

## Go Plant a Seed and Grow a Preacher

It was a long time ago, and I was very young, but I remember it like it was yesterday. Our local preacher announced that he was going to begin a young men's training class, and he asked me

to participate. I was a teenager and had no thoughts about preaching, but he taught us how to lead singing, lead prayer, serve communion and how to give a talk from the Bible. After a few classes, our preacher, Charles Lemons, put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Son, you have the ability to become a gospel preacher." A seed was planted.

After Kay and I were married we attended the young married couples' class at our congregation, the Eastside Church of Christ in Phoenix. Our teacher, a businessman named Jack Calvin, told us that he would "lead" the class, but we as young men would learn to "teach the class." He went on to say that he had volunteered me to "give a Sunday sermon" at a small congregation in Wickenburg, Arizona, in a few weeks. My feeble attempt at a sermon was complimented by a benevolent congregation. Our teacher said, "Truitt, with more practice you have the ability to become a good preacher." Another seed was planted.



"I'm either going to have to find out how to do this right, or I'm giving it up."

(Pictured, the Country Parson speaks in a skit at Homecoming Hogwash)

"I really don't know what I am doing. I'm afraid I may be telling these people the wrong things. I'm either going to have to find out how to do this right, or I'm giving it up."

Kay wisely suggested that I should get a Bible education at some school. We went to talk with her Dad who was an elder in our congregation. He showed me an article in the *Firm Foundation* about a new school of preaching in Lubbock, Texas, started by a former missionary named Cline Paden. I called the number listed and listened for an hour as Cline passionately spoke of the need for preachers and the relationship between ability and responsibility, before I finally surrendered and enrolled. **More seeds were planted.** 

Before leaving Phoenix, I visited my old elementary school homecoming and talked with my former sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Turner. I said, "You'll probably faint when I tell you that I'm going to school to become a preacher."

"No, I'm not surprised," she said. She opened a big filing cabinet and pulled out an old file and showed me her predictions for what everyone would be when they grew up. Mine read "I predict that Truitt will either be a circus clown or a traveling evangelist." An early seed was planted that I didn'teven remember. (Some might say, however, that I missed my real calling.)

I preached several more times at small congregations in Arizona getting my sermons from a sermon outline book loaned to me by my brother-in-law. After one sermon I confided in Kay,

I hope those who read this will plant some *preaching seeds* in the hearts of young men. God provides the gifts, the abilities, the power, and the message, but we must plant seeds, provide encouragement, support, and training. **Go** plant a seed and grow a preacher.



Lifeline is a publication of Sunset International Bible Institute. Publication and mailing address is 3723 34th Street, Lubbock, Texas USA 79410. Phones: 800 / 658-9553 or 806 / 788-3259. Editing: Bob Jackson • Design & Layout: Jeff Rader

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# "Who Am I Not to Forgive You?" "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" - Ephesians 2:8

osh Floyd understands the word "Grace" in ways that many of us never will. Josh grew up in Kaufman, Texas, living with his dad and grandmother. He attended church. He knew who God and Jesus were, but at the age of 12, life changed directions for Josh. Josh began to use drugs. Not long after that he began to steal. It was part of a lifestyle that

At the age of 20 he and Amanda married. Their lifestyle consisted of drinking, drugs, and parties. In 2004, Josh was working at Intermodal Cartage as a trailer inspector. Using his job to gain access, Josh and two friends stole a truck loaded with \$300,000 worth of motorcycles. Josh had hidden from Amanda the extent of his drug use and the things that he had stolen. It was not until the police broke down the door of their home to arrest Josh that she knew he lived a different life outside of their home. The Vice President of the company was there when Josh was questioned. Josh had never met him before, but Josh cursed him as the police led him away. Since some of the motorcycles were recovered and this was his first offense, Josh's sentence was ten years probation and \$78,000 in restitution. He escaped a more serious sentence, but God wasn't through getting Josh's attention.

Josh and Amanda began to change their lives. In an effort to stay together, they began going to church and stopped living the lifestyle that had caused so much trouble. Josh became a union foreman for building sprinkler systems. Things appeared to be getting better, but there was no way he could keep up with the payments of over \$650 per month for the restitution. Finally, he was pulled over and was found with marijuana. Now that he had violated his probation and was behind on his restitution payments, he had to go to court again to be resentenced. It was then that Josh saw God working

The day before his sentencing, the Vice President of his former company, Lynn Parrish, an elder of the Great Oaks Church of Christ near Memphis, Tennessee, called to ask the prosecutor how Josh was doing. Lynn did not know about his probation violation; he just wanted to talk with Josh. He asked how things had changed, and Josh told him about his job and that he was going to church. After verifying what Josh told him, Lynn called the court and asked that the remaining restitution be dropped completely.

In complete amazement, Josh called Lynn and asked him why he would do this. Lynn told him, "I have a God who sent his Son to forgive my sins. Who am I not to forgive you?" This was the same man that Josh had cussed out when the police took him from his home. Josh experienced mercy that he did not even know existed.

Josh quickly began to learn all he could about God. Josh could not stop telling about how great God is. Not only did Josh and Amanda attend church, but Josh began preaching. Josh had been baptized with Amanda about four years earlier, but it was to show Amanda that he was serious about changing his marriage. In 2008, after preaching for a while, Josh decided he needed to be baptized for the remission of sins.

Soon after, Ozzy McDaniel, a '08 graduate preaching nearby, encouraged Josh to consider attending Sunset to strengthen his faith and keep the fire alive that was inside of him. When Josh applied to come to Sunset, he had to appear in court to ask the judge to change his place of probation from Dallas county to Lubbock. To his surprise and in an unheard of decision, the court forgave the remaining seven years of probation. He was given forgiveness and freedom. Josh and Amanda moved their family to Lubbock and started classes in January of 2009.

Josh completed all of his courses in December, 2010. The family has moved to Sturgis, South Dakota, where Josh will preach full time. They are both growing in faith and knowledge. They have peace that only comes through serving God and are raising their children to know and love the God of perfect grace, forgiveness, and freedom.

Josh said, "Don't ever give up on anyone who has a problem like I had. My grandmother prayed for me every night. She never gave up hope that I would find God. If you have a chance to attend Sunset, come now! The things I have learned have grounded me in faith and love."

-Linda Wagner



The Adventure of Retirement

The first Senior Adventures class met in January 1995, with four couples from the Sojourners program who were used to traveling and dealing with new experiences. As word began to spread about this new ministry, we received many phone calls and letters about potential participation by a wide range of applicants. Students have come from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, South Dakota, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Kentucky, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Connecticut, Texas, Australia, Bermuda, Antigua, Russia, and Scotland.



Upon arrival, new students have an opportunity to make friends with many people from other parts of the world, including the young students in Adventures in Missions and the students who are involved in the two year training program at Sunset International Bible Institute. They become acquainted with the instructors and learn Bible, share life skills, and gain

confidence in their Christian walk. They learn how to use their life skills effectively in outreach locally as well as in other places.

Senior Adventures in Ministry encourages each student to find the niche that best fits them at this stage in their life whether that be in domestic outreach, local ministry, short-term foreign missions, or anything else that God has enabled them to do. Senior AIM strives to show examples of people in like circumstances who have had a spiritual adventure at a time of life when so many in our culture consider it a time to do basically nothing.

Following Senior AIM, students have gone on to resumed Sojourning or became new Sojourners, traveled on short term missions in the United States and abroad, and many have become more involved in individual ministries such as World Bible School, Friend's Speak, and Let's Start Talking.

Those who are in retirement, or who anticipate it shortly, should contact Sunset to see how we can work together to encourage each other, enhance our skills, and enable people to use their life experiences in an effective manner.

-Stuart Jones, Director of Senior Adventures in Ministry



## International Updates

**Athens, Greece** - As of December 1st, Beni Leka became the new Resident Dean for the Athens International Bible Institute. Beni is a graduate of our school in Athens and has been teaching there for several years. He, his wife Sonila, and their two children play a vital role in the local church. We celebrate the work of Ron and Diana Kretz who recently returned to the States after five years of faithful service in Greece. Ron has done an excellent job in preparing Beni for this important role.



Africa - Daniel Goodyear, '74, has assumed the new role of Dean of Ministry Training/Central Africa. He lives in Tigard, Oregon, and has already begun traveling in and out of Africa promoting the work of our schools. With his involvement, we are certain to see new ministry training institutes and improved communication between Lubbock and this important region of the world. He is a man with a great deal of experience in missions and soul winning. Dan served as a missionary in Lesotho, Africa, and has had an impact for the cause of Christ wherever he has gone. We thank God for the investment He has made in Dan's life and the fruit he has born for the glory of the Lord.

Havana, Cuba - We rejoice that preacher training seminars were conducted in May and October in Havana, Cuba, with 14 more graduates receiving certificates in May (pictured below). Studies continue year round while we supplement training during these two terms. Through our partners at the Atlantic International Bible Institute, a Sunset associate school, men continue to be prepared to effectively proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a country that has been so difficult for us to reach in the past. The church is growing in Cuba, and now there are congregations in every province. God be praised for what He is doing in this island nation.

-Timothy A Burow, Dean of International Studies



### Pay It Forward Pay It Back

Tor almost 50 years the teachers at Sunset have equipped men and women of God to go preach and teach the Word. Their effort and desire has always

been to serve God by training and equipping others to go preach and

teach. Unlike many other learning environments, our teachers have actively been involved in ministry while continuing to teach. Most have foreign mission field experience and continue to be involved in ministry training around the world.

The excellent faculty that God has empowered and enabled to be at Sunset is the heart of why this school has been so successful for almost half a century. Over the years, Sunset has said goodbye to many faculty members, some to go on to other ministries and some to go be with the Lord. In recent years, the faculty has had additions of new faces but still remains a prime example of the principle of 2 Timothy 2:2.

#### And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Most of the faculty are examples of those men that have been taught to teach others. Teachers like Richard Rogers, Norman Gipson, Abe Lincoln, and many others empowered a second generation to continue teaching. These teachers will never be able to repay all that has been entrusted to them, but they continue to pay it forward to future generations of Gospel preachers and ministers. Although the faculty does not look the

> same as it did 30 years ago, the core strength of the curriculum and the unwavering devotion to the scripture is maintained by the current teachers.

#### **Stepping Into Big Shoes**

hen Richard Rogers died unexpectedly in July of 2000, Sunset lost a great teacher and scholar. The classes that he taught were among the favorites of students, but Richard worked to ensure that his legacy would continue. It has. Victor Ellison, '82, (pictured bottom, right) returned from India to join the Sunset faculty in January of 2000. Over the years he has taken on many of the classes that Richard taught and has provided the students with the challenges and scholarship that were entrusted to him when he was a student. Victor is not a Richard clone or even a replacement, but he continues to pay forward the Word of God that was entrusted to him. Victor teaches Old Testament History, Daniel/Ezekiel, Revelation and Church History.

(left) Darius Woods and Donnie Roye, seniors, absorbing the wisdom from their teacher. (below)The 2010-2011 Faculty & Training Staff of all 3 Divisions of Sunset International Bible Institute,



#### Devotion to the Word Continues on in Our Teachers

ith fourteen classes between them, Ron Bontrager, '81, (pictured at the bottom, left) and Charles Speer, '72, (pictured to the left) are not new to the faculty at Sunset. The two have been teaching at Sunset for a combined 35 years. As part of the second generation of faculty at Sunset, they have helped to establish a continual striving for excellence not only in academics but also in life. Ron continues to preach at churches across the region, and Charles is part of the preaching team at the Sunset church. Their devotion to the Word and to excellence in preaching is evident to every student. They care deeply about passing on the Word of God to their students with the same accuracy and diligence they received when they went through Sunset. Both of these men have years of experience in ministry both in congregations and in

missions. These experiences and the wisdom they have acquired is being passed on to students who will one day continue to pass the message to others.

These men and the others currently teaching are committed to making sure they are good stewards of that which was entrusted to them. They **pay it forward** in their commitment and in making sure others are given the same opportunity they were given.

Sunset is asking you, especially our alumni, to consider how you can **pay it forward**. What can you do to make sure there is another generation of preachers adequately equipped with the Word of God? The legacy of Sunset and the dream of those who began this school is not just history; it continues as we carry the Word of God to those willing to serve Him.



## Pay It Forward

## Pay It Back

#### Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another. - Romans 13:8

Like any educational institution, Sunset's reputation and future rests in the hands of those who have graduated from this school. Many alumni stay connected with faculty who mentored them and continue to mentor them years down the road. Some alumni move on to other places and for one reason or another have become disconnected from the school. Regardless of the situation, the majority of graduates who leave the school will always feel indebted for all that God was able to accomplish in their lives during their time at Sunset. Sunset is unique in that all of the faculty are here on a support basis, much like the students that come through the school. The faculty do not receive a salary that is derived from tuition costs that are paid by the students. It can be easy to forget that support does not maintain itself and has to be raised continually to enable these teachers and their families to remain at Sunset teaching and continuing this world-wide ministry.

The concept of **Pay It Back** is not one of indebtedness. It is a gift of grace. **Sunset** Alumni, please do not forget the gift you have been given. Keep supporting those who Doyle & Louise Gilliam with Ivan & Barbara Gomez entrusted you with the Word of God. Support them with your prayers. If God has



blessed you financially, support them with your financial support. Support them by enabling others to come to school at Sunset to receive the same training that has allowed you to serve God more effectively.

### And How Will They Hear ..?

or 34 years, Sunset has been actively involved in training both deaf preachers and preachers for the deaf. Hollis Maynard and Bob Anderson have been a staple in the Sunset classroom for so many. They both are considered experts in ministry to those who are deaf. Rebecca Garnett, a graduate of the deaf program in 2009, has helped this important ministry by taking on some of the classroom translating duties that enable deaf students to participate in the Sunset classroom. Her service has proved invaluable to help ensure that the training at Sunset is available to those who are deaf.

This ministry has not received the recognition it deserves as work in the deaf community goes largely unnoticed by the rest of the church, but it cannot be understated how much impact this ministry has had on the church worldwide. As you consider paying it back, please consider what Sunset would be like without a ministry



Rebecca Garnett, '09, interpreting during chapel

to the deaf. What would a chapel look like without Bob, Hollis, Rebecca, or many of the fine students that have taken up this duty speaking the words of God without making a sound?



Bob Anderson interprets for a student

Two of these workers for the Lord, Bob and Rebecca, still need support to enable them to continue their work at Sunset. Sunset is also planning to bring another member to this ministry who will help assure that Sunset continues the legacy begun by Bob and Hollis. They have proven to be wonderful servants of the Lord.

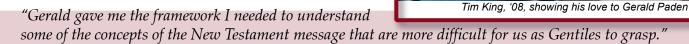
### Gifts of Love

Then given the opportunity, alumni express appreciation to faculty mentors in both word and deed. Below are some of the words of appreciation from grateful alumni who are putting what they have learned into practice.

"I learned from (Gerald) about how to be honest with the text in its context."

"Charles (Speer) is always there if I need to call him and ask questions."

"I still use the notes of this wise brother (Doyle) when I'm preaching in the book of John."



"Doyle helped me to really analyze my expectations of what I would be doing in ministry. Without that pause, I think I would have gone into missions with unrealistic expectations that might have derailed our efforts."

"I remember so vividly how deeply (1 John) touched Gerald's heart as he presented it...With some reflection, I'm not sure that anyone's love for God has touched my heart the way Gerald's has."

"Sunset is a busy place, (but) brother Doyle always without hesitation made time for the molding of us young students. What a servant this brother is."

"(Charles Speer) always took the extra step to insure that we not only understood the text but that we understood how to use it to make our walk with God more meaningful."

Time will fail to tell of Ed Wharton, Victor Ellison, Ron Bontrager, Gibby Gilbert, Terry Fanning, Tim Brumfield, Kevin Haynes, Ray Young, and others who are just as committed and loved as those mentioned. The faculty at Sunset have given of themselves in so many ways. They have poured their lives into the students who have sat at their feet. This kind of commitment, concern, and love should motivate students and alumni to reciprocate by supporting them with finances, encouragement, and thoughtful deeds. Continued support is always a concern, so mention these men to your church leaders and consider supporting them as a congregation. Consider how you can **pay it back** to those who have given so much for you.

-Jeff Rader

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#### Lifeline

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## Lifeline

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## DEPARTURES

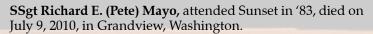
Joe Bagby, '80, died on October 2, 2010, after several months them with clear contact paper. This was the only way to of battling a brain tumor. Joe and his wife, Paula, lived in duplicate material. Ruth did the printing at Sunset, and most Sweetwater, Texas.

Rubenia Haynes

Burton Carter, '71, died on May 27, 2010. Burton lived in Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee, with his wife Barbara.

Mikey Dawidow, the son of Mike and Molly Dawidow, '76, died suddenly of a heart attack on January 1, 2011. The Dawidows have been missionaries in Gdansk, Poland, for many years.

Tawn Lork, Dean of Students, Cambodia Bible Institute, died Sunday, December 26th, following a motorcycle accident and surgery. He was 33 years old. Please join with us in praying for the comfort and peace of his wife, Navy, the faculty, staff, and students of the school in Phnom Penh.



**Don Perry, '68,** went to be with the Lord amid the singing of family and friends on August 27, 2010. Don had been fighting cancer for more than three years but continued to visit the mission field of Slovakia, teach classes at Sunset, and work with Senior AIM. He and Rilda worked alongside Stuart and Cecilia Jones in the Senior AIM program, taking senior Christians on many mission trips. Don was active in his ministry until



just a week before becoming bedfast, and as usual, his smile brightened everyone's day. Don knew his time on earth was limited, and he made the most of each day. He loved his wife, his work, and his Lord. He is missed at Sunset but his work continues across the world by faithful men and women taught by Don and Rilda.

**Ruth Thompson - Most Sunset School of Preaching students,** especially the wives, knew Ruth Thompson as the "pattern lady." She taught the women how to make visual aids when copying them by hand, coloring with markers, and covering

days you could hear her getting ready for the bulletin or her next class. Clifford and Ruth were members at Sunset for forty-seven years. Ruth traveled far assisting in Bible workshops and training. She was a wonderful example of Christian living and artistry. Her paintings were beautiful and showed the love she had for God's creation. Ruth went to be with her Lord on July 31, 2010.

Eddie Sansing attended Sunset in 1993 and lived in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Catherine. Eddie died in October.

Natasha Tsvyashchenko served the Lord's church for more than 15 years as a skillful interpreter, translator, and spokesperson for evangelistic efforts in Ukraine. She played a vital role in the early development of the Blagovest Ministry. Most recently, Natasha served with Eastern European Missions and assisted with the distribution of Christian literature to many schools in Ukraine. She will be deeply missed, not only in our work, but by all Christians around the world who have worked with her.

Max R. Zamorano, '67, - Max began serving God after training at Sunset School of Preaching in 1967. He later became the Dean of the Spanish Department. His first love was teaching the message of salvation. He preached all over Texas in Dimmitt, Grand Prairie, Houston, Andrews, and New Braunfels. Among his personal highlights were his mission work in Colombia, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Uruguay, Honduras, and Spain. He loved helping people. On August 6, 2010, Max lost his battle on earth, but gained his victory in heaven. Delia, his wife of 44 years, lives in New Braunfels.

Many great supporters of Sunset have gone to be with the Lord in 2010. Among them are Armando Alaniz, Byrl Brockman, Luther Cooper, Jabe Pratt, Lola Ritchey, Robert Scoby, Larry and Bekah Warren, William Decker, Bill DeLoach, Jeanette Feenstra, Jo Johnson, Bob McAlister, Floye Miller, Lillian Monroe, Bobbie Moore, Nettie Pickens, Wanda Potts, Myrna Powers, and Frank Jones. They will be missed by family and friends. Sunset wishes to extend our love and prayers for each family and our special thanks for all the support you have given us through the years. May God continue to bless you with peace and happiness.





Ground work has begun on the World Mission Center Plaza

The plaza will have new landscaping, a brick wall with capstones, and ground pavers with names of missionaires engraved on them.





To find out how you can purchase these bricks/pavers, please contact Bob Jackson at 806/788-3259 or email Bob at bosanjack@aol.com.

Go online at www.sibi.cc/plaza

# Jerry Pruitt Satellite School Field Representative

#### Becomes full-time promoter of Satellite School ministry

People will not be taught and thus not converted and added to the Kingdom. A commodity running short in the Churches of Christ throughout our nation is preachers who are evangelists, out preaching the gospel to those who are lost, those who are separated from God because of sin that is condemning them to hell.



Jerry Pruitt has this kind of heart for the lost and for the church. Jerry has been a faithful worker in the Satellite School program and the External Studies program for 16 years and is now launching out as a full time promoter of our Satellite School ministry. He will be in the forefront

of our Satellite School ministry, presenting the possibility for churches to grow both in maturity and evangelistic outreach through the use of Video Satellite Schools. There are several hundred churches who have in their library a set of our video taped curriculum. Jerry wants to assist you in using those video courses in strengthening your members and in outreach to your communities.

Several churches report that their evangelistic fervor has increased dramatically because they have a satellite school active in their building. Jerry can be reached by calling 800-687-2121 / 806-788-3282 or by email at jpruitt@sibi.cc.

**Darrell Wallace** is also a field representative working primarily in the Southeast and all points east of the Mississippi River. He too has a heart for the lost as well as for ministering to



the saints in the area of maturing and educating church members. He can also assist you in beginning a Satellite School in your congregation. Darrell can be reached by phone at 270-678-9531 or by email at rwallace@scrtc.com. Darrell also has a website: satelliteschoolsse.org.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." were the condemning words spoken in Hosea 4:6. He could have as easily said this about our generation. This is a shame and a tragedy. One way this situation can be remedied is through in-depth Bible study in Satellite Schools. All that is needed is for Christian leaders to determine to break the bonds of lethargy and help their members to become energized.

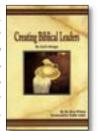
JERRY PRUITT is a 1994 graduate of Sunset School of Preaching, and has served as Assistant Dean and the office manager of External Studies for 16 years. After attending Eastern New Mexico University, he spent 20 years working in business and finance. He has received his Masters and Doctorate degrees from the Theological University of America. Jerry served on the Board of Directors to establish Christian Schools of Albuquerque (now Albuquerque Christian Schools) and served on the school's first board. He has administered a Satellite School at Lubbock County Correctional Facility and taught in the prison for over two years. He and his wife, Patti, have been married 41 years, have two sons and five grandchildren.

Sunset External Studies • 3710 34th Street • Lubbock, TX 79410

## Sale on Church Leadership Materials

#### **Books**

Creating Biblical Leaders, by Dr. Ken Wilson. "If godly, spiritual leaders step forward to lead God's church according to biblical values and standards, the church is secure and successful." Thirteen chapters covering qualifications of leaders, leadership the home, communication developing new leaders, and more.

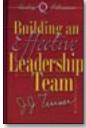


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ı	#510 Additional Study Guide	\$6.99
ı	#514 CD Set, audio only	.\$29.99

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eight lesson video study of the urgency and value of good leadership, biblical guidelines, congregational response to leadership, and more. Includes a 60 page study guide.

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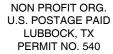
Accents on Church Growth, by Gerald Paden. An eight lesson video series focusing on the role of leaders in church



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Contact Chris Swinford, Vice President of Advancement at Sunset, **806-788-3250** or **gospelgoingglobal@gmail.com** 

