Lifeline Keeping the Sunset family connected SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE • SUMMER 2009

Also in this issue: Extension School's Correspondent begins on page 13!

Fill the Chair



Fill the Chair

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I, send me!"

From the earliest times, God has been in the business of recruiting preachers and missionaries. He called Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, and the other prophets. Jesus

was just as intentional in His personal ministry. He shouldertapped Peter, Andrew, James, and John, challenging them to become "fishers of men" (Mark 1:16-20). He appointed them, along with eight others, to be His apostles "that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach" (Mark 3:14).

There has never been a greater need for preachers and missionaries than today. More and more congregations in our country are without preachers. In foreign countries, people are languishing in sin without a gospel spokesman. There has never been a greater need for parents to encourage their children, for church leaders to shoulder tap their best and brightest, and for congregations to step up their support of preacher training. There has never been a greater need for willing volunteers to say "Here am I, send me."

A recent graduate of Sunset, who along with his wife is planning for a mission to a foreign country, said this in his "senior interview":

"Our training here has been exactly what we needed. We came here with very high expectations, having known a number of graduates, but our experience has surpassed all our expectations. You have helped to grow and transform our lives and our marriage. We now feel prepared to provide what is needed when we go to the mission field."

We came here with very high expectations, having known a number of graduates, but our experience has surpassed all our expectations. You have helped to grow and transform our lives and our marriage.

One good way for congregations and Christian individuals to help "Fill the Chair" is to participate generously in the "Sunset special contribution Šunday" on September 27th. Donations on that Sunday (or a time more convenient for you) will be used to help fill the "missions and pulpit pipeline" with worthy candidates. Your partnership can help us to recruit and train AIM students, preaching students, missionaries, and mission teams. Sunset faculty members will be available on that Sunday (or surrounding Sundays) to speak at participating congregations to challenge God's people to "Fill the Chair."

The empty chair remains at Sunset as a challenge to our brotherhood to "FILL THE CHAIR." If you can't fill the chair in person, encourage and support someone who can. The future of the Lord's church and the salvation of multitudes may depend on how well we respond.



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Sunset Sunday Taking the Word by the Body to the Lost!

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International Bible Institute



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We are asking your congregation to take a special contribution on the fourth Sunday in September (September 27th) to provide more workers and resources for the harvest of souls. The gifts we receive from this effort will help to provide the needed funding for five essential ministries:

Training 60 preachers and 25 missionaries at our Lubbock campus	\$250,000
Equipping 1,100 foreign nationals in our International Branch Schools	\$150,000
Teaching 7,000 people through online and distance learning courses	\$100,000
Preparing 60 young people as missionary apprentices in AIM	\$100,000
Translating 10 Bible courses into international languages	\$50,000
Total needed to increase the harvest	\$650,000

sibi.cc/SunsetSunday09

Jpportunity Knocks



Children that came to a recent VBS in Mexicali. Mexico

The Woodward Park Church of Christ in Fresno, CA, and the Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI) in Lubbock, TX, want to announce to our brotherhood the establishment of a new preacher training facility in Mexicali, Mexico. The Latin American Bible Institute, LABI, is scheduled to begin classes on August 24th of this year. The dormitories have been completed, the classrooms are under construction, the teaching staff has been assembled, and equipment is being purchased.

The school will initially have a capacity to house 32 students, who will be taught in a two-year program with curriculum provided by Sunset to take the whole gospel to the Spanish-speaking world. However, as soon as the school is up and running, we will begin satellite schools in several additional locations including Fresno, CA, where we will utilize interactive video-conferencing and top quality instructors from around the country. The goals are four-fold: (1) to establish the New Testament church in those communities where it does not currently exist, (2) to attract Spanish-speaking people to established congregations, (3) to build a unity in Christ that bridges language, culture, and ethnicity, and (4) to win souls to Christ and disciple them to maturity.

This is an exciting, bold, and comprehensive outreach. There is one hurdle to be crossed before the school's opening, raising the funds to provide scholarships for the students. We can support them for \$350 to \$450 each per month. We are now seeking what we call "Chair Partners" who will join us in supporting students in the school. This funding will go to beginning students while they are in school, and when they graduate the funding will go to another beginning student. You can help make this possible by partnering with us to sponsor one or more chairs.

The new school sits on the same property as the Mexicali church, where Esteban Lopez has been the minister for 35 years and has established a reputation among the people. The church is growing and has many involved young families. When we recently helped with a VBS in Mexicali, approximately 40 children showed up on the first day. The next day we had about 80, and the numbers continued to grow. The picture above could have been taken in Dos Palos, CA, or Mexicali, Mexico, or in your community. This is the most comprehensive outreach to the Hispanic community our brotherhood has ever undertaken, and we invite you to be a part of it.

www.labionline.com Woodward Park Church of Christ, 7886 N. Millbrook Ave. Fresno, CA 93720 Ph: (559) 446-2550 Attn: Gary L. Villamor



Ed Wharton Jeaches in Singapore



Ed Wharton with John Massie. '80. and the students in Singapore

reginning March 24 through April 21, 2009, Ed taught The Scheme of Redemption in the international school in Singapore. The school is not yet in session full-time, but there were Several students auditing the class. The intent of the Sunset International Bible Institute -Singapore (SIBIS) is to bring Chinese students from the small house churches in Mainland China to Singapore and keep them for a term or for the two years it takes to graduate with a Bachelor of Bibilical Studies.

At this time, the Pasir Panjang church will host the school. The church is planning to build an upper story on their church building which will house the students. Attendance at the Pasir Panjang congregation was 280 about 3 years ago, but now there are 397 in attendance. Souls are being saved. Ed plans to return to teach in the Singapore school annually until Chinese teachers can be trained. Ed taught alongside Charles Cook (former Sunset instructor in missions) and Tom Goracke, '95. Both men and families have done a tremendous work in Singapore.

Please continue to pray for the school in Singapore. The school faced several obstacles, including government restrictions and lmited student housing. God is still in control and our prayer is that the school will be running full time in the near future.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Recently I had the blessing of interviewing Behailu Abebe, a great man of God who has served the Lord in Ethiopia for more than 40 years. God has used him to help in leading thousands to Christ, saving hundreds of thousands of lives through clean water development projects, planting churches, and beginning more than a dozen formal schools that either train preachers or educate the destitute and handicapped. The preacher training schools are graduating 120 preachers per year, and the schools for the deaf and poor educate more than 800 deaf children and hundreds of destitute Ethiopian children each year. Since 2002, Behailu's ministry has participated in digging 263 water wells that now provide fresh water to 1.5 million Ethiopians. God has worked in wonderful ways in Ethiopia over the past 40 years.

Bahailu is adamant that a significant reason the ministry has flourished in Ethiopia is because from the time the Churches of Christ landed on the ground those early missionaries emphasized raising up indigenous leaders and funding ministry with indigenous

money. He believes that Ethiopians have begun taking ownership in what God wants to do through them, and that is why the church is taking off in Ethiopia. He remains adamant that Ethiopians need to fund and lead their own churches rather than being dependent on American missionaries and support. And, with God's help, they are doing so.

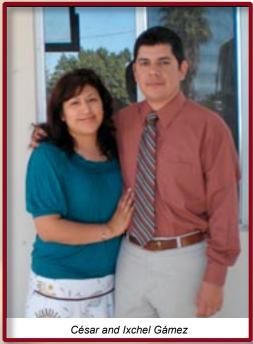
It makes me wonder what we can learn from this example. We seem to be in a regressive process in our society, and this may be infecting the theology of the church. As we seek to do better with the less fortunate than we have in the past, let's not give in to thinking that dependency is good for people or that it's God's desire for them. Let's seek wellness and blessing for one another. This will require more time, energy, and money. It will likely mean owning up to mistakes that we have made as churches, as well as mistakes made by those who are in need of help. This is the hard path to healing. There is rarely an easy one.

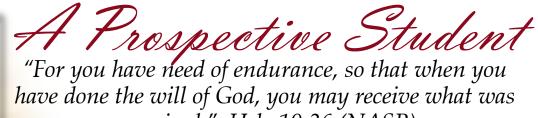
Thomas Sowell said in a column recently, "We (Americans) seem to be moving steadily in the direction of a society where no one is responsible for what he himself did, but we are all responsible for what somebody else did, either in the present or in the past." I agree with his assessment. Ethiopians, of all people, have good reason to be dependent on whomever, and no one could blame them. They suffered immensely through Communist takeover/persecution and the most severe famine the earth has ever seen. Nevertheless, they understood that dependency is not God's plan for them, and are now doing things in their own land that we Americans can't seem to do in our own.

Perhaps we can take a cue from our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia, and strive to be a society in which we all understand that we are owed nothing, but given much. What we do with what has been entrusted to us is something we will be held accountable for some day. This shouldn't scare us, but rather inspire us to do whatever we can with the time, talent, and treasure that's been entrusted to us by God. This reality should shape how we minister to and among the poor.

Reprinted from http://www.timspivey.com/

[] YES, I/we will help. Enclosed is my one time gift in the a	mount of \$	
[] YES, I/we will help on a monthly basis in the amount of \$	per month.	
[] YES, count on me/us to participate in the Sunset Sunday	/ special contribution at	congregation
You may also give online	by clicking the Donate	button at www.sibi.cc
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promised." Heb. 10:36 (NASB)

l very year in many places, the scholar cycle ends in May or June. Before thinking of returning the next semester, students delight in the fact that they have many weeks ahead of spare time. There is another group of people who will become students as soon as the summer is over. This group of people must go through the admission process and perhaps obtain financial aid. I remember last year during this time when my family and I were going through a similar process. As early as March, my wife and I had decided to come to Sunset International Bible Institute. The process sometimes seemed slow and uncertain, and during that time my father was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The majority of our financial support did not come until the end of <mark>June, and our studen</mark>t visas were approved just one week before our planned departure from Mexico to Lubbock. We arrived in Lubbock on Wednesday before school started without a place to stay, with just our personal belongings and nothing more. I wish I could share our trip pictures with you, but we lost our camera and pictures during the first week of classes. In spite of everything we went through during those first months, God worked in many wonderful ways to bring us to Sunset and provided us with

safety, allowing us to become established in a different country, a new home, and a new life. I could list many specific things that I am grateful for, but I would like to say that the greatest blessing of all has been to dedicate our time to study and preaching of the Word of God.

Today, I know there are many brothers and sisters, singles and whole families, who have decided to come to Sunset to prepare for the ministry of God's word. They are facing situations that cause them to have doubts about their outcome when summer is over. They are asking themselves questions. Am I going to be able to raise enough financial support? Am I ready to move away from my current profession? Is this really what God wants me to do? Am I prepared for the rigorous study that will be required? Consider the brothers and sisters who may be going through this process today. Encourage them to trust in the Lord. Send them a letter and offer your prayer support. You are invited to join us in prayer each Friday morning when we lift prospective students up to our God, trusting that He will "work within them, you and me," for the glory and praise of His name (Eph. 3:20-21).

By César Gámez



Ken Wilson teaching the graduate students in the first Intensive Week in April

MASTER'S

The Bachelor of Biblical Studies (BBS) degree is now being offered in our resident program and our graduates have been upgrading their Biblical studies certificates to the bachelor's degree by completing leveling courses. We are now pleased to announce that in April our first Graduate Intensive Week was held with nine students in pursuit of their Master of Biblical Studies degree (MBS).

Nine of our graduates have begun the two-year process of attaining the Master of Biblical Studies. degree These students have completed the first round of classes and have begun the first set of In-Ministry Courses, as well as work on their thesis. All of the students have commented on the high quality and value of what they have received from the teachers in the classroom as well as through their assignments.

New students will begin classes in the Fall when these same students return for the second Intensive Week of classes.

For more information about the Master of Biblical Studies degree visit sibi.cc/masters and listen to what our graduate students are saying about this new and exciting opportunity.

GRADUATES OLD AND NEW

n Saturday, May 23rd, the 78th class graduated. Thirty resident students received their Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree, including five from our interactive video conference site in Puyallup, Washington, and one from Fall River, Massachusetts. Additionally, six resident students received the Associate of Biblical Studies degree.

Two external studies students received bachelor's degrees. David Hankins, minister of the Needville, Texas, Church of Christ received his BBS and a posthumous degree was awarded to Joshua Taliaferro, who passed away before he could graduate. His diploma was received by his wife, Samantha, and his

brother-in-law, Andrew Fridelle, who will be a student at Sunset in August. Ten associate degrees and a number of certificates were also awarded to external studies students.

Eighty-nine alumni from years past received bachelor's degrees, having done the required leveling courses to qualify. The first alumni degree was awarded to Walter Maxwell, a 1970 graduate who was our commencement speaker.

The theme for the occasion was "Preaching the Word, Serving the Body, Loving the Lost." Walter Maxwell, from the Roosevelt Freeport Church of Christ in Roosevelt, NY, addressed the graduates and the rest of the audience with a stirring charge to go and preach the gospel.

Many of the graduates will minister in local congregations in the following U.S. states:

Oklahoma New York Texas Washington

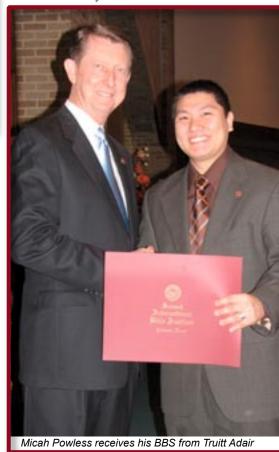


West Virginia

The remaining graduates plan to do missions. Seventeen of those will be returning for one of our largest School of Missions classes in 20 years. These graduates will be proclaiming the gospel in:

China Costa Rica Estonia Latvia Mexico Scotland South Africa Thailand

Although they were not present at the graduation ceremony, mention was made and praises were offered for the over 500 recent graduates from Sunset's International Schools this year, in Albania, Philippines, Cambodia, Ukraine, Greece, Liberia, and many more. In addition, several dozen young men and women graduated in March from Sunset's Adventures In Missions (AIM) program. Joining more than 4,000 existing alumni of various disciplines at Sunset, these graduates go forth well-equipped for the great task of preaching the whole gospel to the whole world, wholly to please God. Our prayers for strength, our hope for the future, and our dream for the evangelization of the world accompany these graduates as they begin a new phase of their ministry lives.



SUNSET INTERNATION 78TH GRADU

BACHELOR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES





Mattthew Allen Cameron Lubbock, TX Hitchcock, TX

Darrell K. Chappel Advanced Missions Tartu. Estonia



Advanced Missions Mexico



ita Marie Hard Lubbock, TX



Pamela D. McAdams Advanced Missions Scotland

Antonio Meleno Advanced Missions Costa Rica



Scotland

Spencer B. Newburn Tulsa, OK

John Richard Prat Ivan E. Pnce de Leion S Mexico undertermined



Recardo Reyes Advanced Missions Mexico



Joseph Taylor Robles Wichita, KS



César Eduardo Roch Advanced Missions Mexico Citv



Franklin Martin Smith rev Scott Sims Advanced Missions Port Elizabeth, South Africa Mexico



Kevin Charles Smith Roosevelt, NY



Christopher Reed Tomberlin Lubbock Christian University



Christina Marie Vick Advanced Missions Scotland



Advanced Missions Scotland



Kenneth Lyle Walters Port Elizabeth, South Africa



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BACHELOR OF DEAF BIBLICAL

STUDIES







imothy J. Boler DuPont, WA

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Jonathan M. Har West Virginia



Robert Thomas Puyallup, WA

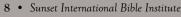


icah S. Pow Moses Lake, WA





Lubbock, TX



NAL BIBLE INSTITUTE ATING CLASS

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES



Mexico



Mayra Melendez Advanced Missions Costa Rica



Karina Marie Sims Advanced Missions Mexico Delphinium Smith Port Elizabeth, South Africa



Jessica (Smith) McGaug Lubbock, TX

ASSOCIATE OF **DEAF BIBLICAL** STUDIES



Hitchcock, TX SENIOR ADVENTURES IN MINISTRY

PRISCILLA



Jennifer Lynn Aaron Advanced Missions Scotland

Monica Reyes Advanced Missions Mexico

SCHOOL OF MISSIONS





ERNAL STUDIES DIVISION CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF **BIBLICAL STUDIES** BASIC BIBLICAL STUDIES



BACHELOR **OF BIBLICAL**

STUDIES

avid Hanl Needville, TX



oshua Taliaferro In Memoriam



Raymond A. Bowden Jr. Peter Adavbiele Fresno, CA Nigeria



Donald R. Carnathan Baytown, TX



James P. Chaisson West Brookfield, MA



Daryl Craig Hayes Albuquerque, NM





Luther Coope

Ornetta I Cra Windsor Mill, MD





Pikesville, MD

dward Plana Fresno, CA

Sunset International Bible Institute • 9



Michelle Have Albuquerque, NM



Fairmont. WV

Paul Joseph Oates Fairmont, WV



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Thao S. Vang Sangor, CA



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October 31, 2008 - May 31, 2009

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	anca Mallega LIM and Lannar	1	Kirby & Lynn Huffman	1	
Sandee, Ch	Harold & Joyce Steen		Bob & Sandy Jackson		

DEPARTURES

Jorge (George) Del Bosque, '07, died holding his sister's hand on July 21 in Alaska. Jorge came to SIBI from the Graham Street church of Christ in Stephenville, TX. Jorge showed faithful determination in his studies and finished with the enduring love and respect of his classmates and instructors. After graduation he went on to serve the Lord through ministry in Brazil and Alaska



Gene Griese, **'92**, died during the night of December 25, 2008, in Indiana. He and his wife Christine both went through the school.

Debbie Hale, wife of Jason Hale, '02, died March 23, 2009.

Larry Hoover, '77, died suddenly at his home on Maple Street in Stratford on Sunday, February 22, 2009, at the age of 73. Larry and his wife Marjorie (Wilson) were in their 53rd year of marriage. Larry was raised in Aylmer, Ontario, where he and his father ran a well-drilling business. In 1975, Larry and Marjorie moved to Texas where he attended Sunset to become an evangelist. He worked for Churches of Christ in St. Thomas, Thessalon, and Stratford, Ontario. Larry served on the board for Great Lakes Bible College in Waterloo, Ontario. Larry worked for Canada Post for 18 years in Stratford as a Rural Route Carrier.

Ethel McGuiggan, wife of Jim McGuiggan, '67, passed away April 12, 2009. Jim and Ethel have been living in Northern Ireland.

Lon Mohundro, '76, went to sleep in his recliner and awoke in the arms of Jesus on April 11, 2009. He had served the Lord as a minister to churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, for 27 years after graduating from Sunset in 1976. He retired from full time work in 2003 but continued to serve the Lord to the end of his life in Charlotte, North Carolina.

John Adjei Nyarkoh, '05 graduate of Swedru International Bible Institute, Agona Swedru, Ghana, passed on to be with his Lord of the 26th of June 2009 after a short illness. John was also one of the administrators at Swedru International Bible Institute, Agona Swedru. A good Bible teacher is lost to the Kingdom. He left behind a wife and two boys, who are ten and seven years old.

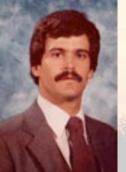


Joshua Taliaferro, 24, of Needville, Texas passed away at his home on January 10, 2009. Joshua graduated from Sweeny High School in 2002, where he embraced his natural ability to entertain as their bulldog mascot. Joshua brought joy to all those around him. However, the biggest joy in Joshua's life was his wife, Samantha, whom he married on June 7, 2008. Samantha stood by Joshua as he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies at Sunset, which he was due to complete in February, 2009. His memory was honored at graduation in May by presenting his wife, Samantha, with his degree. Joshua interned at Sweeny



Church of Christ and guest preached at several churches of Christ in the area including League City, Pearland, Mainland in Texas City, and West Side in Alvin. Joshua was a member of Needville Church of Christ, where he also ministered. When Joshua was not preaching, he spent time as a counselor at Sweeny Jr. High as well as at Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp and Camp Hensel.Whether in a church, in front of a crowd of many, or one on one with a family member or friend, Joshua brought love, joy, peace, and laughter to every life he touched and will be deeply missed and remembered often.

Edward (Eddie) Wharton, Jr., '82, died on February 13, 2009. Eddie was the son of Ed and Martha Wharton. He was born in Tampa, Florida, and died in Charleston, West Virginia. Besides being a 1982 graduate of the Sunset School of Preaching, Eddie was a certified EMT. His love for people, especially those hurting and in need, was evident in his work with the EMT. A memorial service was held at the Sunset Church of Christ in Lubbock. The family asked that in lieu



of flowers, memorials be made to the Sunset International Bible Institute.

Richard Ivan Woodward, '71, went to be with the Lord on January 22, 2009. During his high school years, he moved to Kerrville, Texas. After high school, Ivan was a communication officer in the Navy. His first training to be a preacher was in Amarillo, where he met Lenga Graham. They were married December 21, 1956, in Littlefield. They moved to Kansas City, where he was a railroad telegraph



operator. Later, he farmed the family farm near Ralls before attending Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock. After preaching for several years, Ivan and Lenga moved to South Texas. While there, he worked on a ranch and then became a Post Master for the Barksdale Post Office. It was soon after his retirement from the post office that his health started to decline, and they moved to Ralls to be close to doctors. The most important job to Ivan was the time he spent telling the good news of a risen Lord. His ministry touched many lives.



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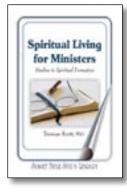
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by Dr. Truman Scott



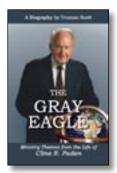
Greatly expanded from the Sunset classroom course The Minister's Spiritual Life, this book by Dr. Truman Scott addresses an ever-present need of those in ministry. The 24 chapters in the book focus on attitudes of the heart, priorities and commitments, biblical foundations, healthy personal relationships, and a godly lifestyle. Truman Scott, with his considerable classroom experience, counseling background and pastoral and ministerial lifestyle, has done an excellent job of addressing this need. As Dr. J. J. Turner says, "With this new book, Spiritual Living for Ministers, Dr. Truman Scott has made a major contribution to the continuing growth and education of every minister who will read and study this great work. It has been written out of the crucible of experience."

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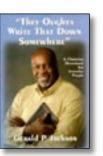
The Gray Eagle is the story of over 60 years of ministry by Cline R. Paden-gospel preacher, missionary to Italy and Denmark, and founder of the Sunset School of Preaching (now Sunset International Bible Institute) in Lubbock, Texas. "Following the Apollo moon landing on July 20, 1969, America heard these historic words: 'The Eagle has landed.' Cline said, 'I want these words to be inscribed on my tombstone.' That said so much about him: his energy, his pioneer spirit, his courage, his on-the-edge

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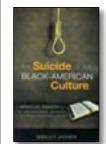
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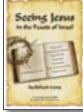
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