

REACHING OUT

A bi-annual publication of the School of Religion
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General Conference President Speaks for Senior Consecration Weekend

Elder Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was the speaker for the School of Religion



President Ted N. C. Wilson

Senior Consecration April 15 and 16, 2011. The graduating class consisted of 44 graduating seniors with majors in archaeology, biblical studies, missions, pastoral care, religious education, religious studies, and theology.

His inspiring messages for the weekend rein-

forced the same vital themes of revival, reformation, and mission of the remnant church that he highlighted at his inaugural address in Atlanta last summer following his election to the presidency. For the vespers service Friday evening, the theme for his presentation was “Ambassadors for Christ,” in which he challenged us to represent Christ and take His everlasting gospel to all parts of the world. He emphasized the honor and responsibility of being ambassadors for the King of the universe as the greatest

endeavor in which any human being can be engaged.

During the Sabbath School service, Wilson’s message was titled “How Shall They Hear?” In that sermon he encouraged the graduating seniors to seek every opportunity to be equipped to share the Three Angels’ Messages with effectiveness under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. At the end of that session, he opened the floor for students to ask him questions; his answers were forthright and insightful.

The final message during the worship hour dealt with the theme “Proclaim God’s Truth!” It was quite evident during the sermon that he was wholeheartedly committed to the biblical truths that we cherish as Seventh-day Adventists. In view of the different ideas that

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many Christian churches promote relating to revival, worship, and evangelism, he stressed the fact that the most effective way to advance God's work has already been given to us through the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

The clear impression that Wilson left with the faculty and the students was that Jesus is coming soon and that our greatest and most urgent need is a revival of true godliness, fueled by the outpouring of the Latter Rain. Many were impressed with the fact that the new GC president was friendly and approachable, while speaking



Nancy Wilson

the truth with love.

Mrs. Nancy Wilson was joined by her husband for an afternoon meeting to speak to Mates in Ministry members, spouses, and faculty. Her topic was "What I Would Like to Have Known," in which she spoke about her experience in ministry and how to be effective as future ministerial spouses. She graciously answered many practical questions from the audience relating to this important topic. Students, faculty, and visitors left the weekend meetings with a renewed desire and commitment to spread God's message.

Tony Anobile Sr. Speaks for Trainee Induction by Tony Anobile Jr.

On January 21, 2010, I had the pleasure of introducing my father, Elder Tony Anobile, as the speaker for the Ministerial Trainee Induction vespers. After the 25 candidates were introduced to the audience by Greg King, I walked up on the stage of Collegedale Church and let the Southern campus meet my dad again. He told the audience that he would be preaching someone else's sermon but explained that his good friend Dr. David Taylor allowed him to "borrow" it because of the incredible message it has. He called it "The Mystery of the Sycamore Tree." It was a modern telling of Zacchaeus in Luke 19. It started by following Zacchaeus as he visited four people to collect taxes: a blind man, a woman with sickness, a demon-possessed man, and the mother of a dead boy. He shared their experiences with Jesus, and the audience was invited to sing along with the various people as they praise Jesus with "Amazing Grace," "He Touched Me," "I Surrender

All," and "Great is Thy Faithfulness." It was ended with a call to the audience to commit their lives to Christ.

The next morning was a more informal Sabbath School-type message about the boy who gave his loaves and fishes to Andrew and ended up feeding over 4,000 people when Jesus took his small gift and blessed it. The main point was that Jesus can take our small gifts and make them into miracles. The message was followed by a question-and-answer period.

This was followed by a short break, and then the main worship service started. Katie Jacobs had a children's story about her cat, and special music was performed by Brooke Durst and Amanda Withers. My dad spoke about John the Baptist and charged his listeners that as they go into the world as ministers, they are to be voices and not echoes. At the end of his sermon, the inductees were brought to the front and dedicated by Dr. King and all the ordained ministers.

Gerhard F. Hasel Lectureship 2011

The guest lecturer for the Gerhard F. Hasel Lectureship this year was Dr. John M. Monson, associate professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago. Dr. Monson grew up in Jerusalem until he returned to America



Dr. John Monson

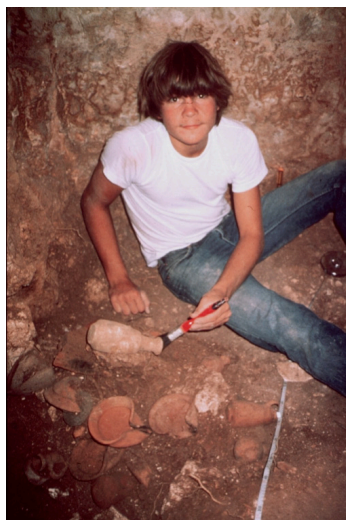
for college, so he has an intimate knowledge of the land of Israel. He speaks Hebrew and Arabic fluently. He has participated in many archaeological digs in Israel. He has an M.A. from the Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. With all of that experience, he was well qualified to address the student body on the topic “The Lessons of the Land,” showing the importance of the land of Israel at the crossroads of civilizations in salvation history.

His presentation at convocation on March 17 was illustrated by PowerPoint slides with maps, photos, and charts which illustrated his points. The lecture was very well received. 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 and the New Testament, addressing “The ‘Physical Theology’ of the New Testament,” again focusing on

the features of the land of Israel that made it conducive for God’s plan.

Dr. Monson not only spoke for the Hasel Lectureship, but the previous evening he also gave the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture, entitled “The Temple of Solomon: The Center of the Universe Then and Now.” He used historical and archaeological evidence for contemporary parallel structures to supplement and illustrate the biblical data in order to demonstrate what the Temple of Solomon was probably like. This use of the text, history, archaeology, and other backgrounds to bring together a more complete picture of the history of God’s revelation of His plan of salvation is Dr. Monson’s passion, and he did an excellent job of illustrating it. The topic is the subject of a new book by Dr. Monson about to be released by Oxford University Press on the Temple of Solomon.

Prior to the archaeological lecture, the School of Religion held a banquet to honor Dr. Monson and bring together a group of faculty, students, administrators, supporters, and guests to share an interest in good scholarship and academic camaraderie. This annual event is a highlight of the School of Religion’s academic calendar. Normally, the



John Monson as a young boy in Israel

guest speaker of the Hasel Lectureship gives a scholarly presentation at the banquet, but this year, because of the special qualifications of the guest lecturer, the archaeological museum lecture was combined with the Hasel Lectureship, so the banquet participants moved up to Lynn Wood Hall Auditorium after the banquet for the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture instead.

The School of Religion Welcomes Nixon, Klingbeil, and Tryon

In August of last year, the School of Religion welcomed Dr. John Nixon as a new professor of theology and spirituality. For the last two semesters, he has proven to be a great asset to the students as well as to his fellow faculty. His long experience in pastoring, especially on university campuses, gives him the added advantage of ministering to our majors, as well as to the campus at large. Dr. Nixon, prior to joining our School of Religion, served as the senior pastor of the Collegedale, Atlantic Union College, and Oakwood College/University churches. Moreover, he served as a pastor in major cities such as New York, Boston, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. While on the West Coast, he served as the vice president for the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Dr. John Nixon

We feel blessed to have Dr. Nixon as part of our faculty, because he combines the caring heart of a pastor and the keen mind of an educator. Even though pastoral ministry has always been his first love, his long-held dream was to someday engage young minds in the classroom and to train the ministerial students to be effective pastors.

Nixon received his B.A. from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), his M.A. from Fuller Theological Seminary, and his D.Min. from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Nixon is married to the former Januwoina Fields of Orangeburg, South Carolina, a career educator who presently serves as director of Learning Support Services for Southern Adventist University. The Nixons have three adult children: John II, a pastor in Durham, North Carolina; Paul, an English instructor at Oakwood University; and Clarise, an adjunct teacher for Oakwood University. John II and

his wife, April, have two children: John III and Julia.

Then in January 2011, the School of Religion and Institute of Archaeology welcomed Dr. Martin G. Klingbeil as a new faculty member and associate director of the Institute of Archaeology.



Dr. Martin Klingbeil

He received his undergraduate training at Bogenhofen Seminary and Helderberg College in theology and biblical languages. He went on to the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, where he completed an M.A. and D.Litt. in ancient Near Eastern studies.

His M.A. thesis and doctoral dissertation both focused on ancient Near Eastern seals, iconography, and their contribution to biblical studies. He has edited or been a contributor to a number of books and has published widely in peer-reviewed journals.

Before arriving at Southern, Klingbeil served as vice president for academic administration at Helderberg College in South Africa, a position he held for a full term of five years. Prior to that, he served as a professor at River Plate University in Argentina, as professor and dean of theology at Bolivian Adventist University, and as chair of the Department of Religion at Adventist University of Central Africa. He speaks German, Spanish, and English fluently, in addition to training in a number of ancient languages.

“He brings a high level of scholarship and a wealth of international experience that will be a tremendous benefit to students and the research projects of the Institute of Archaeology,” commented Institute director Michael Hasel. His responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses for the School of Religion and archaeology

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“In the Beginning”

The date was December 24, 1968. Christmas Eve. The Apollo 8 spacecraft, with its human cargo of Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders, was hurtling through space, far above Planet Earth. The time had arrived for their message to be broadcast.

Six weeks prior to launch, a NASA official had phoned Borman with an important directive. “Frank,” he said, “we need you to prepare a message to deliver to the world. We figure that more people will be listening to your voice than that of any other person in history. Plan to say something appropriate.”

What a challenge! What could be said that would be an appropriate message for an entire planet? What words could speak to Christian, Jew, and Muslim, American, European, South American, and Asian? What message could embrace us all?

The words that they chose to share were, in my opinion, the best of all possible choices. For that Christmas Eve, as those three Apollo astronauts shot through space, the message that they beamed back to their home planet began with those majestic, magnificent, profound words, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” And for the next few moments, the three men took turns as they read aloud the first ten verses of Genesis.

Unfortunately, though the biblical creation story was valued by Borman and his colleagues, it seems to have fallen on hard times, at least in some circles. Though it is the very first story in the Bible, laying the foundation for Scripture as a whole; though it is endorsed by Jesus Himself in the Gospels; though Paul, Peter, and the other apostles undoubtedly believed it, some people nowadays view it as outdated and obsolete, the product of a superstitious, prescientific age.

Sadly, there are a number of Christians, and even some Adventists, who advocate the position that the biblical creation story tells us little or nothing about how life on this planet really began. If you are really intelligent and erudite, or so the thinking goes, you show your brilliance by expressing your doubts about the biblical creation story.

But this path of skepticism and doubt should not be followed by those who believe in Scripture as God’s inspired revelation. To the contrary, these early chapters of Genesis provide the best resource we have for understanding how we came to be and why we are here. Moreover, the biblical creation story is foundational for what we believe and do as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, and we slight or ignore it to our own peril. In fact, it can be shown that every fundamental teaching of Christianity has its roots in the creation story, and if we lose the teaching of Genesis 1-2, we are bereft of something essential to our faith.

As just one brief example of this, note the close connection that exists between the beginning and the end of the biblical story and how the Bible comes full circle. When God concluded the work of creation, His new world was throbbing with life. There is no shadow of death, not even a mention of it, except for the warning that death will come if Adam and Eve veer from God’s plan (Genesis 2:17). The entire description bespeaks wholeness, vitality, and life.

Careful study of Scripture shows that this portrayal is a perfect foreshadowing of the Earth when it is restored. A beautiful world, perfect and unstained, without taint of sorrow, disease, or death, is just the type of place God plans to recreate (see Revelation 21-22). And the logical question is, If He never created a world like this in the first place, as some skeptics claim, how can He do it when He comes again? How can God restore us to that which never existed?

But for those of us who trust in the biblical record, who believe in the flawless, untainted beginning of our planet, God’s perfect creation in the beginning looks forward to His perfect re-creation and confirms His ability to do again that which He did before. May the day of re-creation, the time of full restoration, be soon!



Greg King, Dean
School of Religion

Students Receive Annual Awards and Scholarships

Recipient	Honor or Award Title
Bryan Banos	M. Reiber Ministerial Student Scholarship Endowment Fund
Edward Bryan	M. Reiber Ministerial Student Scholarship Endowment Fund
Jonathan Chitwood	Excellence in Hebrew
Robert Dabney Jr.	Stanley S. and Bennie Elizabeth Will Endowed Scholarship Fund
Jose (Alex) Diaz	R. L. and Martha Odom Scholarship Endowment Fund
Peter Emig	Donald and Mary Hunter Endowed Scholarship
Leif Harald Fredheim	Excellence in Greek; Outstanding Scholastic Achievement
Jeffrey Harper	Excellence in Missions; Outstanding Scholastic Achievement
Joshua McGraw	Excellence in Archaeology
Anthony Messer	Stanley S. and Bennie Elizabeth Will Endowed Scholarship Fund
Joel Miller	Donald and Mary Hunter Endowed Scholarship
Rolando Morgado	Outstanding Ministerial Candidate
Kendor Shy	Wilfred and Kathryn Cowdrick Endowed Scholarship Fund
Eric Suarez-Vasquez	Parry Berner Endowed Scholarship Fund
Alexander Voigt	Excellence in Evangelism
Jason Vyhmeister	Excellence in Biblical Preaching; Outstanding Scholastic Achievement
Jason Wheeler	Stanley S. and Bennie Elizabeth Will Endowed Scholarship Fund

SOR Welcomes New Professors (continued from p. 4)

programs. In addition, he will assist with the publications of the Institute of Archaeology, its excavation program, and the museum.

Dr. Klingbeil is joined by his wife, Thandi, who completed a masters degree in international development from Andrews University, and their three sons, Jonathan, David, and Mathias.

The School of Religion is also proud to introduce Dr. Barry J. Tryon as associate professor of religion. Dr. Tryon came to Southern Adventist University in January 2011 with extensive experience in pastoral ministry and conference leadership. He pastored several church districts in the Florida and Pennsylvania Conferences from 1994 to 2004 and served as ministerial director and executive secretary in the Pennsylvania Conference from 2004 to 2011. Dr. Tryon graduated from Southern



Dr. Barry Tryon

with a B.A. in theology and completed the M.Div. from Andrews University. In 2001 he received his D.Min. from Andrews University, where his dissertation focused on leadership mentoring of lay leaders in the church. Presently, Dr. Tryon is completing his Ph.D. in leadership from Andrews.

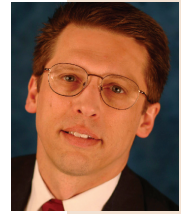
When asked why he chose to come to Southern's School of Religion, Tryon said, "I see this as a wonderful opportunity to use both my pastoral and administrative background to help prepare future pastors, teachers, and chaplains for service in our denomination."

Tryon will be involved in leadership of this summer's Recharge Pastoral Summer Study Retreat, and this coming school year he will be teaching Christian Spirituality, Evangelistic Preaching, Life and Teachings of Jesus, Interpersonal Ministry, and Introduction to Ministry.

Dr. Tryon's wife, Lilly, works for Southern's School of Nursing as well as for the Health Department of the General Conference. They have two sons: Daniel, a graduate of Andrews University; and David, a junior biology major at Southern.

Faculty News . . .

Stephen Bauer, Professor of Theology and Ethics, conducted four seminars on the Holy Spirit at Florida Conference Camp Meeting. He spoke for the McDonald Road SDA Church with a message titled “Who is the Holy Spirit?” and again at the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, SDA Church on “Corinthian Character.” He presented a weekend seminar on forgiveness at Rainesville, Alabama. His article “Does the Emancipation Proclamation Illustrate the Plan of Salvation?” was published in the April 2011 *Biblical Research Institute Newsletter*.



Douglas Jacobs, Professor of Ministry and Homiletics, participated in a “Havdalah” service, a closing-of-the-Sabbath ceremony, at the Chattanooga Jewish Cultural Center, then participated in a panel discussion with a Jewish rabbi and Episcopal priest, sharing the significance of light in our respective traditions. He gave a preaching seminar to the pastors of the Gulf States Conference during their workers’ meeting and was the speaker for the Fletcher, North Carolina, SDA Church Elders’ Retreat at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.



Judson Lake, Professor of Homiletics and Adventist Studies, spoke at the following places on Ellen White issues: Georgia-Cumberland Conference Ministers’ Meeting; Kansas City Camp Meeting; Three Angels Broadcasting Network Symposium on the Trumpets; Southern California Conference Ministers’ Meeting; and Florida Conference Camp Meeting.



Martin Klingbeil, Professor of Archaeology and Biblical Studies, made a presentation titled “The Sure Word of Prophecy.” on Southern’s campus at the Adventist Theological Society seminar. He was the guest presenter for the monthly joint Sabbath School in February at Chattanooga First Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is working on an ongoing basis as a sponsor for the Spanish General Youth Congress section on the forming of a new South East Youth Congress Spanish chapter. He published an article in the *Journal of the Adventist Theological Society* titled “Creation in the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament” and finished a dictionary article for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*: “Divine Warrior in the Hebrew Bible.”



John Nixon, Professor of Theology and Spirituality, preached this spring at the Magazine Street SDA Church in Louisville, Kentucky. He was also a guest speaker at the Korean Camp Meeting at Cohutta Springs, Georgia.



Alan Parker, Professor of Evangelism and Missiology, presented a paper on “Discipleship as Education” at a conference in Mexico. He is leading the development of a new program called S.A.L.T (Soul-winning And Leadership Training), which will offer evangelism certification at SAU. This summer he will be involved with a field school of evangelism in West Palm Beach, Florida, will speak at a camp meeting in Norway, and will also present at an Adventist Revival Movement for the Endtime Bible Camp in Spokane, Washington.



Barry Tryon, Professor of Ministry and Spirituality, spoke at the Student Ministerial Association monthly ministry seminar, sharing from an administrator’s perspective on the current conditions of employment and the hiring process in the North American Division and on he also gave resume suggestions. He spoke in West Palm Beach for the churches involved in this summer’s evangelistic field school. The topic was on preparing our own lives to be used of God to bring others to Him.



Summer 2011 Graduate Courses Offered

Tuition: \$1,575 (one 3-credit class) Audit: \$788 (one 3-credit class) Contact Susan Brown: sbrown@southern.edu

June 6-17 Intensives

RELG 600 Research Methods and Writing

A course dealing with techniques and tools, including library and online sources available for theological research. Emphasis is given to expository and persuasive writing skills, documentation styles, and bibliography in various religious disciplines. (Professor: Steve Bauer)

RELT 538 Prophetic Guidance in the Adventist Church

An in-depth study of the gift of prophecy as seen in the life and ministry of Ellen G. White. Controversial issues in revelation and inspiration are explored. (Professor: Jud Lake)

June 20-July 1 Intensives

REL P 570 World Mission

A broad introduction to Christian world missions, covering aspects of the theology of missions, the history of missions, various philosophies of mission, and strategies for implementing missions. (Professor: Carlos Martin)

REL P 524 Evangelistic Preaching

This course concentrates on the development and delivery of Christ-centered, distinctively Adventist messages, with emphasis on soul-winning decisions and the use of multi-media. Instruction includes sermon preparation for an evangelistic series. (Professor: John Nixon)

July 11-22 Intensives

REL T 531 Hermeneutics and Biblical Interpretation

An investigation into fundamental hermeneutical presupposition and the formulation of both sound principles of biblical interpretation and proper methods of interpreting the writing of Ellen White. (Professor: Edwin Reynolds)

REL B 555 Studies in Daniel

A study of the prophecies and symbolism of Daniel to discover their meaning and relevance for today
(Professor: Martin Klingbeil)

On-campus housing is available upon request.



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Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D.: Archaeology; Biblical Languages
Douglas Jacobs, D.Min.: Ministry; Homiletics
Greg A. King, Ph.D.: Biblical Studies; Biblical Languages
Martin Klingbeil, D.Litt.: Archaeology; Biblical Studies
Judson S. Lake, Th.D.: Homiletics; Adventist Studies
Donn W. Leathemman, Ph.D.: Old Testament; Biblical Lang.
Carlos G. Martin, Ph.D.: Evangelism; Mission
John Nixon, D.Min.: Theology; Spirituality
Alan Parker, Ph.D.: Missiology; Evangelism
Edwin E. Reynolds, Ph.D.: New Testament; Biblical Languages
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Douglas Tisira, Ph.D.: Ministry; Leadership
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