorious, and will one day be granted final victory. **M**

Dr. Gladd, assistant professor of New Testament at RTS-Jackson, received his Ph.D. from Wheaton College. He and his wife live in Clinton, Miss.



FOR REFLECTION

- 1 How does your spiritual resurrection motivate you to persevere in the midst of trials and indwelling sin?
- 2 If you have been raised with Christ, how does that change your doubts regarding salvation?
- 3 How does your spiritual resurrection give you confidence of your final, bodily resurrection?



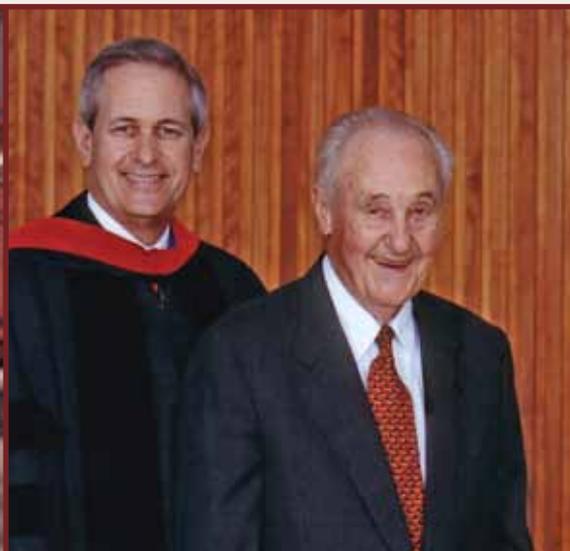


RIC'S REFLECTIONS

The outgoing chancellor and CEO of RTS lends perspective on a time of transition.

by Dr. Robert C. ("Ric") Cannada Jr.

IN CERTAIN PROFESSIONS, LOSING ONE'S JOB IS PART OF THE TERRITORY. RECENTLY, MY friend and former RTS-Charlotte president Frank Reich saw this firsthand. The former NFL quarterback was fired along with most of the other coaches for the Indianapolis Colts at the end of a losing season in 2011. Frank told concerned friends, though, that he had not really lost his job. He said his job is to serve Christ and that he can never lose that job — he had only been reassigned and was waiting to see what his next assignment would be. As it turns out, that new earthly assignment came quickly, as Frank has been hired by the Arizona Cardinals to coach the team's receivers.



WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Church leaders give their tributes to Dr. Cannada

My circumstances are radically different from Frank's, but I have a new assignment too. I am not retiring; I am simply being reassigned to another position and still having the privilege of serving the Lord at RTS. My new assignment as chancellor emeritus is primarily to help Mike Milton as much as I can in his new role as chancellor. I will help with keeping in touch with the people who so generously support our ministry and will be available for counsel to Mike. In addition, I will, as Mike often says, "handle special projects assigned by the new chancellor."

This is a good time for me to reflect on my years at RTS, even as we look forward to the future and the great opportunities before us.

As RTS was born, I watched and prayed. My father and a few others were talking and praying about RTS when I was in high school. I watched the dream come true and even attended the first RTS convocation in Jackson in September 1966 before I left home for my freshman year at Vanderbilt University. There were lots of hopes and dreams, but only 14 students, though that swelled to 17 by the end of the year.

As an RTS student, I watched and prayed. My class was the fifth class to enter RTS, and we almost doubled the student body to around 80, as I recall.

As an RTS graduate and friend, I watched and prayed. During my 20 years as a pastor, I rejoiced in the growing ministry of RTS that went far beyond the original dreams of its founders and included a second campus, in Orlando.

As the founder of RTS-Charlotte and later as chief operating officer under the RTS presidency of Luder Whitlock, I watched and prayed for RTS from the inside. Then after being selected by the board of trustees to become president and later chancellor, I have watched the Lord continue to bless RTS in amazing ways, in spite of my own failings and fears.

Looking back over my almost 20 years at RTS, there are a number of things for which I encourage us to rejoice, even as we trust the Lord for the years to come:

THANK GOD WITH ME FOR ANSWERED PRAYER for a faithful board. I have watched these men and prayed with them for this ministry. These godly laymen have committed enormous amounts of time, energy, financial resources and prayer to this effort. There have been great challenges and difficulties requiring wisdom and grace, and often driving these men literally to their knees in prayer. We

Continued on Page 8

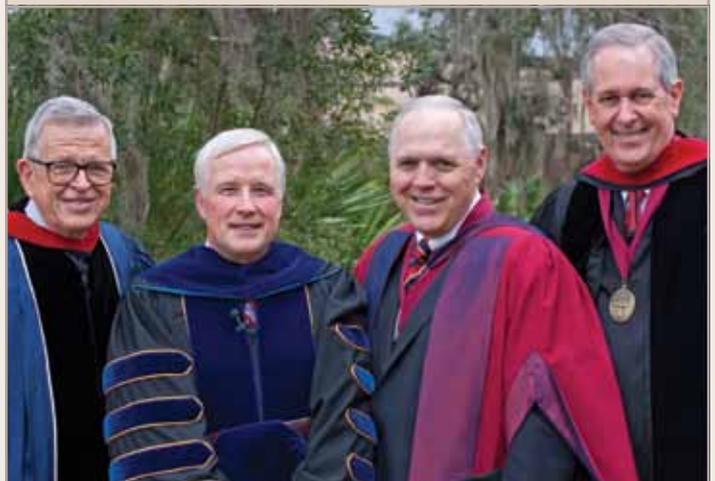
Ric's father, the late Dr. Robert C. "Bob" Cannada Sr. (previous page, bottom right) was one of the founding fathers of RTS. After his graduation from the seminary, Ric served pastorates in places including Macon, Ga. (bottom center).

What I most appreciate about Ric Cannada is simple: friendship. There is no denying that the seminaries each of us lead also serve similar (or, at times, the same) constituencies. There are many opportunities for rancor or resentment to grow. Yet, from the first day he took office, Ric would have none of that. In public and in private, he has reminded everyone that we serve the same Lord and that Christ's kingdom is more important than personal or institutional advantage. He and I have shared joys and woes, prayed for each other, advised one another on crucial decisions, and supported one another in times of trial. We have refused to criticize one another or to allow those in our institutions to be mean-spirited toward one another. I appreciate Ric Cannada as a man of honor who put the advance of Christ's work above pride or gain. He and I raced before the watching world and walk from the track knowing that each ran with integrity, honor and genuine respect for one other. There were no losers here — we each won a lifelong friend, and made each other better in the process.

— *Bryan Chapell, president, Covenant Theological Seminary*

I've known and greatly appreciated Ric for many years. He has a great pastor's heart and loves the flock, but he also has extraordinarily good entrepreneurial talents. Looking at what has happened at RTS over the last 10 years is certainly testimony to that. Ric became a friend whom I could trust; he has a very gentle spirit but a firm, steady grip. The seminary has done beautifully under his leadership. I would put RTS in the vanguard of seminaries that are preparing people for effective ministry in the pulpit or in other fields of endeavor. As he steps down as chancellor of RTS, I am profoundly grateful to him for the work he has done, for his solid and steady commitment, for his interest and concern for the other parts of the body. I'm also grateful to him for the encouragement he has given me on frequent occasions. I consider him a great friend and want to salute him for what he has done, not just for RTS but for the kingdom. The church needs outstanding people like Ric.

— *Chuck Colson (below, left), founder, Prison Fellowship Ministries, Colson Center for Christian Worldview*



WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Church leaders give their tributes to Dr. Cannada

I want to draw attention to an aspect of Ric's gracious character I have long appreciated: his humility. When I was a young professor at RTS-Jackson in the 1990s, I would regularly travel to Charlotte to teach, and I would often stay with Ric and Rachel. One particular visit, my wife, Anne, was with me. At the end of a long day of lecturing, she met me at the seminary to go out for supper. We were the only ones there but Ric — all the staff and students had gone home. As we prepared to leave, I noticed Ric going around emptying trash cans in various rooms and offices throughout the building. Here was a man from a prominent Southern Presbyterian family, a Vanderbilt graduate, a former senior pastor of a historic big-steeple church with a large staff and now vice president of RTS, quietly emptying trash cans, including those of his subordinates. I have observed this grace-wrought quality in Ric over the years in countless circumstances.

— *Dr. Ligon Duncan, senior minister, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, John E. Richards professor of systematic and historical theology, RTS*

Ric has been a great friend to the EPC. I've especially enjoyed the regular contact I've had with Ric since I became stated clerk in 2006. He reflects wonderfully RTS's commitment to be "winsomely Reformed." The first years of the 21st century have been tumultuous ones economically, financially and culturally. As chancellor of RTS, Ric has been a wise, prudent and steady "hand at the wheel" in navigating the RTS system during these challenging times. As he moves on from this important leadership role, he leaves RTS in great condition for continued global impact for Christ and the kingdom.

— *Jeff Jeremiah, stated clerk, Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

Ric's personal impact has been seen by me especially in his gracious piety. He has consistently greeted me with a handshake, a smile and his affirmation of ongoing appreciation of Westminster and reports of RTS' corporate prayer on Westminster's behalf. Ric's seminary ministry has been significant in leading the RTS campuses through financial wisdom, campus construction, the advancement of RTS' theological mission, and a deep commitment to Reformed theological orthodoxy and integrity. For all these things, I thank our Lord for raising up such a stalwart educational statesman for our Reformed heritage.

— *Dr. Peter A. Lillback, president, Westminster Theological Seminary*

Dr. Ric Cannada's leadership has been and remains a model of selfless, kingdom-focused servanthood. What always impresses me about Ric is his genuine love of the church of Christ. Ric, in his service in the ministry, has consistently demonstrated a devotion to the Savior's interest at RTS but never to the degree of neglecting prayer and encouragement to other seminaries. Ric is a solid churchman in the PCA — indeed his family helped found the PCA — but again, he never promoted the mission of his denomination above the larger mission of the bride of Christ in all her beautiful and varied expressions. This has left an indelible mark on this seminary, the church, and the American church in the 21st century.

— *Dr. Michael Milton, chancellor elect, RTS*



Continued from Page 7

need more men just like them as we fill some current vacancies. They need our prayers as they face new challenges and amazing opportunities for expanded ministry.

THANK GOD WITH ME FOR ANSWERED PRAYER for a faithful team of faculty, administrative and staff members. I have watched them serve faithfully and sacrificially, and have prayed with them too. I put these categories together because they work so closely together and because often the administrators are also faculty members. The Lord has gathered at RTS an astounding group of pastor/scholars, perhaps the largest-ever faculty at a Reformed, evangelical seminary in the Western world. More importantly, the RTS faculty and administrators are committed to the inerrancy of Scripture and to the Reformed faith, annually reaffirming those commitments along with the board. They need our prayers as they seek to teach faithfully and effectively, pastoring these future pastors. The lives and classroom teach-





The Cannada family (previous page, top) includes Ric's wife, Rachel (above, second from left). Ric and Rachel join in passing the torch of RTS leadership to Dr. Michael Milton (right, with his wife, Mae).

ing of our faculty make a significant impact on our students. That impact will ripple and spread in multiple ways through the lives and ministries of our alumni around the world and throughout the generations. We need more faculty just like them as RTS grows.

THANK GOD WITH ME FOR ANSWERED PRAYER for our financial supporters. I have watched and prayed for them, and prayed with many of them. These are people, with much or with little, who have loved RTS deeply and have sacrificed to make this ministry grow. I trust we have been a blessing to them in return, and I have often seen their encouragement and excitement as the seminary has ministered to them or their churches, their families or friends, or the world beyond them.

THANK GOD WITH ME FOR ANSWERED PRAYER for our students and alumni. We have graduates leading other seminaries stateside and in Indonesia, Uganda, Mexico and many other locations. We have pastors, campus ministers, counselors and Christian educators serving around the country and around the world. We have graduates serving in strategic places in business and government, and even (as mentioned earlier) in the NFL. The leveraged impact of these leaders ripples throughout the communities where they serve and down through the generations of the people they disciple.

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WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Church leaders give their tributes to Dr. Cannada

I have had the privilege of working with Ric Cannada in a variety of situations, and my response to such opportunities has always been the same: "Thank you, Lord!" Ric brings many outstanding gifts to any organization with which he works, but those for which I have been most thankful in the years he has served on the board of directors and the executive committee of the World Reformed Fellowship would best be summarized by "gracious wisdom." Ric has demonstrated extraordinary biblical insights about a dizzyingly wide spectrum of issues facing our small but global organization. He alerts us to issues about which most of us were not even aware and he suggests solutions that seem almost always to be right on target. But he always does so graciously, demonstrating a remarkable and Christlike concern not only for doing the right thing but also for doing it in the right way — a way that embodies the very Gospel grace on which all Christians stake their eternal souls. I thank the Lord "for all the saints," and Ric Cannada is right there among them.

— *Dr. Samuel Logan, international director,
The World Reformed Fellowship*

God truly brought Ric to the RTS president/chancellor position at the right time — he was perfectly prepared for this chapter in RTS history. As a boy, he was trained by his father, Bob Cannada, a founding father of RTS and past board chairman. He proved his academic strength when he graduated with highest honors from Vanderbilt. He was a student at RTS in the early years when we had one campus. He planted a church and pastored a major church before joining RTS and establishing the Charlotte campus. RTS was blessed with tremendous growth during Ric's leadership time. To effectively handle the opportunities God presented, it was necessary to adapt the staff and board organization. Ric did so with grace and patience. He was the right man. But God has always provided the right man for RTS's top leadership challenges. Sam Patterson was the perfect man for the startup phase, and Luder Whitlock was just right for the growth phase. Ric took their work to the next level and now passes the torch to Mike Milton, who is uniquely qualified for the next chapter.

— *James L. Moore, member and former chairman,
RTS Board of Trustees*

One of the reasons that our Lord has used RTS to bless His church by producing godly leaders is because the seminary has enjoyed the blessing of godly leaders. Ric Cannada is such a leader. I, along with you, have enjoyed our Lord's providential blessing to His church through this seminary by benefiting from Ric's leadership. I am looking forward with anticipation to the next chapter of how our Lord is going to use this servant who is fully given to Christ, the gospel and His church. Ric and Rachel, I praise the Lord for the privilege of serving Christ along with you and drawing from the Lord's abundant mercies through you.

— *Dr. Harry L. Reeder III, senior pastor,
Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Ala.*

Continued on Page 18

REBUILDING THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

AN ORLANDO ALUMNUS LEADS A CUTTING-EDGE APPROACH TO ENGAGING SOCIAL NEEDS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GOSPEL.

PHIL HISSOM NEEDED HELP. The unlikely source of the assistance transformed his thinking and led him on a journey toward one of the neediest neighborhoods in central Florida.

In March 2008, while a student at RTS-Orlando, Phil was still grieving the death of his father a few months before. While leading a Bible study with about 30 homeless men as part of an urban ministry project, Phil hit upon a radical idea.

“I started asking these homeless guys to pray for me,” Phil recalls, “and an interesting thing happened — they would reach out their hands and grab mine and start praying. They would tear up and offer these earnest prayers to God. [Later] I was journaling and I wrote, ‘Today was my first day of ministry.’ It became the vehicle God used to help heal me of my grief — some of these men were chronically homeless, some were mentally ill, some had had addiction problems, some were just down on their luck. But they were able to minister to me better than anyone else I knew, and I thought, *This is not what I expected.*”

Phil’s epiphany evolved into the development of the Polis Institute, an urban ministry initiative in the Orlando area that takes an unconventional approach to addressing the seemingly overwhelming needs in the inner city. Through clinical research, partnerships with churches and existing urban min-

istries, and training programs, Polis promotes a paradigm shift in how the church engages the poorest and most marginalized in society.

On one level, Phil seems to be the likeliest person to help lead such a project, but on another, his testimony tells an unlikely story. In a sense, Phil is following an urban missionary tradition dating back to his great-grandfather, Earl Hissom, who founded the Hissom Intercity Mission in Charleston, W.Va., in 1934, and continued by Earl Hissom II (Phil’s grandfather) and Earl Hissom III (his father). But on the other hand, *My Name Is Not Earl* would be an appropriate name for a TV series based on Phil’s life, because for many years he walked a different path.



On Polis projects, people from the needy neighborhoods serve alongside volunteers.

“I went to church and did the youth activities and all that,” Phil acknowledges, “but was not particularly interested at a heart level. I probably would have checked some box or something of expressing allegiance, but I left home for the Army and did my own thing.” Phil’s “own thing” eventually led him to Maryland and to project management in the information technology industry.

While there in 2002, shortly after his marriage, Phil reaffirmed his faith in Christ and spent the next three years

(unsuccessfully) evangelizing Jennie, a professed atheist.

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BY PAUL SCHWARZ



Continued from Page 10

“Sundays for a couple of years looked like me going to church and then coming home and having a fight with my wife.

I was just excited, and she was like, ‘Look, I didn’t sign up for this!’”

Phil learned to preach less and pray more, and 2005 marked Jennie’s conversion and the Hissoms’ relocation to Orlando, where they both ended up becoming RTS students. While at RTS, Phil became involved in a research project initiated by James Seneff, an Orlando-area resident and a member of the RTS Board of Trustees. The project sought to identify how human needs were being met in Central Florida, where the gaps existed in the meeting of those needs, and how churches could best minister to those needs in the context of the gospel of Christ.

When the research project evolved into the Polis Institute in 2009, Phil pinpointed a notorious place for which to set the research findings into motion. The section of Orange Blossom Trail leading into and out of downtown Orlando



According to Phil Hissom (page 11), founder and president of Polis, well-being in the city will improve only through proper engagement of the talents of the poor.

contains some of the most persistent poverty and crime in central Florida, and The Palms represented the most chronically depressed of those neighborhoods.

“I’ve been to remote villages in Mexico and to dumps in Mexico City,” Phil declares, “and I had never seen anything like this place. It was hidden from view by a big fence, and it had been abandoned. There was open sewage, and it was just a nightmare of about 300 people living in a trailer park.”

When Polis came to The Palms, though, Phil led an effort that bucked the typical approach to urban ministry. “It had become clear to me that Christian service should never be about solving problems,” he explains. “It should be about inspiring servanthood to God and others. It involves seeing people not as defined by their needs but as image-bearers of our great God.”

On a practical level, this meant engaging residents of The Palms in a manner unlike the traditional approach to the poor. For example, Phil cites an example of a typical conver-

LEADERSHIP AND THE CITY

INTERVIEW WITH EDDY MORATIN, LIFEWORK LEADERSHIP ORLANDO

“Seeking the Welfare of the City” is the theme of the Polis Institute, and accomplishing that mission involves leadership development. Polis board member Eddy Moratin is the executive director of Lifework Leadership Orlando, an organization that trains business leaders in biblical principles of effective leadership. Ministry & Leadership managing editor Paul Schwarz talked to Eddy about the intersection between the two initiatives.

WHAT DOES LIFEWORK LEADERSHIP SEEK TO ACCOMPLISH?

Our nine-month program helps Christian leaders have a clear sense of calling to the marketplace that as businesspeople they’re uniquely equipped to serve God’s kingdom. It also helps them develop a clear biblical worldview and make decisions based on the model of Christ. We also want them

to have a mission of service to their community.

HOW DID LIFEWORK LEADERSHIP AND POLIS INTERSECT?

We were burdened with how to challenge our alumni with the needs of the city, so we started reaching out to others to explore how to do that. We asked Angela Lynn from CNL Financial Group to spearhead that process. Almost simultaneously, James Seneff, the chairman of CNL [and RTS Board of Trustees member], asked Angie to head up a research project called Seeking the Welfare of the City. For three years she interviewed nonprofits around Orlando, exploring the needs and the potential gaps in meeting them.



sation with people who come to the trailer that serves as the Polis headquarters in The Palms. “Sometimes when people walk into the trailer,” he says, “they ask, ‘What do you guys give out?’ And we answer, ‘Well, we don’t really give out anything,’ and it’s a very different track you start heading down.”

“Or we can get six people from the trailer park to volunteer to do a service project — paint a trailer or work on the community center, and a church says, ‘We’d love to send some volunteers,’ and we say, ‘We can only use six,’ and they say, ‘We have 30!’ That’s an interesting conversation — ‘We really only want six, and here’s why.’” Phil explains that one way Polis works to inspire servanthood among the people is by insisting that the number of outside volunteers on a service project cannot exceed the number of resident workers.

Spiritually, Polis is making an impact in the city through the professions and reaffirmations of faith in Christ among the residents. On a community-building level, the impact is particularly visible. “In the last couple of years [The Palms] has gone from being the most distressed place in Orlando to having no violent crime in 2010 and only one incident just outside the park in 2011,” Phil reports. He also talks enthusiastically about the children who now play in a courtyard area that used to be called the “beer pile,” and about a small block building once full of trash that now serves as a chapel that hosts prayer meetings, a Hispanic/English ministry,

“CHRISTIAN SERVICE SHOULD NEVER BE ABOUT SOLVING PROBLEMS. IT SHOULD BE ABOUT INSPIRING SERVANTHOOD TO GOD AND OTHERS.”

— PHIL HISSOM

outreach ministries to children, and other efforts led in large part by the residents themselves, not outside volunteers.

“Seven days a week,” he continues, “things are going on in those two buildings, and there’s a changing neighborhood that even the residents there had given up on.”

Through Polis, Phil works to help the rest of the body of Christ to catch the same vision for reaching the heart of the city, noting that *polis* is the Greek word for “city” and that as of 2007, the majority of the world’s residents live in urban areas. Polis holds ongoing training programs for churches and individuals looking to learn an effective, biblically based approach to engaging the poor. Other initiatives include partnerships with local churches and yearlong internships for those looking for intensive immersion into urban ministry.

“It’s one thing to see an individual start to change,” Phil observes, “but to see a place change is even more [significant]. Our hope in the Polis Institute is that through working in and with the distressed neighborhoods of the city, you begin to see a whole city’s character change, so that the city becomes more like the heavenly city.”

One can readily imagine that a number of homeless people in Orlando are joining Phil in praying for the same thing. **M**

For more information about Polis, visit www.polisinstitute.org.

Through Jim, Angie engaged a group of volunteers from RTS, including Phil Hissom. Phil’s vision and understanding of what needed to get done informed the project, and after the three years were up, Phil and Angie started Polis.

WHAT’S THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS?

In the past, I had no way of determining the effectiveness of our activities in encouraging leaders to engage in local non-profit service. Today, Polis helps us measure progress in our city, take the temperature of community needs, and actively measure how we’re moving the needle to make things better. Polis also provides tools like the “Dignity Serves” Bible study that our leaders can use to train people in a fresh perspective on how to serve and volunteer. It also opens up opportunities for our alumni to consult for those nonprofits or serve on their boards, through which they lend business acumen to those organizations.

HOW IMPORTANT IS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF A CITY?

We can’t meet needs without community business leaders who see part of their responsibility as stewarding the well-being of the community, or without ministry leaders who develop their skill set so as to operate a modern organization. A lot of great ministries fall short of their mission not for lack of funding or opportunity, but for their leaders’ lack of vision and the development of engaged boards.

Much of the business community gets a certain amount of leadership skills training, but what they need more of is the heart of a leader. When you flip over to the ministry side, you see a lot of passion, mission, commitment and sacrifice, but often a lack of the practical business acumen and experience needed to succeed.

For more information about Lifework Leadership, visit lifeworkleadershiporlando.ning.com.

MCKNIGHT LIGHT

A CHARLOTTE STUDENT
OVERCOMES CANCER
AND PURSUES
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY.



BY PAUL SCHWARZ



CHARLES MCKNIGHT WAS SAVED BY AIR CONDITIONING AND SANCTIFIED BY a cancerous tumor on his spine. Not literally, of course, but his unusual spiritual journey has included these influences, as well as led him through basketball stardom and the shackles of legalism, ultimately bringing him to RTS-Charlotte. Charles serves as a pastoral intern at a church in the Charlotte area with an intentionally multicultural composition — a characteristic that drew him and his family to Charlotte in the first place.

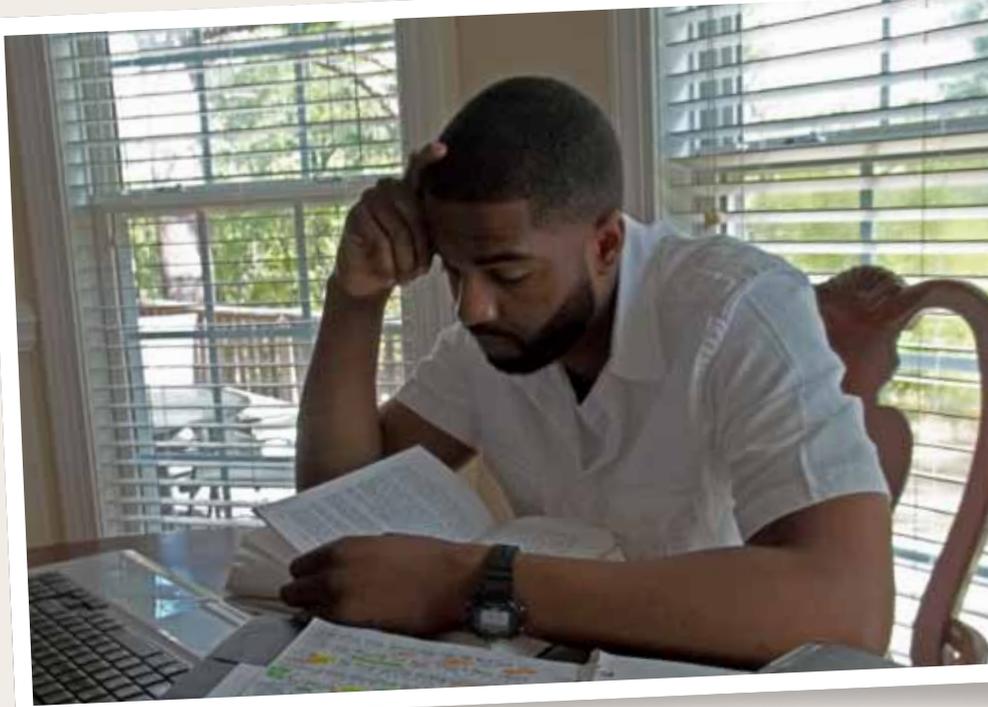
The Pinehurst, N.C., native grew up in a Christian home but did not respond to the gospel until attending the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he played basketball briefly after a standout high school career. His best friend from high school had come to faith in Christ and wanted to attend church in the evenings but didn't have a car, so Charles became his driver.

Enter the saving power of air conditioning. "I would sit in the car and wasn't really interested in going in," Charles remembers. "But the heat started cranking up, so I started going in just to get some A/C. But when I went in, what I saw was beautiful — it was basically college students much like myself, which didn't make sense. These people were finally able to leave their house and not be made to go to church anymore, and here they are in the middle of summertime in church? So it's just your textbook example of hanging around until you catch it."

Charles returned to college that fall with a newfound faith and without a firm grasp of God's grace. "I became very works-righteous," he admits, "and when you're works-righteous at all, one of two things inevitably happen: You become extremely prideful, and when you don't live up to your own expectations, you become extremely depressed and want to drop out of the faith. I went through a season where I just wasn't very gracious at all."

A shocking diagnosis in the middle of Charles' senior year rocked his world and led him to the liberation of the doctrines of grace. Shortly after marrying his wife, Charlotte, Charles learned he had a tumor on his spine — Stage 4 Hodgkins lymphoma, to be exact. A regimen of 16 chemotherapy treatments and 15 radiation treatments loomed.

"I didn't have a theology of suffering at the time," Charles explains. "[But] that same friend who led me to Christ introduced me to the doctrine of God's sovereignty through some Reformed ministers. That totally changed my worldview. I got introduced to grace, and I desired to know as much as I could not only about God's Word but also about how it can help us in real-life situations — not abstract theologies that mean nothing, but something that will continue to give you hope when you're in a chemo room and you're throwing up. That's when I knew that the Lord was doing something substantial in my life and was preparing me for something. At that time I didn't know what it was."



Charles sometimes carries out his RTS study (above) at the apartment where he and his wife, the appropriately named Charlotte (previous page), live with their daughters.

That something became evident after graduation, when Charles returned to Pinehurst to begin a teaching job at his old middle school and complete his cancer treatments. The McKnights, who now had a baby daughter, McKenzie, began attending Sandhills Presbyterian Church in nearby Southern Pines, and Charles became a youth intern at the church.

His ministry experience awakened a calling — and a conundrum. "I had questions that if the Lord was calling me to ministry and I have a Reformed conviction theologically," Charles explains, "what would this look like for me as an African American? Am I the only [Reformed] black person in the world? I had no idea."

Charles ended up e-mailing a leader in the Presbyterian Church in America explaining his calling to vocational ministry and its confirmation by elders, and asking if there were "any other people like me around." He was introduced to Howard Brown, a fellow African American serving as senior pastor at Christ Central Church in Charlotte. Charles sent a similar e-mail to Howard, who invited the McKnights to spend a weekend with him. This led to a mentoring relationship and later an internship for the now-cancer-free Charles at Christ Central after moving to Charlotte to begin attending RTS.

Christ Central serves as an effective launching point for

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Charles in his vision of seeing churches better reflect the socioeconomic makeup of their surrounding communities. “The word ‘multicultural’ gets thrown around,” he notes, “but Christ Central is a multicultural church that is really pursuing diversity — we have roughly a 30 to 35 percent minority congregation, which makes it the most diverse [Reformed] church by far in the Charlotte area. So it’s a good



place for me to speak with other people who have a heart for something like this.”

One way in which the McKnights live out their commitment to ministry in the context of diverse communities is through serving as an Apartment Life ministry team. Through Apartment Life, Charles and Charlotte (who owned a house in Pinehurst) intentionally live in an apartment complex so as to carry out incarnational ministry. The McKnights perform official tenant retention duties for the complex, putting on various events geared to men, women and children alike. Much of what they do, though, is more organic.

“It’s a community where people are struggling to just make ends meet,” Charles says. “This ministry has shown me the power of ‘doing life’ with people

“THIS MINISTRY HAS SHOWN ME THE POWER OF ‘DOING LIFE’ WITH PEOPLE — OPENING YOUR DOOR AND ALLOWING YOUR NEIGHBORS TO COME IN...”

— opening your door and allowing your neighbors to come in, playing cards late at night, visiting people when they get sick, walking with people when their mothers die, [and so on]. What happens is that people want to know why you’re doing this. People who are on the margins of society always are skeptical, because they have experienced people taking advantage of them. So they [ask things like], ‘Why are you giving out these free drinks — you don’t want anything in return?’ That has allowed my wife and me to build some of the most beautiful relationships we could ever build, and it has given me an even firmer conviction to be a part of a more neighborhood-based ministry.”

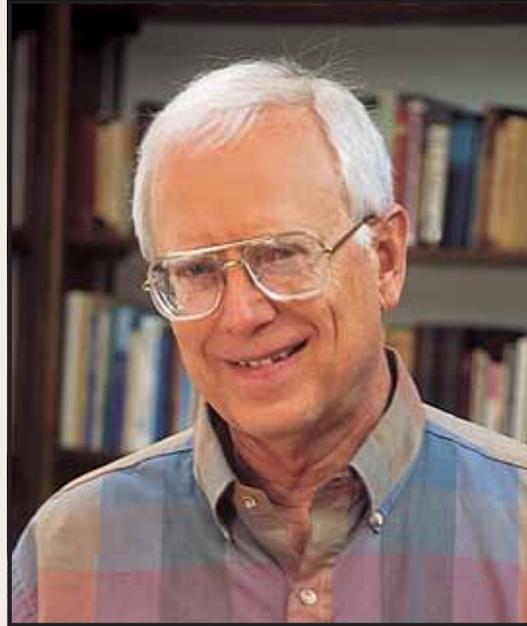
As he continues with life after cancer, Charles is not merely surviving, but thriving. **M**

For more information about Christ Central, visit www.christcentralchurch.com. More information about Apartment Life can be found at www.apartmentlife.org.

When not with his own daughters (above) or working toward his RTS degree, Charles can sometimes be found leading fitness classes at elementary schools in the Charlotte area.

The Passing of a Beloved Professor

Dr. J. Knox Chamblin (1936-2012)



Even while facing the ravages of leukemia and with the end of his earthly life imminent, Dr. Knox Chamblin drew comfort from theological truths he had learned and taught at RTS. In December, he wrote in an online journal, “When the time of death does come, I shall find great consolation in Psalm 116:15 and in such texts as Romans 8:38-39: ‘For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.’”

For Dr. Chamblin, the time of earthly death came on Tuesday, February 7. With his entry in the presence of the Lord, he leaves behind his wife, Ginger, his daughters Beverly and Claire, and extended family members. Dr. Chamblin also leaves behind an RTS family that will miss him greatly while cherishing his legacy.

“He was a kind, gentle and humble man who was captured by the beauty of his King,” says Brian Gault, director of admissions at RTS-Jackson, where Dr. Chamblin taught from 1980 to 2001 and then served as professor of New Testament emeritus. “He loved C.S. Lewis and made Aslan come alive for generations of students. Oh, and he could laugh — there was a jolliness about him. He was a saint that made everyone want to know better the Jesus he knew.”

Dr. Chamblin’s most valuable contribution to the theological community may well have been his extensive

study of and teaching about C.S. Lewis and his life and works. The lectures from Dr. Chamblin’s course on Lewis have been a popular download on RTS at iTunesU. Dr. Chamblin also wrote *Paul and the Self* (a highly regarded volume on Pauline theology) and the commentary on Matthew for *The Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*. He also contributed to the New Geneva Study Bible and spent the last 15 years of his career

writing his two-volume commentary on Matthew for the acclaimed *Mentor* series of commentaries.

With the full name John Knox Chamblin, it’s no surprise that the Jackson native became a pre-eminent scholar in the Reformed tradition. His Jackson roots ran deep, as he taught Bible at Belhaven College for 13 years before coming to RTS, as well as teaching Sunday school for many years at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Jackson (which he continued doing part time until his leukemia diagnosis in September 2011).

Deeper, though, ran the roots of his faith in his Savior. “Now Knox is in the presence of Jesus, in whose name we presented our petitions to God the Father,” says Dr. Simon Kistemaker, who taught with Dr. Chamblin at RTS-Jackson from 1980 to 1996. “I am sure that when Knox entered heaven, he heard the words spoken by Jesus and recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant.’ Although we grieve, we nevertheless rejoice that he is now with his Savior, whom he faithfully served during his ministry at Belhaven, RTS and in the church.” **M**

To leave a note of condolence, visit
www.caringbridge.org/visit/knoxchamblin/guestbook.
Another way to honor Dr. Chamblin’s legacy is to listen to his
C.S. Lewis course lectures on iTunesU at
itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/c.s.-lewis/id378879279.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Church leaders give their tributes to Dr. Cannada

Continued from Page 18

Dr. Ric Cannada has provided leadership for RTS for about a decade. As a son of an original board member, an early graduate of RTS, a supporting pastor of RTS, and then as president and chancellor, he has demonstrated a love for and loyalty to RTS. He has led the seminary in administration and management in enhancing the multi-campus system of RTS under the leadership of a system-wide chancellor while supporting local and virtual campus presidents. As a churchman he has continued and enhanced the RTS vision of a seminary to serve the entire Reformed evangelical community. Under his leadership, the RTS motto, "A Mind for Truth and a Heart for God," has been well exemplified.

— *L. Roy Taylor, stated clerk of the General Assembly,
Presbyterian Church in America*



Continued from Page 18

THANK GOD WITH ME FOR ANSWERED PRAYER for technology. Through our courses available online for free at iTunesU, we reach with the gospel literally millions of people whom we will never see. In addition, the books and blogs of our faculty and graduates reach many more people.

THANK GOD WITH ME FOR ANSWERED PRAYER for facilities. We have five fine campuses (Jackson, Orlando, Charlotte, Atlanta, Washington, D.C.) that serve our faculty and students well and that are a light in their communities, plus extension campuses (Houston, Memphis), the Virtual Campus and international campuses (Brazil, Indonesia).

THANK GOD WITH ME FOR ANSWERED PRAYER for the impact of RTS. I rejoice in the privilege of watching and praying and seeing God's blessings through these years. There has been almost constant growth at RTS over more than 45 years and almost constant structural change to accommodate that growth, but there has been no change in the foundational beliefs of RTS.

Finally, above all, thank God with me for the heritage of RTS going back to Sam Patterson and his question and challenge to the original founders: "How big is your God?" Our God is very big indeed. What a privilege it is to serve Him, and what a joy it is to continue to serve Him here at RTS. **M**



Those with whom Ric has forged personal connections during his time as chancellor include James L. Davis (bottom, right), for whom the library building at RTS-Orlando was named in 2006.

Continued from Page 3

Rev. Tim McKeown will lead a spiritual retreat for the Mission to the World missionary team in Costa Rica, Aug. 19-24.



Dr. Scott Swain will attend the Paul's Letter to the Galatians and Christian Theology conference at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, July 10-13, where

he will deliver his paper "Heirs Through God: Galatians 4:4-7 and the Doctrine of the Trinity."

AWARDS

Dr. Bruce P. Baugus was recognized as a 2011-12 HEADWAE "Outstanding Faculty Honoree" for academic

excellence by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning in February.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Guy Waters was promoted to full professor of New Testament at RTS-Jackson, effective June 1.

Dr. James Anderson was promoted to associate professor of theology and philosophy, effective June 1.

Dr. Scott Swain, currently associate professor of systematic theology at RTS-Orlando, has been approved and appointed academic dean starting June 1 while continuing to teach. This decision will allow Dr. Mark Futato, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew who has served as academic dean for seven years, to return to teaching more classes. Prior to joining the RTS-Orlando faculty in 2006, Dr. Swain

taught theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill., and served on the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. Michael Milton, chancellor elect, was recently promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve, serving as an instructor and writer at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, Fort Jackson, S.C.

GRADUATIONS

Charlotte

May 19, 11 a.m., Christ Covenant Church, Matthews, N.C. The speaker will be Dr. George Grant, president of the King's Meadow Study Center, the pastor of Parish Presbyterian Church, coordinator of the Gileskirk Curriculum Project and instructor at Franklin Classical School.

Jackson

May 19, 10 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Miss. The speaker will be Dr. Robert C. (Ric) Cannada, RTS chancellor and CEO.

Orlando

May 25, 7:30 p.m., Saint Andrew's Chapel, Sanford, Fla. The speaker will be Dr. David Swanson, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Orlando.

Washington, D.C.

May 25, 7:30 p.m. McLean (Va.) Presbyterian Church. The speaker will be Mr. J. Scott Redd Jr., president elect for the campus.

Atlanta

May 26, 10 a.m., on campus. The speaker will be Rev. George W. "Chip" Miller Jr., an RTS graduate and senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Macon, Ga.

Continued from Page 2

ous end that many "golden lampstands" — that is, many churches and ministries — will be established. From those golden lampstands, the truth of Jesus Christ will go forth like a celestial, golden beam from a lighthouse, shining its saving light to men, women, boys and girls all the way until the day Jesus comes again. Then we will realize the glorious goals of this seminary.

I like to say, as I look back on the founding of the seminary, that RTS is less of an institution and more a movement of the Holy Spirit in our generation. Pretty soon this vision will celebrate 50 years, a half-century since our founders answered the question from the Rev. Sam Patterson: "How big is your God?" The answer of our founders then — and today — was that God is great enough and His redemptive plan wide and deep enough to take care of us and advance His kingdom through us in spite of the changes, the challenges and even the opposition that exists today.

We can still answer that question with confidence. Our God sent His only begotten Son to live the life we could

... RTS is less of an institution and more a movement of the Holy Spirit in our generation.

never live, and die the death that should've been ours. The One who looked down from the old rugged cross upon those He had created, declaring "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," is the same Christ we serve and proclaim today. We proclaim Him with confidence in the gospel. We teach His gospel truths to future pastors, missionaries, teachers, counselors and other gospel servants with a firm faith upon the promises of God — a Christ-centered conviction that reminds us that, like the ruling motif of the cross, the very things that would seek to destroy us have become the things that will advance us. Thus, I've never been more optimistic. I have never been more confident of victory in Jesus Christ than I am today.

So we begin our journey together. I pray that this column will be dedicated to casting the vision and mission of RTS as it relates to the broader work of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. I also pray this column would be used of God to encourage you, bless you and stir you up to good works in the gospel, so that all of us seek to fulfill God's ministry today in light of Christ's appearing tomorrow. **M**

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