

# REACHING OUT

A biannual publication of the School of Religion  
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## Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Speaks for Gerhard Hasel Lectureship

This year's Gerhard F. Hasel Lectureship featured John N. Oswalt, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Oswalt received his Ph.D. in Mediterranean Studies from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, and his special interest is Hebrew language and religion in the context of the ancient Near East. He has also been involved in the work of Bible translation and in writing commentaries on Old Testament books. He is perhaps best known for his two-volume Isaiah commentary in the *New International Commentary on the Old Testament* series, and his most recent book is *The Holy One of Israel*, a collection of his articles on the book of Isaiah.

Oswalt was welcomed to campus at a banquet on Wednesday evening, March 25. He gave an insightful presentation on "The Uniqueness of the Hebrew Prophets," in which he argued for the distinct contributions of the Hebrew prophets in contrast with the



*John N. Oswalt, Ph.D.*

religious perspectives of the cultures around them. The messages of the Old Testament prophets were not just a reflection of the community's attempts to describe their history in terms of the prevailing culture and religious views of the neighboring nations.

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Power for Mind & Soul

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## Gerhard Hasel Lectureship (Continued from page 1)

Rather, the messages challenged the Hebrews to be different from the nations around them, to honor and worship a unique God who was revealing Himself to them through inspired individuals. The surrounding nations were polytheistic, worshiping nature as god, but the Israelites were called to adhere to a strict monotheism, worshipping the Creator. Questions and answers from the audience followed the presentation.

On Thursday morning, Oswalt presented the Gerhard F. Hasel Lectureship at the university convocation, speaking on the topic "The Uniqueness of the Bible." He distinguished between the two basic worldviews that exist, one being that this natural, material, and temporal world in which we live is all there is and functions as "god," while the other, presented in the Bible, holds that God is supernatural, immaterial, and supratemporal and is outside of this creation, which He spoke into existence and over which He is sovereign. Oswalt drew a series of contrasts between the two worldviews, showing that the biblical worldview is superior and is more closely related to the reality which is supported by

the evidence. The first is a closed view of the universe, with very limited possibilities, while the latter is an open view that does not limit the possibilities for us to consider. That grand view of a God in whom all things consist, who desires to have a close and intimate relationship with His creation and who enters into time with us and sends His own Son to live among us and die for our sins so that we can live eternally with Him, is one that everyone needs to understand and appreciate.

On Thursday afternoon, Oswalt taught the Introduction to Biblical Exegesis class, in which he outlined a methodology for approaching a biblical text exegetically, then worked through the passage in Deuteronomy 10:12-11:1, demonstrating how to implement the methodology he had described. The School of Religion faculty and students continue to have great appreciation not only for the messages shared with us by Oswalt, but also for the graciousness and personal warmth manifested by him and his wife during their stay on campus. May God's blessing continue to attend his ministry.

## "Southern Will Always Be My Home!"

**M**ark Rabson O'Dala arrived on Southern's campus in the fall of 2011, following God's leading to study theology. He is the single father of Victor, who was 12 years old when they came to Southern. Today, Mark is a 2015 Southern graduate. This interview with O'Dala was conducted by Mary Anne Poulson, office manager for the School of Religion.

*MAP: What were you doing before coming to Southern?*

*MRO: I was a pastor in Malawi.*

*MAP: What led you to your decision to come to Southern?*

*MRO: Dr. Pfandl from the Biblical Research Institute came to Malawi for a Bible conference. In one of his meetings, he gave a list of Adventist schools that have a strong commitment to being*

*faithful to Scripture and the teachings of the Adventist Church, and Southern Adventist University was on the list. Afterward, the president of Malawi Union Mission, Saustin Mfune, came to Atlanta for the 2010 General Conference Session. During the session, he took a tour of Southern. He was impressed with the beauty of the school, its curriculum, and the fact that it was theologically committed. He came to me with already downloaded forms and said, "Mark, I know*

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*Mark O'Dala*

## Former Southern Chaplain Addresses SOR Senior Consecration

The School of Religion conducted its annual senior consecration weekend May 1-2, 2015.

The first event was Friday evening vespers, which is co-sponsored with the Student Missions Office and held in the Collegedale Church. During this service, in addition to the graduating seniors, students participating in summer evangelism and those leaving to serve for a year as student missionaries or task force workers are also recognized and consecrated to their service through prayer. This year's ceremony included 10 theology majors conducting their own evangelistic series in South Carolina and 17 theology majors conducting campaigns in Brazil. Additionally, the Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) is sending another 62 students from multiple majors as preachers for evangelistic series in Brazil (23), Colombia (20), and Mexico (19). Moreover, 62 student missionaries who will be serving in many countries outside the U.S. were dedicated, along with three task force workers who will serve in North America.

From its inception in 2001 to the end of 2014, the ERC has sent out 917 preachers who have helped lead 26,431 people to baptism. According to Edgar Alquinta, ERC director, the total number of preachers sent by the ERC will surpass 1,000 during the summer of 2015. Alquinta reports that the 1,000th student is Miki Tsuchiya, a junior biology major.

The speaker for the senior consecration weekend was Ken Rogers, former university chaplain and

current youth director for the Southern Union Conference. During Rogers' 20 years in Collegedale as youth pastor and campus chaplain, he became close friends with Southern president Gordon Bietz. There is a long tradition at Southern



*Gordon Bietz and Ken Rogers*

Bietz with a giant pizza-sized birthday cookie in honor of Bietz's 71st birthday. The cookie already had a bite taken out of it.

Rogers spun a dual theme throughout his weekend messages. First, he emphasized God's compassion toward sinners and how we need to follow His example. Rogers called for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to provide a safe haven where young people can ask hard questions and discuss difficult issues in a loving setting, which calls them to faithful discipleship.

Rogers' second theme was a call to uphold the high moral calling of the gospel through our compassionate example. Our character and example are more powerful than scolding and chastisement in calling people to follow Jesus. Rogers challenged us with the question, "What will you be known for as a Christian?" Will we be known mainly for being against a number of activities in which people engage, or will we be known first for our acceptance, forgiveness, and grace? Overall, the senior consecration weekend was an inspiring celebration of gospel service, calling us to build up the kingdom of God as Jesus did through transforming, redemptive relationships.



*Ken Rogers*

of Bietz and Rogers roasting each other during introductions at convocations and vespers, usually

## Trainee Introduction with Pavel Goia

The School of Religion inducted 28 ministerial trainees during services held January 30-31. Guest speaker Pavel Goia, pastor of the Lexington, Kentucky, Seventh-day Adventist Church, spoke Friday evening for the university vespers program and twice Sabbath morning to School of Religion students, faculty, and friends who gathered in Thatcher Hall Chapel.

Pastor Goia inspired students with his stories of growing up in Drobeta Turnu-Severin, Romania, under Communist rule. After pursuing careers in engineering, law, and business, he became a pastor and served in Romania for six years before moving to the United States. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology from Southern Adventist University and a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University. Currently, he is completing a doctoral degree from Andrews.

In his messages Pastor Goia shared the many ways God had answered his prayers while growing up in Romania and during the years he has been a pastor in the United States. He challenged students to trust in

God's power as they share the gospel with others.

At the Friday night meeting, the 28 trainees were introduced to the audience.

During the worship service on Sabbath, they were introduced again and knelt for a special charge and prayer of dedication delivered by the School of Religion dean, Greg King. The ministerial trainees are as follows: Jose Briones, Jared Callaway, Joseph Duarte, A. J. Fines, Timothy Gosser, Marcus Harden,

Ellainna Hart, Nicolas Lapido, Orlando Lizardi, Rodrick London, Jerome Masilamony, James Mello, Jacob Metzner, Zechariah Musselman, Ryan Neall, Mario Reategui, Bryant Rodriguez, Link Russi, Pedro Sauder, Heroes Sical, Silvertone Stare, Luke Steen, Jim Stewart, Paul-Anthony Turner, Casey Vaughn, Dwaine Vaughn, Robert Velez, and Satoru Yamaji.



*Pavel Goia*

## Day of Fellowship for Southern and Oakwood Schools of Religion

On March 21, 2015, professors of the Schools of Religion of Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University met on Southern's campus for a day of worship and fellowship. Such joint meetings have been held on one campus or the other for several years to help strengthen unity and build up spiritual and professional camaraderie.

The main events of this special Sabbath included a Sabbath School Bible study led by John Nixon. His topic was "Who's the Judge?" This was followed by Finbar Benjamin's sermon titled "From Tragedy to Triumph."

Then the entire group met in the Presidential Banquet Room for a meal and fellowship. In the afternoon, Keith Snyder, chair of the Biology Department, conducted a

fascinating tour of the Origins display in the Hickman Science Center.

Finally, a panel discussion on the subject of "The Church and Contemporary Issues" was led by Keith Burton and Ifeoma Kwesi of Oakwood and by Douglas Jacobs and Donn Leatherman of Southern. Refreshments were shared before everyone parted and expressed their anticipation of meeting again next year.



*Finbar Benjamin*



*Donn Leatherman, Ifeoma Kwesi, Keith Burton, and Douglas Jacobs*

## Beautiful Feet

After asking a series of rhetorical questions highlighting the vital importance of preachers being sent out to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who have never heard it, the Apostle Paul declares, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Rom 10:15, ESV).

Now, "beautiful" is not the first word that comes to mind when I think of feet. Rather, there are other adjectives that I think of, such as "large." Having feet that are average in size, I take note when people have oversized feet. One retired basketball player wears shoes sized 22½! Since I only wear size 9½, feet that large are difficult for me to even fathom.

An unflattering adjective that is occasionally used in conjunction with feet is "stinky." Most of us have encountered feet—maybe even our own—that have a rather unpleasant smell, perhaps after engaging in vigorous athletic activity. When feet are in such a malodorous condition, it is best to wash them thoroughly, especially if one is living in a small dormitory room and wanting to maintain a good relationship with a roommate!

But when speaking of the feet of the evangelist, Paul doesn't refer to their size or their smell. Instead, he calls them "beautiful," prompting the questions, Why this positive affirmation of these appendages upon which we as humans rest our weight when we are standing? How can the feet of the one who proclaims good news be described as beautiful?

I would like to suggest three reasons why this term is fitting: First, the feet of the messenger who takes the gospel to others are beautiful because they give evidence of a heart that is willing to serve God, and that is something that is always beautiful in the Lord's eyes.

It is worth noting that when Jesus chose 12 men to become His closest followers, He didn't call those with the most education or the greatest wealth. Rather, He sought out simple, common people, because they were

willing to follow and serve Him. Faithful service to God from a willing heart was beautiful to God in biblical times, and it still is today.

Second, the feet of the evangelist are beautiful because they carry the preacher to preach a beautiful message. If we have been raised in Christian homes, it is possible that we take the truths of Scripture for granted and lose sight of how wonderful and life-changing they are.

Consider for a moment the message of the Second Coming. In a world in which destruction, death, and disease seem to multiply by the day with no human solution in sight, the only thing that offers ultimate hope is the return of our Lord to set up His kingdom. And what about the biblical teaching regarding the Sabbath? In a day and age when the hectic pace of life threatens to overwhelm and control us, it is vital to have a recurring 24-hour period each week to focus on life's true priorities! Also, there is the majestic biblical truth of righteousness by faith, which teaches us that Jesus died in our place and offers us His righteousness in place of our sinfulness. Our salvation is not based on our performance, but on our reception of His gift of salvation. What a beautiful message we have!

Third, the evangelist's feet can be called beautiful because of the glorious results his or her ministry will yield in eternity. I am referring to a person who witnesses for Jesus and will one day have the thrill of seeing someone in heaven as a result. Think about how it will enhance our joy throughout the ages to know that God has used our witness to bring others to saving faith, thus enabling them to enjoy eternity in the presence of their loving Lord!

May we faithfully proclaim the message of the gospel and thus be among those who have beautiful feet!



*Greg King, Dean  
School of Religion*

## Students Receive Annual Awards

Honor, Award, or Scholarship	Recipients
Top Achiever Award	Esther Gow-Lee, Zach Henski, Sebastian Lopez, Jerome Masilamony, Jacob Metzner, Cindy Santillan, Paul-Anthony Turner, Satoru Yamaji
Departmental Awards	
Excellence in Biblical Preaching	Keren Pagán
Excellence in Pastoral Care	Katie Verrill
Excellence in Evangelism	Richard Maskelony, Takuma Shinasue
Excellence in Missions	Mark Rabson O'Dala
Excellence in Greek	Takuma Shinasue
Excellence in Hebrew	Ellainna Hart, Judit Manchay
Excellence in Religious Education	Michael Lund
Outstanding Ministerial Candidate	Cody Harmon
Outstanding Scholastic Achievement, Ministerial	Katie Verrill
Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges	Matthew Durante, Cody Harmon, Valerie Hernandez, Christopher Hufnagel, Ruben Joseph, Krystal Morris, Ryan Neall, Keren Pagán, Stephanie Roberts, Takuma Shinasue, Joel Sutherland, Aubrey Toup, Katie Verrill

## “Southern Will Always Be My Home” (Continued from page 2)

you have an analytical mind. Here is the school suitable for you.”

*MAP: What were the best highlights of your theology program during your time here?*

MRO: The first day of classes, after going through various challenges, I went to Life and Teachings of Jesus class. Professor Tryon has a habit of playing a spiritual song before class begins. The song that day was “God Knows My Name.” The song hit me and made me shed tears. When my plans to finance my education crumbled, I started praying and fasting once a week. The Lord told me that my school fees would be paid. But I continued praying. One day, immediately after praying, I heard a voice saying, “You have been praying for money for your school fees, and I have been answering you that it will be paid, although you won’t know from where the money has come. Now, don’t you have other things to pray for?”

Indeed, God has been true to His promises. I

have witnessed miracles. I have learned great lessons in all of my classes. Education at Southern has reinforced my commitment to God. I do not regret coming to Southern, and at this school I lay a stone of remembrance, because this is where I have encountered God’s power at a higher level. Southern will always be my home.

*MAP: What are the most important lessons God has taught you while here at Southern?*

MRO: First, God is consistent and true to His promises. There were times when I thought God had lost touch with reality, because what He was telling me was not in harmony with what I was experiencing. But He proved me wrong all of the time. Second, God was ready to do great things in my life, but my doubt was limiting Him. Third, there is power in prayer.

*MAP: What are your future educational plans?*

MRO: This fall I will be attending the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

## Faculty News . . .

**Stephen Bauer**, professor of Theology and Ethics, presented a seminar on issues related to the Trinity at Arden, North Carolina, and preached at Blue Ridge, Georgia, on “The Significance of Adventist Eschatology.” He also spoke at Lakeview Seventh-day Adventist Church in Powder Springs, Georgia, on the topic of righteousness by faith.



**Michael Hasel**, professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology, presented a seminar and a plenary address titled “Christ, Culture, and the Bible” for the Generation of Youth for Christ Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Recently he gave a paper titled “History, Egyptology, and the Bible” for the Biblical Foundations Conference in the Caribbean. He is currently on sabbatical working to complete three books and an Adult Sabbath School Study Guide.



**Greg King**, dean and professor of Biblical Studies, spoke in February for the Seminary Scholarship Symposium at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. His presentation was titled “Is Jesus Against the Law? Another Look at the Antitheses.” He also preached for a chapel service for the seminary students while he was there. Additionally, he contributed the chapter “Resurrection in the Old Testament: Hazy Hope or Certain Promise?” to a volume recently published by the Biblical Research Institute, which is titled *The Great Controversy and the End of Evil*.



**Judson Lake**, professor of Homiletics and Adventist Studies, presented a paper at the American Society of Church History titled “Ellen G. White, National Fast Days, and Emancipation.” He also attended the South American Biblical-Theological Symposium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and gave a paper titled “Ellen G. White and Her



Writings: The American Civil War.” This summer he will finish a manuscript for the book *A Nation in God’s Hands: The Civil War Visions of Ellen G. White*, to be published by Pacific Press in 2016.

**Carlos Martin**, professor of Evangelism and Missions, was the main speaker for the Congress of Evangelism in both the Central Tabasco and Isthmus Conferences in Mexico. He also conducted a Last-Day Events Seminar in Dalton, Georgia, and a Training for Evangelism Weekend in Gainesville, Georgia, followed by an evangelism reaping series in Gainesville.



Moreover, he spoke for the thirtieth anniversary of the 800-member Houston Spring Branch Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, which he planted.

**John Nixon**, professor of Theology and Spirituality, has been conducting research on sexuality and Christian college students. The research project is called “The Spirituality of Sexuality: A Biblical Study in Applied Theology.” As part of the research, an anonymous online survey on sexuality has been circulated, in which over 400 Southern students took part. The same survey is now being conducted on the campus of La Sierra University in Southern California. Nixon plans a book on the topic in the near future.



**Edwin Reynolds**, professor of New Testament Studies, recently signed a contract to write the teachers’ helps for an upcoming Adult Bible Study Guide on the epistles of 1 and 2 Peter. He also gave permission for three of his articles to be published in Spanish: one on Genesis 1-2 in the New Testament, one on 2 Cor 5:1-10, and one on Babylon in the book of Revelation. He is in the process of completing his commentary on the Johannine Epistles for the new *Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary*.



Greg King, Ph.D., Executive Editor  
Philip G. Samaan, D.Min., Editor  
Mary Anne Poulson, Assistant Editor

#### Faculty

Stephen R. Bauer, Ph.D.—Theology, Ethics  
Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D.—Archaeology, Biblical Languages  
Douglas Jacobs, D.Min.—Ministry, Homiletics  
Greg A. King, Ph.D.—Dean, Biblical Studies, Biblical Languages  
Martin Klingbeil, D.Litt.—Archaeology, Biblical Studies  
Judson S. Lake, Th.D.—Homiletics, Adventist Studies  
Donn Leatherman, Ph.D.—Old Testament Studies, Biblical Languages  
Carlos G. Martin, Ph.D.—Evangelism, Missions  
John S. Nixon, D.Min.—Theology, Spirituality  
Alan Parker, Th.D.—Missiology, Evangelism  
Edwin E. Reynolds, Ph.D.—New Testament Studies, Graduate Studies Coordinator  
Philip G. Samaan, D.Min.—Religion, Spirituality, Adventist Heritage  
Barry Tryon, D.Min.—Ministry, Spirituality

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## Summer 2015 Graduate Courses Offered

*Tuition: \$1800 (one 3-credit class)    Audit: \$900 (one 3-credit class)    Contact Edwin Reynolds: [reynolds@southern.edu](mailto:reynolds@southern.edu)*

### **RELB 530 Archaeological Fieldwork.**

(Professor: Martin Klingbeil) July 7-27

**RELB 546 Pauline Epistles.** A study of Paul's epistles, including Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. (Professor: Edwin Reynolds) June 15-25

**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. (Professor: Donn Leatherman) June 1-19

**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) June 1-12

### **RELP 532 Principles and Strategies of Church Growth.**

This course focuses on application of biblical principles of church growth to the North American church, as well as practical evangelistic strategies for the local Adventist congregation. (Professor: Alan Parker) June 15-25

**RELP 542 Urban Ministry and Evangelism.** A study of the city as the locus of mission and ministry. The course considers the forces which create cities, their development, and their ethos, with emphasis on the process of secularization and the church's holistic approach to the urban setting. Special attention is given to evangelism and church planting in the urban context. (Professor: Carlos Martin) July 13-24

**RELP 591 Evangelistic Preaching Practicum.** This course is offered in connection with a field school of evangelism. (Prerequisites: At least one introductory course in biblical preaching and official acceptance into a School of Religion graduate program.) May 12-31

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