

# REACHING OUT

A bi-annual publication of the School of Religion  
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## Southern to Begin Excavating Lachish

**S**outhern's Institute of Archaeology will join the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to direct excavations at Tel Lachish in southern Israel this summer. After the capital, Jerusalem, Lachish



*Dig Site in Lachish, Israel*

Previous excavations revealed rich remains from the time of Hezekiah, king of Judah, when the city was destroyed in 701 B.C. by the Assyrian king Sennacherib (2 Kings 18; Isaiah 36-37).

“The British Museum has extensive reliefs from Sennacherib’s palace at Nineveh showing in detail the attack against Lachish,” said Martin G. Klingbeil, associate director of the Institute of Archaeology. “The archaeological remains of the Assyrian siege ramp, hundreds of arrowheads and sling stones and a mass burial, date to this biblical event, showing a clear convergence of archaeology and Bible history.”

Debris in the city gate from the later Babylonian destruction by Nebuchadnezzar revealed the famous Lachish Letters. Written on broken pieces of pottery, called ostraca, they are the final

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was the most prominent city of Judah.

“We are interested in the continuing expansion of Judah after the time of David,” says Michael G. Hasel, Institute of Archaeology director and co-director of the project. “Very little is known from this early period. After excavating at Khirbet Qeiyafa [biblical Shaarayim, 1 Sam 17:52], a fortress that dates to the time of Saul and David, the next question is, How did the kingdom develop further?”

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## Southern to Excavate Lachish (Continued from page 1)

written evidence documenting the city's demise. One of the letters states, "We are watching for the signal fires of Lachish according to all the signs which my lord has given, because we cannot see Azekah." This must have been written after Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Azekah, for its signal fires were no longer seen and could have been sent as a warning to Lachish that the armies could be approaching. According to Jeremiah, Lachish and Azekah were the only two fortified cities remaining besides Jerusalem (Jeremiah

34:7). The pilot excavations this summer will be probing for earlier evidence at Lachish from the time of Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, and its relationship to events in the rest of the region.

"If we have promising results, we will be launching a long-term project at the site beginning in 2014," Hasel said. "It is thrilling to be excavating such a prominent biblical city with students and staff from Southern Adventist University."

## Student Research Symposium

**O**n Sabbath, March 23, Southern's School of Religion hosted students and faculty from the School of Religion at Oakwood University for our second Student Research Symposium. The first symposium had been hosted by Oakwood in April 2010 through the efforts of Tarsee Li of Oakwood and Stephen Bauer from Southern. The goals of the symposium include fostering intercultural fellowship and worship, encouraging student research, and introducing students in religion to the paper-presentation process many experience at meetings of the

Adventist Society for Religious Studies, the Adventist Theological Society, the Society of Biblical Research, the Evangelical Theologi-



*Anthony Messer and Jerry Schmidt*

cal Society, and the American Academy of Religion.

Five papers were presented on a variety of topics, including "The Book of Joel," "Church Leadership in 1 Clement," "The Ethics of Computer Games," "The Submission of the Wife in 1 Peter 3," and "Single-Parent Household Challenges in the African-American Community." In addition, a simple worship service was held, in which the host school supplied a student preacher. The co-presented sermon emphasized the importance of being faithful ministers. The day closed with a tour of the archaeology museum. Student and faculty responses were highly enthusiastic, and we are planning for our third joint symposium in April 2015.

## Oakwood University President Speaks for Senior Consecration

The School of Religion's academic year ended on a high note as the annual senior consecration weekend was held April 26 and 27, 2013. The guest speaker this year was Dr. Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University. Pollard is a well-known international speaker, who has a DMin from Claremont School of Theology, an MBA in Management, and a PhD in New Testament from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

The weekend began with a dedication service on Friday evening in the Collegedale Church. This involved not only the School of Religion graduates, but also all of the Evangelistic Resource Center summer evangelists and those being sent out as student missionaries next school year. Pollard spoke on the theme of diversity and used the life of Paul as a model for incarnational ministry. He asked an intriguing question, "Why would Paul state that he 'became as a Jew to reach the Jews' when he was already a Jew?" His answer was

that Paul had replaced his Jewish identity with a new primary identity, that of being *in Christ*. This enabled him to reach out to others without

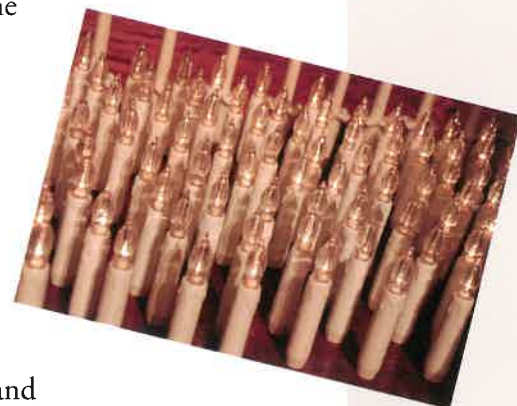
having to worry about his own ethnic identity. He did not deny his identity, but neither was he bound by it. He then drew parallels with the sensitive topic of women in ministry.

The evening ended with a dedication

ceremony for 25 religion seniors, 126 student and staff evangelists, and 84 student missionaries. This was the largest group of missionaries that have ever been sent from Southern, and the flickering lights from their candles filled the sanctuary from wall to wall. It was an impressive sight!

On Sabbath morning, the services continued at Thatcher Chapel. Pollard spoke from the Book of Revelation and inspired us to look at the victorious Lamb who appears slain but who is really the Victor of the Book of Revelation. No one else is worthy to open the scroll! Pollard's picturesque imagery and poetic language had students intently listening to each word as he unfolded the first four chapters of Revelation in an easy-to-understand but powerfully inspiring way. There was a question-and-answer session, where practical wisdom from years of ministry shone through in his straightforward answers.

In the special consecration service, Pollard continued to guide us through the Book of Revelation. He showed that the book pulsates with one theme: Jesus is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." While we may face difficulties and obstacles, Jesus promises us His divine victory. Once again, the Lamb wins! The service concluded with a charge to students by Dr. Greg King, dean of the School of Religion, and with faculty's laying on hands and consecrating the seniors and their spouses. A final meal with the speaker wrapped up a memorable weekend. With this many students entering the field, surely the Lamb will see a rich harvest for His kingdom!



*Leslie Pollard*

## Bryant Wood Speaks on Canaanite Pottery

The guest lecturer for the Gerhard F. Hasel Lectureship this year was Dr. Bryant G. Wood, director of research with the Associates for Biblical Research and the editor of its journal, *Bible and Spade*. Wood has also served as adjunct professor at several schools and has done extensive archaeological field work in Egypt and Israel. Since 1995, he has been director of the Khirbet el-Maqatir excavation, believed to be the site



**Bryant G. Wood**

of ancient Ai in Israel. He is a specialist in Canaanite pottery of the Late Bronze Age. He is also the author of *The Sociology of Pottery in Ancient Palestine* (1990), as well as of numerous articles on archaeological subjects published in various academic journals. Wood received international media attention for his research on ancient Jericho that demonstrated the historicity of the biblical account of the capture of the city by the Israelites.

With all of this experience, Wood was well qualified to address the student body for convocation on March 21 with the topic “Digging Up the Truth at Jericho.” He

showed evidence for dating the destruction of the ancient city of Jericho to the time of the Exodus in the fifteenth century B.C. His presentation was illustrated by PowerPoint slides with photos, maps, and charts. The lecture was well received and seemed to capture the attention of the student body. After the lecture, he met with some of the faculty and students over lunch in the Presidential Banquet Room for a “table talk” opportunity. In the afternoon he taught the class Archaeology of the New Testament, addressing “New Evidence for Israel in Egypt.”

Wood not only spoke for the Hasel Lectureship, but the previous evening he also gave the Lynn H. Wood Archeological Museum Lecture, entitled “The Discovery of the Lost Fortress of Ai.” He showed evidence from his excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir that it was a much better site for ancient Ai than el-Tell, a site formerly considered to be the potential location of Ai.

Prior to the archeological lecture, the School of Religion held a banquet to honor Wood and his wife, Faith, and to bring together a group of faculty, students, administrators, supporters, and special guests to share an interest in good scholarship and academic camaraderie.

## Randy Roberts Addresses Ministerial Trainees

Twenty-seven students were inducted as ministerial trainees during services held in January. Ministerial trainees are theology and pastoral care majors who have spent at least one semester at Southern and have sophomore status. The application process considers their spiritual and theological commitment, character, grade point average, and social and professional skills. After they have completed specific classes and have been approved by the School of Religion faculty, they are inducted as ministerial trainees and may continue working

towards their theology or pastoral care majors. Dr. Randy Roberts, senior pastor of the University Church of Seventh-day Adventists in Loma Linda, California, spoke for the induction services.



**Randy Roberts**

He expounded on how the trainees can become transformed by focusing on Jesus and His Word.

## Lessons from the Earliest Christians

I recently had the opportunity to travel to a number of biblical sites where Christian churches existed in the first century. My wife and I led a group of 33 Southern Adventist University employees and their spouses to Ephesus, Smyrna, Laodicea, Corinth, and several other places. But this was not just a sightseeing tour with photo opportunities. While plenty of pictures were snapped, we also took time to read relevant passages from Scripture and reflect on a number of spiritual lessons we can learn from those early believers, lessons that speak to us today. Here are four notable takeaways from the early Christians:

First, the early Christians had a passion to spread the gospel. Bearing witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and proclaiming the message of salvation to anyone who would listen were their favorite activities. Sharing Jesus was a privilege which they relished, as well as a responsibility which they did not shirk. As Paul asserted, “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1. Cor. 9:16\*).

And this was true not only of apostles like Paul but of every other believer as well. Notably, there was no distinction between clergy and laity regarding a commitment to sharing one’s faith. All who had accepted the gospel of a risen Lord were excited to tell others about what they had freely received.

Second, the first-century Christians took great joy in worship and fellowship with one another. Times for prayer, reading of Scripture, singing, and sharing testimonies with fellow believers were occasions which they cherished and which brightened their days. In fact, when they were unable to be together with each other, they felt it keenly, as seen in Paul’s declaration to the Philippians, “God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6).

Third, those early believers knew that they were called to live a distinctive way of life. They were well aware that they could not just embrace and reflect the values of the largely decadent and immoral society

around them. Paul challenged them, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2).

Unlike the chameleon, which simply blends in with its surroundings, they were expected to be distinctive. For example, in a society that was fractured over matters of race, social class, and gender, they were called to model and proclaim the equality of all of God’s children (see Gal. 3:28). And this was no pedestrian challenge, for it was a call to be holy, even as God is holy (see 1 Pet. 1:16).

Fourth, the early Christians were eager to see their Lord return. For them the Second Coming was “the blessed hope” (Titus 2:13), the event before which all others paled into insignificance. Anticipating the soon appearance of Jesus was the driving force of their lives, what nourished and sustained them in the face of persecution and death.

Though busy with toiling for their daily bread, though sometimes burdened with eking out a meager existence, never did they become so absorbed with life on this earth that they forgot about the coming kingdom of God. “Even so, come Lord Jesus” was their constant prayer (Rev. 22:20).

While the lives of the earliest Christians have long since ended and many of their names have been forgotten, their example speaks powerfully to our age. Do we have a passion to witness for Jesus? Do we delight in fellowship with other believers? Do we embrace God’s call to be His distinctive people? Do we eagerly await His return? In the final analysis, the focus is no longer on the early believers. The question is, What about us?

\*All Bible verses are taken from the New International Version.



Greg King, Dean  
School of Religion

## Students Receive Annual Awards and Scholarships

Recipient	Honor or Award Title
Guilherme Brasil de Souza	Top Achiever Scholarship Award
Chelsy Calumpiano	Excellence in Hebrew
Robert Dabney Jr.	Outstanding Ministerial Candidate; Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
Billy Freck	Excellence in Pastoral Care
Jonathan Gardner	Excellence in Archaeology
Egbert and Keishauni George	Excellence in Evangelism
Karen Glassford	Excellence in Missions
Cody Harmon	Top Achiever Scholarship Award
Jennifer Kay	Top Achiever Scholarship Award
Kaleb Leeper	Excellence in Religious Education
Eric Louw	Outstanding Scholastic Achievement (Ministerial); Top Achiever Scholarship Award; Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
Anthony Messer	Excellence in Biblical Preaching, Excellence in Greek; Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
Samuel Nadarajan	Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
Joy Payne	Outstanding Scholastic Achievement (Religion)
Edward Pino	Top Achiever Scholarship Award
Daniel Reynolds	Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
Jerryn Schmidt	Top Achiever Scholarship Award; Outstanding Scholastic Achievement (Ministerial)
Donald Sparks	Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
Joel Sutherland	Top Achiever Scholarship Award
Timothy Taylor	Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
Aubrey Toup	Top Achiever Scholarship Award
Kaitlyn Verrill	Top Achiever Scholarship Award

## New Pierson Institute Coordinator

Pastor Darryl Bentley has joined the School of Religion as the new Pierson Institute Coordinator. Prior to coming to Southern, he served as an ordained pastor in the Michigan Conference and has conducted numerous evangelistic meetings in both the Carolinas and Michigan. He is an alumnus of Southern and brings a rich experience in soul winning and ministry to the Pierson Institute. This institute has significantly grown in recent years and has developed strong partnerships with conferences and other evangelistic organizations such as The Quiet Hour, ShareHim, and It Is Written. As a result, we now have several different programs, including Summer Evangelism Abroad (SEA), Soul-winning and Leadership Training (SALT), field schools, resource development, and a new

research arm.

Bentley will serve in a vital role in recruiting, training, and deploying over 120 students to preach evangelistic series worldwide. He will also be the evangelistic speaker for the SALT program this fall and will be responsible for organizing our homeland field schools every summer. We are glad to welcome Darryl and his wife, Ginger, as well as their children, Austin (12), Megan (11), and Connor (9), back to Southern.



*Darryl Bentley*

## Faculty News . . .

**Stephen Bauer**, Professor of Theology and Ethics, is a member of the Theology of Ordination Committee for the General Conference, along with Michael Hasel and Greg King. He preached in a number of churches in the Southern Union Conference during the winter semester on righteousness by faith, forgiveness, the Trinity, and the Ten Commandments.



**Michael Hasel**, Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology, presented a lecture at the Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, entitled: "Excavating the Fortress of Elah and the Search for King David." He presented a paper on biblical hermeneutics for the Adventist Theological Society in Collegedale, Tennessee, and also attended the Biblical Research Institute Committee at Loma Linda University, California.



**Greg King**, Dean and Professor of Biblical Studies, attended the Geoscience Research Institute Board meeting in February and the Biblical Research Institute Committee meeting in April. Additionally, he continues his work as associate editor for the forthcoming *Andrews Bible Commentary*, a one-volume resource intended to assist church members in their study and understanding of God's Word.



**Carlos Martin**, Professor of Evangelism and Missions, made four trips abroad to coordinate Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) trips to Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Botswana, and the Philippines. He also offered weekend seminars on last-day events in the Floral Crest Church, Alabama; the Birmingham Roebuck Church, Alabama; and the Fort Lauderdale Church, Florida. He led the training of 127 student preachers in two ERC boot camps and two for 89 church leaders in the Spanish SALT program.



**John Nixon**, Professor of Theology and Spirituality, presented a seminar and sermon on remnant theology as part of the "Rooted in Christ" series on Adventist doctrine at the Immanuel Temple Church in Durham, North Carolina. He was the keynote speaker at the Adventist Health System Conference on Mission in Orlando, Florida, and also conducted a Friday-evening seminar on Christian relationships for young adult singles in Chattanooga.



**Alan Parker**, Professor of Evangelism and Missiology, along with his wife, Nicole, and Professor Barry Tryon, led out in an Engaged Encounter Weekend, a first-time seminar for engaged couples co-sponsored by the Chaplain's Office and the School of Religion. Eight couples attended this special event held on Friday night and all day Sabbath. This was the pilot program which has already been scheduled again for the Spring semester of next year.



**Edwin Reynolds**, Professor of New Testament Studies, presented a lecture to the local chapter of the Adventist Theological Society (of which he is vice president and president-elect) on the topic "Strange Fire on God's Altar: Heathen Hermeneutics Applied to God's Word," a discussion of the history of hermeneutics, in which he showed that most interpretational methods applied to the Bible over the centuries have not been biblical. This meeting was followed up with ATS presentations by Michael Hasel and Martin Klingbeil on biblical authority and cultural hermeneutics, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Reynolds. He is secretary of the North American Division Theology of Ordination Study Committee.





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## Summer 2013 Graduate Courses Offered

*Tuition: \$1,710 (one 3-credit class)    Audit: \$855 (one 3-credit class)    Contact Edwin Reynolds: <reynolds@southern.edu>*

### June 3-14 Intensive Session A

#### **RELT 568 World Religions**

The study of several major religions, including a survey of the history and characteristics of each. Religions are compared and contrasted, considering areas of commonality with Christianity. Insights are provided on how to share Christianity with adherents of non-Christian religions. (Professor: Carlos Martin)

#### **RELP 513 Effective Church Leadership**

Church leadership viewed from the perspective of character and effectiveness. Issues covered include visioning, local mission development, mentoring, effective administration, and decision making. Case studies and group interaction are used for learning purposes. (Professor: John Nixon)

### July 17-28 Intensive Session B

#### **RELT 531 Hermeneutics and Biblical Interpretation**

Investigation into fundamental hermeneutical presuppositions and the formulation of both sound principles of biblical interpretation and proper methods of interpreting the writings of Ellen White. (Professor: Edwin Reynolds)

#### **RELP 532 Principles and Strategies for Church Growth**

This course focuses on planting churches in a Seventh-day Adventist context. Biblical and historical models, various methods of church planting, and the current state of Adventist church planting are surveyed. (Professor: Alan Parker)

### July 1-19 Intensive Session C

#### **RELT 520 Spirituality in Ministry (July 1-12)**

An examination of a biblical model for spiritual leadership and its implications for personal spiritual life and development. Discover how to experience life and ministry that is "full of God's grace and power." (Professor: Philip Samaan)

#### **RELG 600 Research Methods and Writing**

A course dealing with techniques and tools, including library and online sources available for theological research, for the construction and practice of writing research papers. Emphasis is given to expository and persuasive writing skills, documentation styles, and bibliographies in various religious disciplines. (Professor: Donn Leatherman)

**On-campus housing is available upon request.**