MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FALL 2013
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RTS-ORLANDO: 25 YEARS and COUNTING

Dr. Luder Whitlock and Dr. Don Sweeting mark a historic milestone.

Steven Lawson's One Passion 10 • RTS and The Gospel Coalition 16

Introducing Dr. Ligon Duncan

Editor's Note: Just before this issue went to print, RTS named a new chancellor and CEO. A more detailed introduction will be published in the Winter issue.

The RTS Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Dr. Ligon Duncan, a pastor-theologian with a long connection to the seminary, has been elected as the new chancellor and CEO of RTS.

Dr. Duncan is currently the John E. Richards professor of systematic and historical theology at RTS-Jackson and has been senior minister at the historic First Presbyterian Church in Jackson for the past 17 years. Dr. Duncan will continue to teach systematic and historical theology for RTS, and remains senior minister at First Presbyterian until the end of the year.

"We are thankful the Lord has answered our prayers for a new chancellor," says Richard Ridgway, RTS chairman of the board, "and that Dr. Duncan has accepted the call to lead RTS. We began this search expecting it to take an extended amount of time, but we were gratefully surprised at how quickly consensus was reached. Dr. Duncan is uniquely gifted for this important leadership position at RTS. As an RTS professor for 23 years, he knows our institution, and our faculties know him as both a scholar and a pastor. He is an effective communicator with great leadership ability."

During those 23 years as an RTS professor, Dr. Duncan has lectured on many campuses, as well as in Vienna and Hong Kong. As an RTS faculty member he has spoken and delivered papers at various universities, seminaries and national meetings, and has preached at or addressed major conferences. His wife, Anne, also has a strong RTS connection, having earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy (they are the parents of two teenagers and plan to continue to live in Jackson).

Dr. Duncan's pastoral experience began in the 1980s in St. Louis and continued in Britain where he preached in various pulpits while doing his doctoral work at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. In 1996 Dr. Duncan became senior minister at First Presbyterian in Jackson, continuing to teach at RTS as an adjunct professor.

During his time at First Presbyterian in Jackson, many national and international ministry opportunities opened up for Dr. Duncan. He was elected moderator of the PCA General Assembly (the youngest minister ever to receive that honor), co-founded Together for the Gospel, participated in the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in South Africa, and continues to serve on the council of The Gospel Coalition and the board of the Reformed African American Network.

RTS offers a warm welcome to a new role for a familiar figure. **M.**

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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.

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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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TRAVEL

Dr. James Anderson will give two lectures at the Raleigh (N.C.) Reformation Conference, Oct. 25-26: "Can We Trust the Bible in Light of Evolution?" and "Can We Trust the Bible Over the Quran?"

Dr. Richard Belcher will teach Genesis-Joshua for the fall term at RTS-Houston.

Dr. Ligon Duncan will be part of a panel discussion with Albert Mohler (moderator), D.A. Carson, John Woodbridge, Gregory Thornbury and Jason Duesing at the Evanglical Theological Society national meeting, Baltimore, Nov. 20.

Dr. Mark Futato will give a presentation on "The Greatest Poem in the Psalter" at the Desiring God Conference, Minneapolis, Sept. 27-29; and preach at a men's retreat Oct. 18-20 at Carriage Lane Presbyterian Church, Peachtree City, Ga., and at a staff conference for the Mid-Atlantic region of Cru at Sandy Cove Conference Center, North East, Md., Nov. 22-25.

Dr. James Hurley will be training pastors, students and professional counselors in various marital enrichment and marital counseling resources this fall at RTS-Jackson. The trainings include the Prepare/Enrich program on Sept. 13, a Gottman Therapy advanced group study in October and a group study in Gottman Couples' Therapy in November.

Dr. Douglas Kelly will speak at the Clan MacGillivray Society, Pineville, N.C., Oct. 11; the Old Asbury Methodist Church Homecoming, McDonald, N.C., Oct. 20; the Reformation Conference at Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Church, Newport News, Va., Oct 26-27; and the Fall Bible Conference at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 3-5.

Dr. Reggie Kidd will hold three seminars at the National Worship Leader Conference at Ocean Hills Church, San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Oct. 7-9: "Saying 'No!' to the Same Narcissism and Gnosticism that Plagued the Early Church," "The Top 10 Lessons from Ancient Worship for the Church of the Future," and "Exploring and Understanding the World's Most Important Biblical Principle Regarding Worship Ministry."

Dr. Michael Kruger will give a New Testament Canon lecture at Columbia (S.C.) International University, Oct. 22, and present a paper on Origen's New Testament Canon at the Evangelical Theological Society in Baltimore in November.

Dr. Andrew Peterson will give a presentation on "Christian Education in the 21st Century" at the Andreas Center Conference for the Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, Nov. 1.

Dr. Scott Redd taught "Isaiah through Malachi" at RTS-Orlando, Aug. 5-9; and will speak at a Christian Businessmen's Connection gathering in Vienna, Va., Oct. 31.

Dr. Don Sweeting preached in chapel at RTS-Orlando, Aug. 28, and will speak at the Parks Society, Winter Park, Fla., Sept. 6.

Dr. Derek Thomas spoke at the Reformation Bible College chapel, Orlando, Aug. 28; and Grace Reformed Church, Houston, Sept. 3-5, on Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. He will also speak at the Princeton (N.J.) Regional Conference on Reformed Theology (PrCRT 2013), Nov. 8-9, on "Sanctification."

TRAVEL (INTERNATIONAL)

Dr. Ligon Duncan will lecture at Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne, Australia, Sept. 6-8, will speak at the Presbyterian Church of Australia General Assembly, Sydney, Sept. 9-11, and preach at local churches there Sept. 8.

Dr. R. Leslie Holmes (adjunct) preached and taught at Moy Reformed Baptist Church, Northern Ireland, Aug. 4.

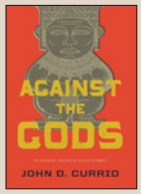
Dr. Douglas Kelly will speak on "The Book of Revelation" at the Northern Island Ministry Assembly, Belfast, Northern Ireland, Nov. 11-12, and at the Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, Belfast, Nov. 13.

Dr. Andrew Peterson will speak on "Basic Principles of Christian Counseling" for Project Nehemiah, Santiago, Chile, Nov. 21.

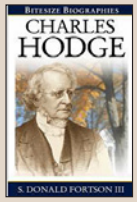
Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn will speak at the Dissenting Experience, Experiencing Dissent: Pastors and Their Congregations conference, London, Nov. 9, on "Reformed Pastors: Models of Pastoral Care and Neglect at the Westminster Assembly." The event will be held at Dr. Williams's Library in London.

PUBLICATIONS

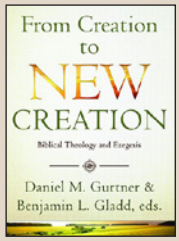
Dr. Richard Belcher wrote an Ecclesiastes commentary (EP, due fall).



Dr. John Currid wrote "Against the Gods" (Crossway, August).



Dr. Donald Fortson wrote the *Biography of Charles Hodge* (EP, May) and *The Presbyterian Story: Origins & Progress of a Reformed Tradition* (Presbyterian Lay Committee, summer).

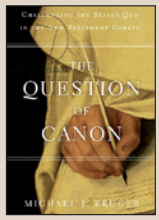


Dr. Benjamin Gladd co-edited *From Creation to New Creation: Biblical Theology and Exegesis, Essays in Honor of G.K. Beale* (Hendrickson, fall) and wrote "Dare to Be a Daniel: An Exploration of Paul the Apostle as a Danielic Figure" for the book.

Dr. R. Leslie Holmes (adjunct) wrote "The Seen-Sermon Generation" for *Preaching* magazine (Oct.) and *A Jiffy for Eternity* (CSS Publications, due Oct.).

Dr. Douglas Kelly wrote the preface to the English translation of Pierre Courthial's *Le Jour Des Petits Recommencements* ("Day of Small Beginnings" — Nov.), "The Millennium" for *Tabletalk* magazine (Dec.), and the second edition and thorough revision of *Creation and Change* (Christian Focus Publications, due Dec.). He reviewed Jean-Marc Berthood's *L'Alliance de Dieu á travers l'Écriture sainte* ("The Covenant of God Through Scripture") in the *Westminster Theological Journal* (due late 2013) and Florent Gaboriau's *Thomas D'Acquin a la Croisée Des Siécles* ("Thomas Aquinas on the Cross is the Centuries") for *La Revue Réformée* (in French, due late 2013).

Dr. Reggie Kidd wrote "Holy Restlessness: Using the Past to Innovate Your Service of Worship" for *Worship Leader* magazine (June).



Dr. Michael Kruger wrote The *Question of Canon: Challenging the Status Quo in the New Testament Debate* (IVP, due November)

Dr. Bruce Lowe will present his paper "From G'day to Bless You: An Australian-American Reflects on Paul's 'Greetings' and 'Farewells' in Phillippians" at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore.

Dr. Derek Thomas wrote "What's in a Name?" in *Tabletalk* (July).

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Cover photograph by www.lukensphotography.com

Seven Marks of a Puritan Pulpit Ministry

The historic Westminster Assembly reveals timeless truths for today.

My day job for a number of years was to study the Westminster Assembly (1643-1653), the gathering of Puritans who wrote the Confession of Faith and Catechisms that Presbyterian officers and RTS faculty use and teach. As a pastor-scholar with a special interest in both history and practical theology, I could not help but notice a cluster of scriptural ideals I find relevant for the preaching ministry of the church today. (The people I mention were Westminster Assembly members, and their thoughts were mostly representative of that gathering as a whole.)

God's Ambassadors: Ordained Preachers

1 The first mark of the Puritan pulpit was occupation by a man ordained to gospel ministry by Christ's church. George Gillespie had ordination in view when he recalled this question by the apostle Paul: "How shall they preach, except they be sent?" (Romans 10:15). From this he inferred that preachers are given a special call and a special office. Not every sheep is a shepherd. Not every citizen is an ambassador.

Gillespie was responding to contemporaries who thought there was no "sacred calling, or solemn setting apart of men to the ministrie," a view he found unworkable and unbiblical. He pictures the chaos if everyone was a preacher, returning to Paul's word: "sent." That is the core of the doctrine of ordination.

Trained Preachers

2 Ministers needed to be ordained and trained. John Lightfoot argued that study was needful for anyone to be a preacher since it was necessary even for the apostles. They engaged in "hearing, study, conference and meditation," and they were with Christ Himself for a full year before being sent out to preach.

Some "decry learning and study." But Thomas Goodwin notes that Timothy was commanded to study, arguing that extemporaneous preaching only, without study, is actually contrary to Scripture. He also comments (perceptively) that those who argue *against* study still rely much on what they have heard and discussed. No one enters the pulpit with a blank slate.

Godly Preachers

3 Preachers needed to be ordained and trained, but they also needed to be "godly," a word that sums up much of what is said about elders in 1 Timothy and Titus. In fact, the Assembly was given the responsibility of seeing scandalous ministers removed from pulpits and godly, educated ministers put into them.

Initially, Parliament required the Assembly to examine candidates for their learning and godliness. In the spring of 1646, Parliament changed its mind about godliness, requiring the Assembly to examine preachers for their learning only. The Assembly picked up on the change in wording immediately, resolving not to pass any ministers until the problem was resolved, eventually winning its case and resuming questioning preachers about their doctrine *and their life. The Word of God leaves no room to compromise on godliness.*

The Word of God

4 The fourth plank of a Puritan pulpit ministry is frequently found in exhortations to hearers of sermons, and not simply to preachers. Ministers needed to be ordained, learned and godly because (quoting Gillespie again) hearers were to "receave the word from the mouths of ministers, as Gods word." According to William Gouge, this is the message of Hebrews 13, which reads, "Re-

member them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God."

Jeremiah Burroughs holds up Moab's King Eglon as an example to be followed by the saints, not in his "heathenish" ways nor his untimely and disgusting death, but as one who rose to receive Ehud as an ambassador with "a message from God." Burroughs then pushes the knife in a little deeper, asking his hearers if their "hearts . . . swell against" preaching, asking them what they really think about preaching, and pointing out the irony of those who think they have escaped the world but still show the worst pride in rebelling against the Word of God.

Underlying this discussion of irreverence and pride is the assumption, obvious for Burroughs, that the faithful preaching of the Word of God is itself the Word of God. Because such preaching is the Word of God, irreverence and pride are scandalous.

The Outward and Ordinary Means of Grace: Preaching

5 If the preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God, then what is its place in the Christian life and worship? Unsurprisingly, the divines answer that preaching is the ordinary means of grace for Christians. Anthony Burgess states that the faithful ministry of the Word is "the sure and ordinary way for conversion of men from their evil waies."

He states this more strongly in his exposition of 1 Corinthians 3: "The Ministry is the only ordinary way that God hath appointed, either for the beginnings or encrease of grace." After all, "Faith is said to come by hearing," and his own text informs the Corinthians that Paul and Apollos were the "ministers by whom ye believed."

But what if people are not benefiting from the sermons? Alexander Henderson once admitted in a sermon, "I know many of you who has said, when ye came out from the preaching . . . that your souls has been nothing bettered by it." People were perhaps more candid in those days! One question that many Puritans would ask about preachers: were they preaching Christ?

Christ-Centered Preaching

6 When he read about Ezekiel's practice of proclaiming all that the Lord had shown him, William Greenhill had little difficulty seeing an imperative for ministers to preach only and all they learn at Christ's school.

Echoing similar sentiments, Obadiah Sedgwick states that it is "but labour lost to set up anything but Christ." Ministers are "to bee much in preaching Christ." Again, "your labours in preaching, will come to little, perhaps to nothing, if it not be Christ, *or some thing in reference to Christ*, on which you so laboriously insist in preaching" (emphasis mine).

The Spirit's Working

7 The last, but not least distinguishing mark of a Puritan pulpit ministry is a reliance on the Holy Spirit. The Puritans were always ready to admit that preaching did not appear to be a sensible means of advancing the gospel. Even in the 17th century, preaching was, to quote Burgess, "very despicable and contemptible to human reason."

But the so-called "problem" with preaching is itself the answer. God deliberately chose a humble means that would amplify His own greatness and the Holy Spirit's work. Burgess harks back to the picture of 1 Corinthians 3, where Paul reminds his readers that the preacher may sow and water, but God gives the increase — a reminder that a minister may be faithful but have no success since, according to Burgess, "successe is Gods work, not the Ministers duty."

The Word of God leaves no room to compromise on godliness.

And so as we sometimes reflect on the sins and failings of preachers, let us remember the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God through Jesus Christ — not simply for the good of the hearers, but also for preachers themselves. **M.L**

Dr. Van Dixhoorn serves as associate professor of church history at RTS-Washington D.C. and as associate pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church in Vienna, Va. He can be contacted at cvandixhoorn@rts.edu.

To read a longer version of this article, access the digital version of this issue at rts.edu/site/resources/M-L.aspx.

LOOKING BACK

Studying church history helps us serve

I tell my students that church history is a signpost, not a hitching post. It points us backward to propel us forward.

The study of history is a necessary and immensely practical spiritual discipline for individual believers and the corporate church. If we study it carefully, we learn all kinds of helpful things to move us in the right direction. There are stories, situations, examples, warnings and lessons found in history. If we pay attention to them, they will help us more effectively serve the Lord of history, who is building His church and carrying forward His global plan through Jesus.

I sometimes get students so fascinated by the past that they seem to want to live in some Reformed "golden age" — say, 16th-century Geneva or the 18th-century Great Awakening. I remind them that eschatologically, the golden age is not behind us, but ahead of us! However, we can draw inspiration from looking backward.

The value of remembering God's faithfulness in the past is affirmed throughout the Bible. Think of Joshua 3 and 4. In those chapters, the Israelites are ready to cross the Jordan River and enter the promised land. God commanded the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant to come to the brink of the water and stand in it. He was about to show them his power as a reminder that He was with them.

Of course, the Ark itself was a powerful historical reminder and teaching tool. Inside of it was a pot of manna from the past to remind them of God's provision in the wilderness. There was also Aaron's rod to remind them of God's power in the exodus from Egypt. And there were the stone law tablets to remind them of God's covenant at Sinai.

As the priests stood in the water, the river was cut off and a dry path appeared for Israel to cross over. This was a stunning reminder that God would go before them, just as when they crossed the Red Sea.

When the people arrived on the other side of the river, Joshua commanded men from each tribe to get a big stone in order to build a memorial marking the occasion. Later, when their children and grandchildren would see it, they would ask what the stones mean, and the older generation could tell the younger generation the story of God's deliverance. Those stones were to be a memorial for Israel forever (4:7) and a witness so that all the peoples of the earth "may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever" (4:24).

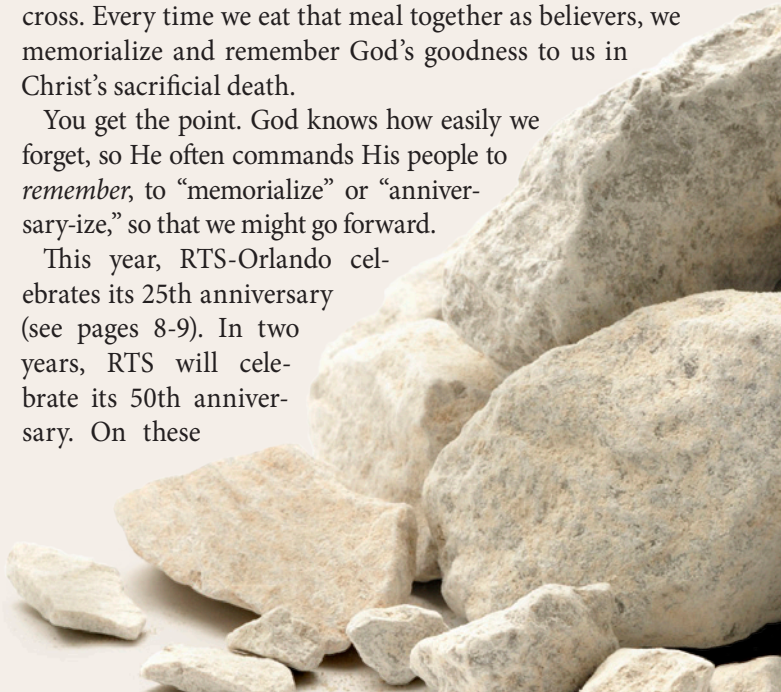
Memorials are like that. They are meant to remind us of God's faithfulness and give us occasion to tell the story of *who* He is and *what* He has done.

The Passover served this same purpose. It was (and still is) a memorial of God's redemptive power. Each year the Israelites were to celebrate with a memorial feast to remind them of God's deliverance by the blood smeared on their doorposts while God cursed Egypt.

In the New Testament, we have a similar reminder in the Upper Room. Jesus takes the elements of the Passover meal and says that the bread and the wine point to his own body and blood, which would be broken and shed for them on a cross. Every time we eat that meal together as believers, we memorialize and remember God's goodness to us in Christ's sacrificial death.

You get the point. God knows how easily we forget, so He often commands His people to *remember*, to "memorialize" or "anniversary-ize," so that we might go forward.

This year, RTS-Orlando celebrates its 25th anniversary (see pages 8-9). In two years, RTS will celebrate its 50th anniversary. On these



by Dr. Don Sweeting

TO GO FORWARD

Christ more effectively in the present day.

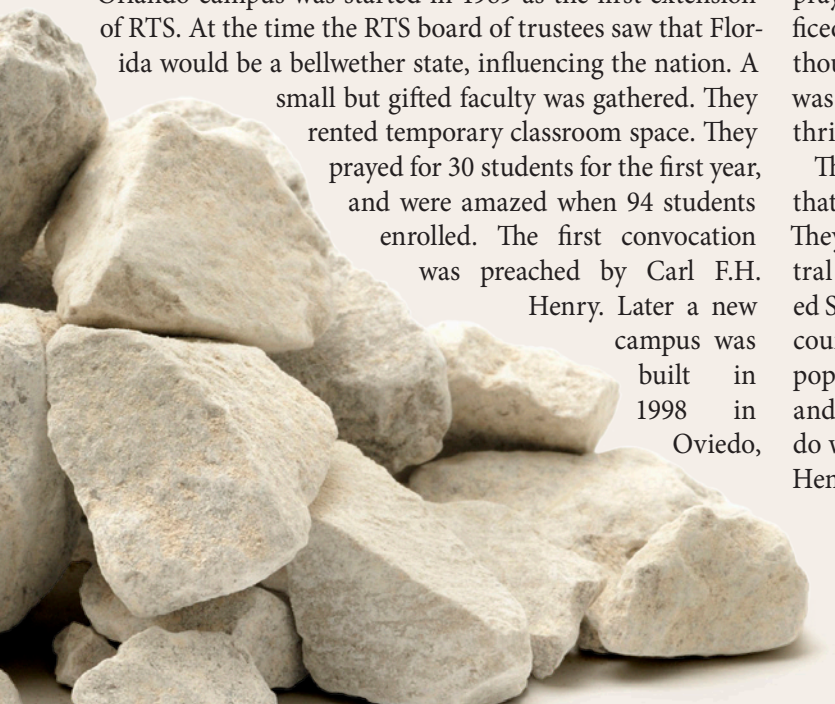
memorial occasions, we will be inviting you to take a glance backward. Why? For three reasons — the same ones that drove Israel to look backward when they gazed upon those memorial stones at the Jordan River.

First, we invite you to glance backward (remember) so that we can together praise God for His greatness and faithfulness.

"How big is your God?" Sam Patterson asked Erskine Wells in 1963. That question, asked by one RTS founding figure to another, echoes through the entire history of the seminary. And every classroom, every chapel, every new initiative, every expansion seeks to answer it.

The answer? He is very big. He is "infinite, eternal, unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth." He is the sovereign Lord of glory, creator, redeemer, who brings things into being by His Word that did not exist before — like seminaries and campuses! And when we teach about this God to our students, their minds and hearts are expanded.

The original RTS campus is located in Jackson, Miss. The Orlando campus was started in 1989 as the first extension of RTS. At the time the RTS board of trustees saw that Florida would be a bellwether state, influencing the nation. A small but gifted faculty was gathered. They rented temporary classroom space. They prayed for 30 students for the first year, and were amazed when 94 students enrolled. The first convocation was preached by Carl F.H. Henry. Later a new campus was built in 1998 in Oviedo, then a rural town northeast of Orlando. Today it is a bustling, growing suburb, and the campus sits on 65 acres on Long Lake on what was once orange groves.



After 24 years, more than 1,500 degrees have been conferred. Many churches have been planted or revitalized by RTS-Orlando graduates. Ministries were begun or spun off on the campus (like the World Reformed Fellowship, Man in the Mirror, Third Millennium Ministries, counseling clinics, the Polis Institute, etc.). Praise God with us for His faithfulness through the years at RTS-Orlando.

Second, we invite you to glance backward so that we can be inspired by the faith of a previous generation of leaders.

The people who founded RTS-Orlando at one time wondered if it was wise or foolish to step out in faith. So they prayed, questioned, dreamed, believed God and then sacrificed when they sensed His leading. They stepped out even though they only saw things from a distance, as Orlando was transitioning from a small town in central Florida to a thriving metropolitan center.

This early generation of RTS-Orlando founders is part of that great cloud of witnesses that Hebrews 11 talks about. They inspire our faith today. They did not know what Central Florida would become: the most visited city in the United States (thanks in no small part to Walt Disney World and countless other attractions), and one of the most diverse populations in America (with more than 19 million people and more growth ahead). They did not know that Orlando would become the world mission capital of the Western Hemisphere. And they did not know that the University of

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RTS-Orlando: 25 Years and Counting

Sam Patterson leaned forward in his chair and stared at Erskine Wells, a prominent lawyer and a devout Presbyterian, as Patterson made a compelling case for a new seminary that would be committed to the full, final authority of Scripture and the Reformed faith. Erskine listened patiently, then countered, "Sam, you're a great man of God, but you're in an ivory tower. I've got my feet on the ground, and from a businessman's point of view it's not feasible. We don't have any land, any buildings, any faculty, or students."

Patterson, undaunted, shot back, "Erskine, how big is your God?" And Erskine swallowed hard, then replied, "When do we start?"

So, with faith and great vision – amid much prayer – RTS was born; the classroom doors opened in [Jackson, Miss., in] September 1966.

[More than 20] years later, after remarkable growth and development, a similarly historic step [was] taken by RTS trustees–to open a second campus, in Orlando, Fla., in the fall of 1989.

This is an excerpt from an article written by Dr. Luder G. Whitlock, then president of RTS, about the opening of RTS-Orlando. And now nearly a quarter-century after the RTS classroom doors opened in Orlando, the RTS Orlando campus is beginning to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The article goes on to state, *"Although Florida is the third most populous state, sporting a healthy growth rate and unprecedented opportunities for evangelism and church planting, surprisingly it has no accredited Protestant seminary. However, the role of the pioneer is not foreign to RTS and, having surveyed the need and opportunities, we have decided to respond to the open door the Lord has placed before us.*

With an extraordinary faculty, including R.C. Sproul, Richard Pratt, James M. Boice, J.I. Packer, Steve Brown, and others, the Florida campus should play a major role in the future growth and development of RTS, assuring a major impact on the Christian community in the future."

Today, RTS-Orlando has awarded more than 1,500 degrees to men and women who have been entrusted with the gospel and are serving the church around the world as well as in central Florida. RTS-Orlando graduates have planted numerous churches, founded counseling clinics, started nonprofit organizations and taught in schools and colleges, leaving an indelible imprint on the kingdom of God.

To help celebrate the 25th anniversary, RTS-Orlando hosted two recent events. On August 21 a convocation (the first chapel service of the 2013-14 academic year) featured Dr. Whitlock as guest speaker. That was followed by lunch and a President's Forum, at which RTS-Orlando president Dr. Don Sweeting (see main article) interviewed Dr. Whitlock on the topic of "Entrusted With the Gospel: Reflections of Former RTS President Luder Whitlock." ML

As president of RTS-Orlando, Dr. Don Sweeting (center, left) follows a legacy left by Dr. Luder Whitlock (center, right), under whose RTS presidency the campus was established.

Continued from Page 7

Central Florida, located mere minutes from RTS-Orlando, would become the second largest public university in the country. Though they did not know any of this, God did.

What they did know was that growth was coming to Central Florida, calling for a new generation of Christian pastors and leaders. We at RTS-Orlando benefit from the fruit of their faith every day. Our beautiful campus and the amazing students that God brings us are memorials to their faith — like the standing stones of Joshua's day.

Third, on this anniversary year, we invite you to glance backward so that we ourselves can go forward in 2013 with an obedient and robust faith of our own.

In some ways, our mission is exactly the same as the founders of RTS-Orlando. We have not altered our core commitments as a seminary. We are standing firm on the truthfulness of the Bible. We are committed to the eternal gospel of Jesus Christ and the Reformed faith.

But a few things have changed. Our world is different than that of 1989. It is globalized, digitized, urbanized and secularized. And it is being Islam-icized. This is why we are committed, not to training pastors and leaders for the Presbyterian church of the 16th century or the 20th century, but to training pastors, leaders, counselors, apologists and teachers for the global church of the 21st century.

We are focused not on some supposed Reformed golden age of the past, but on one of the most exciting centuries to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the history of the church. More than ever we are aware of being part of a global movement. While we learn from the past, we are excited about what God is doing today and aspire to be part of it.

So come celebrate with us. We are 25 years *young* for the glory of God and the blessings of the nations. We celebrate because we know that the gospel is the best news on the planet, that there is no greater joy than knowing Christ, and that the ministry of training up a new generation of church leaders is one of the most exciting, high-impact investments anyone could ever make.

We do not long for 1989 or 1963 or even 1517. Our sights are higher than that! Our celebration looks backward to thank God and draw fuel for all that is ahead. **M.**

Dr. Sweeting is the president of RTS-Orlando, where he is also James Woodrow Hassell professor of church history. Contact him at dsweeting@rts.edu.

One Passion

STEVEN LAWSON WORKS TO SHARPEN THE CHURCH'S FOCUS ON THE FAITHFUL PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD.

AS A FORMER COLLEGE football player, Steven Lawson is accustomed to spirited competition. These days, though, the RTS alumnus has refocused his competitive drive so as to contend for the spiritual well-being of the church at large. With more than 30 years of pastoral ministry experience, Steven has founded OnePassion Ministries as a clearinghouse for his accumulated speaking and writing as well as a vehicle for staging conferences intended to help the church recapture an emphasis on expository preaching.

In the same way that Steven was recruited by colleges to play quarterback but then shifted to wide receiver at Texas Tech University, OnePassion was a redirection of its own. "We originally were going to launch a radio ministry," says Steven, who received a Doctor of Ministry degree from RTS while serving as a pastor in Little Rock, Ark. "But it seems like the Internet gives a far broader scope of outreach overseas." As he talks, he explains that earlier that day he had conducted Skype interviews with people in Europe who were interested in hosting "conferences geared toward raising up a new generation of preachers of the Word of God."

According to Steven, "When you've reached the pulpit, you've reached what should be the number one influence in the church. Then when you reach the church, you establish what should be the number one influence on the culture and the world. So to reach the pulpit is the most strategic spot to reach the church and then the world. With the time remaining here on the earth, I want to pour myself into pastors, Bible teachers and young men who feel called to ministry, and to encourage them to be deeply rooted and grounded in the Word of God and to preach the Bible itself."

The OnePassion conferences, which typically last three days, are a key avenue for accomplishing this mission. In May, RTS-Atlanta hosted one of the conferences, titled "Preaching With Precision and Power." At that conference Steven covered these 10 subjects:

- What expository preaching is
- What the role of expository preaching is
- How to prepare an expository sermon
- How to maximize your time in the study
- How to relate exegesis to application
- How to proclaim the gospel in your preaching
- How to preach Christ from various genres of Scripture
- How to aim for the glory of God in every sermon
- Who the best historical examples in preaching are
- How to overcome discouragement in preaching

The roots of Steven's passion for helping raise up a new generation of expository preachers lie in his upbringing in Memphis, Tenn. "I grew up in a liberal church that did not preach the Bible," he recalls. "I had never been under strong, biblical preaching, so I had never seen the reality of that in [a preacher's] life. When I graduated from college I came back home to Memphis, and there for the first time in my life sat under a strong, biblical preacher, and it was like light bulbs flashing — *that's* what was in my heart to do for the rest of my life. I wanted to take an open Bible and preach the Word of God, and to do so in a way that's rooted and grounded in the text of Scripture and to call people to action and to commitment to Christ."

BY PAUL SCHWARZ

Steven preaches from the pulpit at Christ Fellowship Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. He helped plant the church in 2003.

Steven decries what he sees as a slipping of this emphasis in the contemporary church: "There's a lot of preaching that might claim to be biblical preaching, but in reality it's just a few verses sprinkled in. The message doesn't really start with the text and stay with the text and say what the text says — it's more the text being a springboard for the preacher to say what he wants to say, or just to give cultural commentary, book reviews or political observations."

He carries out the OnePassion ministry with the blessing of Christ Fellowship Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., which he helped plant 10 years ago and where he is senior pastor. "It's the first church I've ever pastored where I have the total freedom to preach the full counsel of God and the full truth without pushback," Steven observes, "without feeling like I have to couch the truth in a certain way that is less provocative or offensive."

Alluding to challenges he faced in previous pastorates, "I learned there are certain truths worth dying for, and wise is the man who chooses those mountains wisely. The preaching of the Word of God necessitated that I spend much time in Scripture, and I just buried myself in the Word and preached with all my heart. The more I studied, the stronger I was; the deeper I went in Scripture, the higher I could stand; the more I preached, the more it inflamed my heart.

"Also, I rearranged the books in my library, and I put all the Puritans and Reformers immediately behind my desk, so that as I studied the Word, it was as if a long line of godly men was looking over my shoulder. I had to stand in unison with them — many of them gave their lives for the gospel, even dying as martyrs."

Steven's words reveal his keen passion for church history, first ignited while taking church history classes toward his first seminary degree. "In church history there are always issues that every generation is confronted with and must address," he explains. "As I learned about great men in history who had taken heroic stands for the Word of God and for the gospel, and saw how God used them to impact the times in which they lived, that was so motivating to me. To see the integrity of their lives, the depth of their commitment, even the martyrs being willing to be burned at the stake for the faith — that elevated my game, if you will."

"I LEARNED THERE ARE CERTAIN TRUTHS WORTH DYING FOR."

Steven Lawson

Those voices from the past propel Steven forward in the here-and-now: "In my generation I can't cop out; I can't fail to uphold the standard of sound words during my time on earth."

For more information about OnePassion, visit www.onepassionministries.org. More information about Christ Fellowship may be found at www.cfbcmobile.org.

Weathering the Storms

In eight years serving in the administration of the governor of Mississippi (first as chief counsel and then as chief of staff), Paul Hurst grew accustomed to being caught in the eye of the hurricanes stirred up by political life. In 2005, one of those hurricanes was literal — as in Katrina, the horrific storm that left an indelible scar on the landscape and the psyche of the Gulf Coast. The lessons Paul learned from helping his boss, Haley Barbour, respond to Katrina have informed much of what he does now, as he has returned to private law practice in Jackson.

M&L managing editor Paul Schwarz talked to the newest member of the RTS Board of Trustees about his professional experiences and how his faith in Christ has informed them.

Q How did you end up serving in state government?

In 2003 I was a lawyer at the Butler Snow firm here in Jackson, and there was a rumor that Haley Barbour was considering running for governor. I knew him distantly, and I called him to tell him that if there was anything I could do, that I was more than happy to get involved. He said it was early and he didn't know what he was going to do, and thanked me for calling and said we'd talk again. Then when his campaign started I saw him at a few events, but we never brought it up.

He won the election on a Tuesday, and that Thursday I saw him, and he asked for help with legal work for his transition team. After that he asked me to join his administration as chief counsel. I had been a partner at Butler Snow for literally 13 days, which is funny because a lawyer's whole goal is to become a partner. When I made partner and immediately left, my wife told me it was as if we were the children of Israel walking in the wilderness, crossing the Jordan, stepping into Canaan and saying "Isn't this fun? Now let's go back."

Q What was your sense of calling to leave your law practice at that point?

I loved being a lawyer and working at Butler Snow, but around 2002 God had put an itch in my heart that perhaps there was something else. I asked some elders and mentors if they experienced something similar at my age, and the advice was to look for open doors that may never come, but that if God was putting something else on my heart, then I should be looking for that opportunity. So I didn't seek anything out — when I called Haley Barbour and offered to help, I wasn't referring to quitting my job and going to work for him; I was just interested in helping him get elected.

But when he asked me to come into his administration, my wife and I prayed about it. The opportunity was there, and it seemed like God had opened up a perfect door. I didn't know why I should take the job, but I had a real sense of peace that I was doing the right thing, regardless of the fear and anxiety of leaving the security of Butler Snow.

Then within days after Katrina hit, I realized that perhaps this was why I was there — that serving the people of Mississippi in this circumstance was what God had intended for me all along. It was a very Esther-like "for such a time as this" moment.

Q Katrina changed a lot of lives. How did the hurricane change yours?

The hurricane hit the morning of August 29, 2005. When the storm calmed, the governor flew down to the coast on August 30. When he came back, he called me and told me he wanted to meet me at the governor's mansion the next morning for breakfast. That morning he said, "Paul, you've been my lawyer, but now I want you to take the lead on Katrina recovery," and I said OK.

It taught me to focus on main things and to stay calm even in the midst of a storm, both literally and figuratively. I learned a lot — it's what I point back to as when I matured as a man, in terms of how I view the world, of problem solving and of what I view as important.

Q You've served in government and the legal profession — two areas of society with an uneasy public reputation. What misconceptions do people have about these professions?

I can add to that — not only did I work in politics and I'm a lawyer, but in my current role, one of the things I do is I'm a senior vice president for government relations for a company that owns 71 hospitals in 15 states, so some would call me a lobbyist. I'm not just a politician and a lawyer, but I'm a lobbyist to boot — the "unholy trinity"! But I wear that

To read the full-length interview with Paul, access the digital version of this issue at rts.edu/site/resources/M-L.aspx.

After Haley Barbour (right) completed his terms as governor of Mississippi, he joined the Butler Snow law firm in Jackson that Paul (left) rejoined.

proudly because it's just like anything else in that Christians are called to serve in this world, and to the extent to which I can bring my faith to my profession, then that's what I believe I'm called to do.

A few years ago I bumped into a woman at church who said that her son was about to go to college and was trying to decide between preparing for medical school and law school. She said, "I don't necessarily want him to be a doctor, but I really don't want him to be a lawyer, because I perceive that there aren't that many Christians in the law." Number one, I would disagree with that supposition, but number two, if that were the case, all the more reason for Christians to go into law.

I do not have to divorce what I hold to be true from what I do in my working hours. You keep your principles as your guiding beacon, rather than people-pleasing or self-seeking ambition, and you can find a contented work life. I enjoy what I do; I don't view it as drudgery or mere engagement in the rat race. God has put me a position where I can help people, and He's allowed me the opportunity to do things like serve on the board of RTS.

Q How do you sense God continuing to call you?

In terms of the skills God has given me, firsthand I'm trying to serve Him and discern His will for my family and me. I'm trying to fulfill Matthew 28:19 in terms of the Great Commission, and though I do not believe that God has called me to a foreign land or even another city at this point in my life, I am trying to improve the lives of others in a small way by the humble means that God has allowed me, so that His kingdom can be expanded.

For example, I don't view my work with RTS as a secondary, volunteer board, but as a fundamental component of what I'm called to do at this point in my life. I think that in being chief of staff to Gov. Barbour, God allowed me to change my perspective, develop some unique skills and insights, and to the extent to which I can apply those to real-life problems in the private sector and in the Christian community, I'm honored to do so. **ML**

To read the full-length interview with Paul, access the digital version of this issue at rts.edu/site/resources/M-L.aspx.

Dr. Scott Redd is inaugurated as the first president of RTS-Washington, D.C.

A BELTWAY HOMECOMING

By Paul Schwarz

Officially speaking, the event held on April 20 at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Md., was an inauguration. One speaker called it "a festival of preaching and prayer." But perhaps the best way to describe what transpired in honor of Dr. Scott Redd that evening would be to call it a "homecoming."

"As a Navy kid, D.C. is as close to a hometown as I have," said the new president of RTS-Washington, D.C., during his inaugural address, referring to the itinerant military career of his father, retired admiral (and current RTS Board of Trustees member) Scott Redd Sr. Dr. Redd graduated from high school inside the D.C. Beltway, is a longtime member of Fourth Presbyterian and took some of the first RTS classes offered in the shadow of the nation's capital in the mid-1990s (hosted by Fourth Presbyterian).

While the elder Redd served tours of duty at the Pentagon, Scott the younger is taking on a leadership role with a much smaller measure of earthly authority. That said, he and others who helped honor him at the inauguration acknowledged the strategic location of the D.C. campus and its potential for wide-ranging cultural influence. "[Here in D.C.], local events have national and global effect," Dr. Redd, who comes back to the Beltway from RTS-Orlando, noted in his address.

With Dr. Redd's observation in mind, RTS-Orlando president Dr. Don Sweeting's charge to his former campus colleague to "recognize the privilege and opportunity, and be faithful" carries added weight. RTS-Washington, D.C. professor Dr. Howard Griffith, with whom Dr. Redd will now serve directly, delivered a charge to pray for the new campus president, noting that "leadership is not about who gets to make decisions, but about who gets to die — to self."

Dr. Redd, welcome home. ML

To hear the audio of the inauguration service, visit tinyurl.com/ltwgfhe.

Steve Wallace (above, left), then serving as acting CEO of RTS, hangs a ceremonial medal on Dr. Scott Redd during the RTS-Washington, D.C. inauguration service. Dr. Robert Norris (above, right), senior pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Md., preached the inaugural sermon.

GLIMPSES OF THE CHURCH ABROAD

BY DR. SCOTT REDD

Several days after my inauguration as RTS-Washington D.C. president, I left for a two-week trip that would take me on a jagged itinerary around the globe, involving 65 hours of flight time and two teaching engagements in China and Turkey. The purpose of my trip was to visit and train fellow workers (China) and church leaders primarily from North Africa and Egypt (Turkey).

Being relatively new to my position in Washington, the trip provided an educational experience that placed the work we do stateside at RTS into the global perspective of the growing Christian movement around the world. Both cultures — secular China and the Muslim countries in North Africa, Egypt and the Middle East — are witnessing a period of unprecedented social change and spiritual renewal.

China regularly turns up in American newscasts as a center of economic and political influence around the world, but it is also the home of a growing and vibrant Christian community. The Arabic-speaking Muslim countries of North Africa and the Middle East have, likewise, received significant news coverage, if not for starkly different reasons. For instance, I left Turkey mere days before the beginning of the current string of protests had left that country shaken, and several of my Egyptian students have talked about the significant presence of Christians in the recent protests that (at this writing) ended with the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi.

Most U.S. Christians will not be surprised to learn that, in both regions, the church is subjected to systemic and acute persecution, though in different ways and with different levels of sophistication. I was struck, however, by the vibrant faith exhibited by all my students. It was evident that they do not merely endure the suffering and alienation they have experienced; rather, they see it as a means by which they might share the gospel with those around them.

One student commented how he had received multiple offers to emigrate to Western countries with more religious freedom, but felt that to do so would be to abandon his fellow countrymen to unbelief. There was also a notable spirit of optimism, nested in the hope of the gospel and the sovereignty of God, but also supported by the numerous conversions they had all witnessed in their towns and church communities.

Dr. Redd and his wife, Jennifer, have been married for 13 years.

> OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO RESIST A SPIRIT OF COMPLACENCY ON THE ONE HAND, AND FATALISM ON THE OTHER.

As a result of this new generation of Christian converts, the students in both classes were aware of and vocal about their need for theological training. I was reminded of the RTS mission to deliver robust Reformed and evangelical scholarship to those who have been called to the ministry of the gospel under the lordship of Jesus Christ. I am more convinced than ever that what we are doing at RTS is of utmost importance, not only to our local communities but also around the world. **M.L**

Dr. Redd is the new president of RTS-Washington D.C. (see accompanying article), where he also serves as associate professor of Old Testament. Contact him at sredd@rts.edu.

BONUS DIGITAL CONTENT

To read an article Dr. Redd wrote for the *Washington Post*, access the digital version of this issue at rts.edu/site/resources/M-L.aspx. Another *Washington Post* article written by Dr. Redd can be found at tinyurl.com/muwzs68.

UNLIMITED

RTS helps sponsor The Gospel Coalition's annual conference.

Dr. Derek Thomas (bottom) makes a point during the second of two panel discussions featuring RTS professors. The first panel included (second from bottom, from left) Dr. John Currid, Dr. Mike Kruger, Dr. Chuck Hill and Dr. Bruce Baugus. Recent RTS graduate and popular author Justin Taylor (second from top, third from right) moderated the first panel, with concluding remarks by chancellor emeritus Dr. Ric Cannada (second from top, third from left).

THEY SHOEHORNED THEIR WAY into the small ballroom, some standing in the back, others sitting on the floor. A few brought their dinners with them, making sure to grab a quick bite between conference sessions. The attraction: a panel of RTS professors discussing the inerrancy of Scripture — not your typical mealtime conversation starter.

Thus characterized the hunger for biblical truth among those gathering at the Rosen Shingle Creek hotel in Orlando in May for the annual conference held by The Gospel Coalition. Co-sponsored by RTS due to its proximity to the Orlando campus, the conference brought together thousands of people looking to, as TGC describes it, renew their faith in the gospel of Christ and to reform their ministry practices to conform fully to the Scriptures. They did so through corporate worship music, preaching, workshops and special events such as the RTS panel (and a second one the following evening).

In the spirit of expositional preaching, the speakers at the main sessions corporately worked their way through the Gospel of Luke, reflecting the conference theme of "His Mission." Meanwhile, RTS alumni played a significant role in the workshops. Randy Pope, longtime senior pastor of Perimeter Church in metropolitan Atlanta, led a session outlining his network of churches' approach to what he calls "life-on-life missional discipleship." And Tullian Tchividjian, senior pastor at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., spoke on "How Suffering Sets You Free," offering insights such as "Suffering cannot rob you of joy — only idolatry can."

A significant aspect of the conference involved the many opportunities for like-minded and like-hearted churches and ministries to network with one another around their common biblical convictions. In this environment, RTS representatives operated an exhibit hall booth in which they engaged passers-by in conversations about the seminary and its educational offerings.

As valuable as those encounters were, the meatiest contributions to the conference by the RTS family came at the panels featuring the professors. Dr. John Currid, Dr. Michael Kruger, Dr. Chuck Hill, Dr. Bruce Baugus and moderator Justin Taylor (a recent RTS graduate and a popular author) did not merely pack a ballroom for a presentation on inerrancy — they delivered a steady supply of nuggets to digest. For example:

BY PAUL SCHWARZ

PARTNERSHIP

Dr. Currid on archaeology confirming Scripture, not proving it: "We haven't found a mailbox with Peter's name on it, but we have found insight into the nature of a Galilean fishing village."

Dr. Kruger on doubt: "Wrestle with theological doubts in the context of a church community."

Dr. Hill on humility: "[It] is important in approaching theological questions — we don't have to have all the answers."

Dr. Baugus on fear: "Don't be afraid, because the truth is on your side."

Dr. Ric Cannada, chancellor emeritus, in closing the session: "One of the greatest defenses we have is to be on the offensive — preach the Word and live the Word."

The next evening, four more RTS professors engaged in their own lively discussion, this one on "Seeing Christ in the Old Testament" and moderated by RTS-Global student David Mathis. Dr. Miles Van Pelt, Dr. Scott Redd, Dr. Derek Thomas and Dr. Mark Futato injected playful repartee, such as when Dr. Van Pelt described his "macrocanonical hermeneutic" as "a phrase I invented to confuse Derek," generating laughs before explaining that it was a fancy way of saying that we should let the Bible set the agenda in our approach to interpreting it.

Dr. Thomas warned against losing sight of the Trinity in the effort to be Christ-centered in one's approach to the Old Testament. Dr. Futato offered insight into Song of Solomon as an example of the redemptive story of Christ, while Dr. Redd pointed out that Old Testament quotations in the New Testament are not arbitrary, but rather show that "Jesus is the true Israel."

The panels were one of the ways in which RTS representatives reached out to other constituencies. "As a conference sponsor," says Dr. Don Sweeting, RTS-Orlando president, "we joined with one of the great American evangelical coalitions in our time, whose purposes are closely aligned with ours. They, like us, love the gospel and see it as the center of everything." ML

Video of the two panels can be found at vimeo.com/66750397 and vimeo.com/66772716.

Along with moderator David Mathis (bottom, left) Dr. Thomas (second from left) was joined on the second panel by (continuing from left) Dr. Scott Redd, Dr. Miles Van Pelt and Dr. Mark Futato. Other RTS representatives at the conference included RTS-Orlando president Dr. Don Sweeting (top, right) and RTS-Washington D.C. student Jonathan Song (middle, wearing tie).

THE UNFORGOTTEN SPURGEON

John Piper visits RTS-Orlando to help launch a lecture series.

BY PAUL SCHWARZ

John Piper delivers the inaugural Spurgeon Lecture at RTS-Orlando to introduce the Nicole Institute for Baptist Studies. He had spent the previous three days at The Gospel Coalition conference.

WHILE THE GOSPEL Coalition conference officially ended on the afternoon of April 10 (see pages 16-17), an encore of sorts took place that evening at RTS-Orlando. Acclaimed pastor and author John Piper, who preached the main message at the opening TGC session two days earlier, visited the campus to deliver the inaugural Spurgeon Lecture, which formally launched the Nicole Institute of Baptist Studies.

Pamplin Chapel was packed to the foyer for Dr. Piper's talk, which overviewed the life and ministry of the 19th-century Reformed Baptist minister known as "The Prince of Preachers." Dr. Piper delivered anecdotes from Charles Spurgeon's ministry, such as how he would preach loudly enough for 20,000 people to hear him without the benefit of modern amplification, and shared generously from Spurgeon's encyclopedic quotability. For Dr. Piper, "Satisfaction with results will be the death knell of progress; no man is great who thinks he cannot be better" became a springboard to a reflection on his recent retirement from pastoral ministry and what he could have done better.

What Dr. Piper *has done* in nearly 35 years of public ministry, especially through his writing, received due honor. After the lecture, a long line of attendees wended its way around the adjacent fellowship hall for a book signing. Dr. Piper also met with RTS leaders before the lecture, affirming to them that "the 'Solas' and the doctrines of grace are my friends."

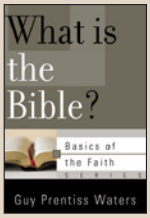
The Spurgeon lecture placed a public face on the Nicole Institute, founded to honor the legacy of the late Dr. Roger Nicole. A Reformed Baptist as well, Dr. Nicole was a distinguished visiting professor at RTS-Orlando from 1989 to 2000 and a professor emeritus until his death in 2010. The Institute offers a program of study for baptistic students who desire to learn about theology in a rich, Reformed context. At the end of his lecture, Dr. Piper expressed his solidarity with RTS and the Nicole Institute, declaring, "May God make [them] the breeding ground of much love for truth and people."

Those who want to plan ahead for the next Spurgeon Lecture may save Monday, March 10, 2014, at 7 p.m. on their calendars. That's when Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is scheduled to deliver the next installment in the series. In the meantime, the RTS family continues to cultivate ministry partnerships with, as Dr. Piper described them in his meeting with RTS leaders, "theological soul brothers" in many different denominations. **ML**

For more information about the Nicole Institute, visit rts.edu/Orlando/nibs. A library of Dr. Piper's preaching and teaching may be found at desiringGod.org. For the audio of Dr. Piper's lecture, visit vimeo.com/64724035.

Continued from Page 3

Dr. Miles Van Pelt contributed the study notes for Kings and Chronicles to the *ESV Gospel Transformation Bible* (Crossway, due September). Rev. Mike Glodo and Dr. Mark Futato contributed study notes for Nahum and Obadiah and for Deuteronomy, respectively.



Dr. Guy Waters reviewed Brandon D. Crowe's *The Obedient Son: Deuteronomy and Christology in the Gospel of Matthew* in *JETS;* wrote *What is the Bible?* (P&R, due Aug.) as part of the *Basics of the Faith* series; will present the paper "Curse Redux? 1 Cor. 5:13, Deuteronomy, and Identity Formation in Corinth" at the ETS and SBL national meetings in November; and present a paper "Is God Independent of the World? Some Biblical Reflections," at the ETS national meeting.

INTERVIEWS

Dr. Doug Kelly was interviewed on *The Bob Dutko Show* (WMUZ-FM, Detroit) in July on his book *Creation and Change.*

Dr. Scott Swain was interviewed in late July on the *GODTalks* program for the Aqueduct Project, bringing quality theological education out from the seminary classroom to pastors and Christian leaders around the world.

Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn was interviewed by 9 Marks Ministries on "Polity Is for Everybody," along with Mark Dever and Hunter Powell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Chad B. Van Dixhoorn (see pages 4-5) has been appointed associate professor of church history at RTS-Washington D.C. He earned an M.Div. and Th.M. from

Westminster Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. He has been an adjunct faculty member at RTS since 2008. He also serves as associate pastor of Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Vienna, Va., and will continue his pastoral duties.

Rev. William B. Fullilove has been appointed assistant professor of Old Testament at RTS-Atlanta and as assistant academic dean effective June 1. He is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literature at the Catholic University of America. He has earned an A.B. from Princeton University, an M.Div. from RTS and an M.A. from CUA. He is the former minister for pastoral care at McLean Presbyterian Church and the former director of its Capital Fellows Program.

Dr. R. Leslie Holmes (adjunct) was appointed to the board of contributing editors for *Preaching* magazine.

Dr. Don Sweeting was appointed to the executive committee of the Fellowship of Evangelical Seminary Presidents in January.

The Virginia State Approving Agency has approved RTS-Washington D.C. for the enrollment of veterans, military and other eligible persons under the provision of Title 38, Section 3676, United States Code. This means that RTS-Washington D.C. students who have served in the military are able to receive GI Bill benefits. Interested parties should contact Geoff Sackett at gsackett@rts.edu or 703-448-3393 for more information.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Convocation (public welcome)

Washington D.C.: Sept. 5, 1 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Scott Redd, campus president.

Charlotte

The inauguration of RTS-Charlotte's fourth president, Dr. Michael Kruger, will be held on Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. at Uptown Church, Charlotte, with Dr. Ligon Duncan preaching (public welcome). A reception will follow the worship service.

Preview Day will be held Tuesday, Oct. 15. E-mail Stephane at sjeanrenaud@rts.edu for more information.

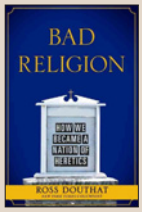
A women's seminar with speaker Melissa Kruger will be held on Sept. 16 from 6-8:30 p.m. (open to public). The topic is "Going Deeper With God."

Jackson

The RTS World Missions Conference will be held Sept. 10-11. The speaker will be Rev. Jerry Marcellino, pastor of Audobon Drive Bible Church, Laurel, Miss.

Kevin DeYoung will deliver the John Reed Miller Lectures on Preaching this fall, spanning Oct. 22-23 (public is welcome). He is senior pastor of University Reformed Church, East Lansing, Mich., is a regular blogger and speaker for The Gospel Coalition, and has written numerous books.

Orlando



The campus will read *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics* (*Christianity Today* 2013 Book Award Winner) this fall as part of "The Current Read" semester event. Author and *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat will lecture and sign his book in Pamplin Chapel on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. (public welcome).

Washington, D.C.

Preview Day will be Oct. 17. E-mail Geoff at gsackett@rts.edu for more information.

A faculty panel discussion, ReForum, with Dr. Scott Redd, Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn, Dr. Peter Lee and Mr. Geoff Sackett will be held Nov. 16.

IN MEMORIAM: DR. HENRY DEKKER

Dr. Henry Dekker went home to be with the Lord on June 13 in Malabar, Fla. He served as a member of the RTS board of trustees for 39 years, retiring in October 2011, whereby he was given emeritus status at his request. The consummate optimist, he always had an encouraging word for everyone he met. He loved the students, faculty and staff, and he will be greatly missed as part of the seminary community.

After studying at the Free University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands, Dr. Dekker began his career at the Westinghouse Corporation. After rising to national director of development at Westinghouse, Dr. Dekker left in 1970 to found Mitsubishi Electric along with six colleagues. In 21 years with Mitsubishi Electric, Dr. Dekker and his group built a company that had annual revenues of just over $3 billion when he decided to take early retirement.

Following his retirement from Mitsubishi, Dr. Dekker served as a consultant to businesses and organizations, assisting them in hiring the correct individuals for key positions. He was a charter member of The American Association of Christian Counselors, an organization with over 55,000 members, donating his time to counsel married couples, individuals and students.

A memorial service was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Palm Bay, Fla., on June 29. He leaves behind his wife (Alice), four children and nine grandchildren.

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Seminary

Give Toward RTS Student Scholarships

One of the greatest needs of RTS is scholarship funding to assist students and their families in need. Many RTS students hold one or more part-time jobs, and many spouses also hold down jobs. Even so, they still find it difficult to make ends meet. We also try to discourage students from taking out loans for seminary because outstanding loans can prevent students from entering mission service until their loans are paid off, and that can take years.

That's why our students often turn to us for help with scholarships, which is why we turn to you. RTS accepts no government or state funding, so the financial resources to help needy students come solely from the Lord's people. We can provide only what you allow us to make available to students through your gifts.

The total scholarship and financial aid need for the 2013-14 academic year is nearly $3.5 million. Would you prayerfully consider what part you can play in helping meet this need? When designating gifts for scholarships, you can specify a particular RTS campus or a particular denomination. In addition, we especially need gifts toward our international student scholarship fund, as students from overseas often face even greater limits on their resources.

You can help RTS provide scholarship funds to needy students right now by visiting
www.rts.edu/give
Or you can mail a check to RTS, 5422 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, MS 39209,
and your gift will be credited to your chosen campus.

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