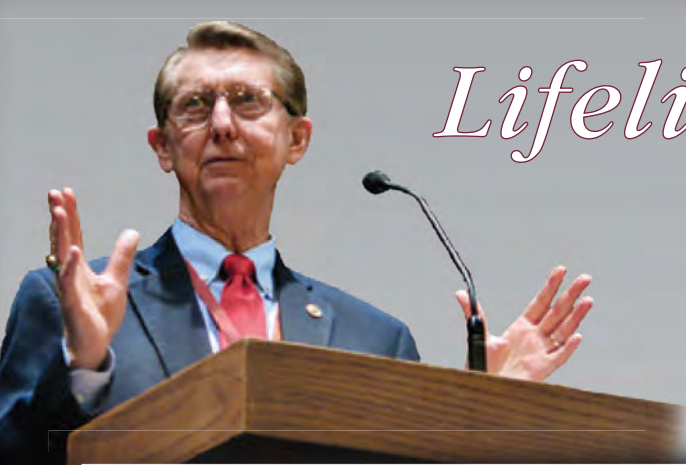




Lifeline

Keeping the Sunset family connected



Lifeline

THERE'S A FAMINE IN OUR LAND

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the LORD.”
Amos 8:11

The prophet Amos predicted a famine in the land of Israel. They had known famine before, but this would be a different kind of famine. They would have food and water, but the word of God would become very rare. The problem was that spokesmen for God were in short supply, and the few that remained were preaching error. God’s people were starving for a true message from God and had grown accustomed to hearing error. Israel would not wake up to their dire circumstances until it was too late. They were literally dying from a lack of preachers.

You may wonder what that Old Testament reference has to do with the church of Christ here in America. Maybe nothing, or perhaps it could serve as a wake-up call before we reach a crisis point. After all, the famine in Israel didn’t happen instantly. The problem Amos announced had been developing for years. Alarms had been sounded in the past, but sadly, they had been ignored. I am announcing here that if we do not already have a crisis-level shortage of gospel preachers in our brotherhood, we may well be on the way to one.

In the last two or three weeks, I have received calls from a dozen good congregations who are looking for preachers. Several of them have been looking for months and some for over a year. They are all looking for the *same guy*. They want someone who is sound in doctrine, a dynamic speaker, good with people, works well with congregational leadership, has a good marriage and family, and is old enough to be mature but young enough to attract youth. Unfortunately, there is not enough of *that guy* to go around. We have said for years that 25% of our congregations are without a trained gospel preacher. I suspect that percentage is much larger today, because for a number of years, our brotherhood preacher training schools and colleges have been enrolling smaller numbers of men who plan to preach.

Our schools can train gospel preachers, and many of them are doing a very commendable job of equipping those who enroll. The problem is that **future preachers are produced, not in the schools, but rather in homes and churches**. Not enough mothers and fathers are encouraging their sons to become preachers. Often they are discouraging it, knowing the sacrifices that might be involved. **Churches have become consumers of preachers rather than producers of preachers**. Where are the ministers who will shoulder-tap the best and brightest in their congregation and encourage them to seek training? Where are the elders who will mentor a young man, send him to a preaching school with their financial support, and then bring him back to be a minister or intern in their congregation? Are there still some godly sisters, who teach our children’s classes, who will whisper in the ear of promising young men, “You need to be a preacher”?

We are committed to do what we can to “entrust the Gospel to faithful men who will be able to teach others.” We will pray, recruit, encourage, equip and train, but we depend on a brotherhood that is hungry for more good preachers to send us their best. The future famine can be avoided, but it will require Kingdom-minded leaders working together to prevent a crisis and produce *“whole preachers who will preach the whole Gospel to the whole world, wholly to please God.”*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred McMan".

JANUARY 23-26, 2019

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Ed Wharton's keynote sermon during the 2018 Sunset Vision Workshop.

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Lifeline

Volume 41

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SUNSET
International Bible Institute

CONTINUING EXCELLENCE



Officials announce the appointment of Tim Burow as the president-elect for Sunset International Bible Institute. He will become the third president of Sunset over its 56 years of operation.

"We are thrilled that the Lord has guided our search for the right man to lead the next chapter for this global ministry," stated Bob Crockett, chairman of the Board of Directors. "After more than a year-long national search surfaced some wonderful candidates, we came to a unanimous decision to offer this opportunity to one within the Institute's own ranks. Tim follows two great men of God who have led Sunset since its beginning: Cline Paden, the ministry's founder, and Truitt Adair, who has served so incredibly over the past twenty-five years."

Burow has been serving for eight years as Sunset's dean of International Studies, the Institute's division with the greatest growth, with more than 6,500 students in over 70 branch schools on 5 continents. He assumes the role of president-elect for the coming months and will become president, effective August 2019. Adair will continue as president through the coming school year then take a new role as chancellor, spending the coming year equipping Burow to take on the presidency. Plans are underway for an official inauguration to take place in the fall of 2019. Doug Reeves will immediately assume the role of dean of International Studies being vacated by Burow.

"The Lord has led me to this point in my ministry. I am a graduate of Sunset and a believer in its evangelistic mission to advance the Kingdom of God around the globe,"

shared Burow. "It's been my honor to witness and serve under Truitt's godly leadership, and I am humbled to take the mantle of leadership at this time in our world and in the church today."

Burow brings decades of experience in domestic and global ministry as well as academic preparation to this new role. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, holds degrees in psychology and biblical studies, is a graduate of Sunset, and has held many roles in local church ministry. Tim also served as a missionary in Ukraine, instructor at the Ukrainian Bible Institute, dean of Sunset's International Division, and has been married to his wife, Mina, for 35 years. They have two grown children.

Adair commented, "I was blessed to be handed the baton of leadership by Sunset's founder twenty-five years ago. It thrills my soul to see that the Lord has raised up the right man to lead Sunset forward. I have been planning and praying about this over the past few years and look forward to serve beside Tim the same way that Cline worked with me."

"We are thankful that Truitt will continue to be influential in helping Tim to shape the future of Sunset International Bible Institute. We owe so much to Truitt and Kay for their amazing contribution in shaping Sunset to where it is today. The Lord has used him in mighty ways over these twenty-five years of leadership," commented Crockett.

"As part of the search process, a total of nineteen nominations were considered, with a refinement down to nine candidates," offered Crockett. "From visits with these, the candidate pool was pared to four finalists who were interviewed and brought to campus in Lubbock, Texas. Interviews by the transition team resulted in the recommendation of Burow to the board of directors, who unanimously approved his candidacy," he continued.

"I am grateful to have been considered by the transition team and the board as one of the finalists, and I believe this process was ordained by God that led to Tim's appointment," stated Chris Swinford, Sunset's vice president for advancement. "I am encouraged about Sunset's future and pleased to remain as part of Tim's future leadership team."

-Alan Phillips, Presidential Transition Consultant

*Top: Tim Burow at Sunset's opening chapel
Below: Tim Burow distributing Solar Players in Kenya*



FROM UKRAINE TO THE WORLD

Doug and Marge Reeves were part of the 53rd class of Sunset and graduated in 1990. His first preaching work was in Rotan, Texas, where they loved the community, schools and people. Doug was invited by the Westgate Church of Christ in Abilene to serve with them in 1992. They moved there in June and fell in love with the church family in Abilene and grew with them.

In 1997, Truman Scott invited Doug and Marge to leave the ministry work they were doing in Abilene and to relocate to Donetsk, Ukraine, to help launch an international ministry school. Doug and Marge lived in Donetsk from 1997 until 2001 and witnessed the school growing from a handful of students to a peak enrollment of nearly 70 students. During their time, they relocated the school three times to accommodate the growing enrollment. The highlight of their accomplishments in Ukraine would be the registration of the school in 2000. The Ukrainian Bible Institute is the only brotherhood organization to receive national registration with the Ukrainian Department of Religion.

Returning from Ukraine in 2001, they moved to Lubbock where Doug used his experience in launching and directing schools to help set up many of the international Sunset campuses. He has visited over 30 countries to help launch new ministry training programs in places like Brazil, Cuba, Korea, Cambodia, Zambia, Botswana, Albania and Romania. Doug also teaches in the missions program at Sunset. The Lord provided the opportunity for him to deliver solar players most recently to Puerto Rico and in Europe to Muslim refugees in Greece, Germany and Austria. Doug has also delivered solar players to Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Malawi.

Doug says, *"It will be very difficult to follow Tim. He has made great advances in the communications and organization of the International Division. I plan to retain the qualities that have made Sunset the premier ministry training program in our brotherhood, and at the same time seek out and utilize new technology to enhance current training programs and expand to meet new opportunities."*

Doug and Marge celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary this year and enjoy spending time with their two married children and seven grandchildren. Marge works in the External Studies department at Sunset. Doug enjoys preaching, teaching and visiting new congregations. He rotates with other of the Sunset faculty preaching at the Broadview congregation in New Mexico and is involved in teaching Bible class locally.

-Linda Wagner

Left: Doug delivering a solar player in Puerto Rico; right: Tim Burow presenting Doug an award for service at Sunset



Doug presenting a solar player in Zimbabwe



THE DISTINCTIVE NATURE OF A GOSPEL PREACHER



Ed Wharton in 1974

“Christianity, far from being a philosophy or merely some ethical system, is pre-eminently a redemptive system. It is belief in Christ as the son of God who will redeem us from sin and raise us from the dead to an eternal judgement.”

Whether you are or have been a student in the classroom or in a Bible class on historical Christian evidences, you have heard Ed Wharton make this statement. You have probably memorized his chart and had to give at least part of it back on the final test. Ed is well known in the brotherhood for his teachings/writings, including Scheme of Redemption, Church of Christ, *God Among the Nations* and *Christ and the Church*. Ed’s love for teaching didn’t start in the Sunset classroom. It began many years ago at the knee of his beloved mother.

Ed Wharton was born in 1931 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, but was raised all over Central and East Texas. He grew up in the church and was taught by his beloved and faithful mother. *“Every time the doors were open, we were there.”* In the churches they attended, there was good Gospel preaching. Ed believes he became a gospel preacher for that reason. The Wharton family lived in Texarkana when Ed was 12 years old. A group

of his peers were baptized one Sunday morning, but he did not go with them. He waited until the following Sunday to be baptized. *“I really didn’t know what I was doing. I didn’t know the real truth about being saved. I just didn’t understand.”*

“Many years later, I was preaching at the 37th Street Church of Christ in Snyder. I was preaching about the saving grace and salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. How He saves us, His plan of redemption, and being justified in the Lord. I had one person come forward to be baptized after the sermon. That person was me. I realized I had never understood how to become a Christian until that night. And I was baptized for the salvation that Christ promised. What a marvelous night. I remember it just as if it were yesterday,” Ed said.

Ed attended Abilene Christian University and graduated with a bachelor of science. After graduation Ed began his preaching career. He and Martha met in Dallas where she was working for Southern Methodist University. They dated for a bit. Both were Christians and had a faithful love for the Lord which drew them together. They knew they were “right” for each other. They married and remained in the Dallas area. They have two daughters with wonderful Christian families (seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren).

You might wonder how a man born in Oklahoma, raised in Central/East Texas, and working in Dallas ended up in Lubbock at Sunset. It all began one day with a man named Bill Hatcher. Ed was preaching at the Broadway congregation in Garland. He had been developing and teaching several intense Bible study classes. His love for God’s Word and sharing it was taking hold in the Broadway congregation. Hardy Hatcher was an elder at Broadway. His son Bill was a member there and had been a missionary with Cline Paden in Italy. One day, Cline showed up to visit his old friend, Bill. Cline came looking for support for a new school called The Latin American Bible School housed at Lubbock Christian College. It was a new school struggling for support to train Spanish-speaking men. Cline had persuaded Byrl Brockman, a Spanish-speaking missionary, to join him as the school’s first faculty member.

Cline and Bill visited that day. Bill recommended Cline invite this young preacher named Ed Wharton to come to the school. Bill was really impressed with Ed’s intense studies of the Word and thought Cline needed Ed for three weeks. Ed came to Lubbock and taught Minor Prophets and Scheme of Redemption. During that time, Ed was focusing on the needs of this new school. He met with Cline and said, *“These men need classroom discipline, a faculty and a curriculum.”* Cline listened in the usual Paden fashion, and then said, *“So, when are you moving to Lubbock?”* During those three weeks, Cline convinced Ed to become part of the school. He told Ed there was a need to train men who were not Spanish speaking. Cline had already been receiving phone calls from men wanting to come. Ed agreed by saying, *“Who will we get as teachers?”* Ed and Martha moved to Lubbock.

Labor Day, September 1963, the school moved off of the Lubbock Christian College campus and into the Sunset Church of Christ building. There was a committee of brethren who were very interested in the school. That group of men decided the school needed a name change especially since English-speaking men were going to attend too. The Latin American Bible School became the Sunset School of Preaching within three weeks of moving into the church facility. That name stayed with the school until 1995 when it became known as Sunset International Bible Institute. Others who joined the faculty in the infancy of the school were Bill Hatcher and Richard Rogers. Both men were known by Ed Wharton during his ministry in the Dallas area.

In 1965 Ed and Martha moved to Denver and began the Denver School of Preaching. Three years later they

moved back to Lubbock and joined the Sunset faculty once again. When typewriters were the manual kind and you had to either throw away your work or use white out when you made a mistake, Ed began writing his books. *"I was really uptown when I bought my first Selectric typewriter."* He has enjoyed writing and will continue to write as time allows.

Ed and Martha have travelled extensively during the last 53 years. Along with his teaching in the school, Ed has preached in almost all 50 states (except Rhode Island), and in 30-35 foreign nations. He has made 31 trips into Poland, both while it was a Communist country and after it became a free country. Ed recently travelled back to Poland for his 31st trip. On his first visit into the country, he met a Christian who helped him introduce the Restoration Movement and taught God's Word to anyone who would listen. During Ed's third or fourth visit, he and this brother were arrested for preaching the Word and *"they made sure I left the country."* Forty seven years ago, Ed met Mike Dawidow from Poland. He and Mike became very close and preached together for many years on Ed's return. Ed made the last trip to see Mike in 2015, when Mike gained his heavenly reward and saw his God sitting on the throne. Ed preached Mike's funeral and said goodbye to a faithful preacher of the Word. There are still Christians there, but like everywhere, a new generation has come. Ed went for three weeks in June and again "preached the Word."

Even though Ed has officially taught his last class in the Residential School, he is teaching three days a week in the Senior AIM classroom. He continues to teach Bible class on Sunday morning and preaches some for local congregations. It is fitting that his last class taught this year was *The Distinctive Nature of the Church*, one of his classes well known around the world. He went to Poland in June and preached three Sundays.

The words *Sunset School of Preaching/Sunset International Bible Institute and Ed Wharton* are thought of in the same sentence. You cannot talk about one without the other. Visit many congregations around the world and let brethren know you are from Sunset and they will ask, *"Do you know Ed Wharton? He is the reason I became a preacher."* Ed said one of his greatest joys is to see those on the Sunset staff whom he taught. They are faithful teachers of the Word. He said as a reminder to them, *"We must keep maintaining the fundamental teachings of the Faith in order for preaching the Christian lifestyle to become effective."*

Ed, because of you the Sunset Church of Christ and the Sunset International Bible Institute have been blessed. You have helped keep us true servants by your faithfulness, your loyalty to the one true God, your diligence to "preach the Word," and your training men and women to serve Him. You have a special place in our hearts, and we are forever grateful having known and worked alongside you for His cause. God Bless.

-Linda Wagner



Ed and Martha in 2016 and 1975



Sunset Faculty in 1964: Cline Paden, Ed Wharton, Bill Hatcher, Richard Rogers, & Byrl Brockman

THANK YOU FOR CARING

Bob Jackson has been married to Sandy for almost 50 years. They have two daughters, Cassandra and Menda, and one son, Chris. They enjoy their eight grandchildren. Bob and Sandy are both graduates of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Bob holds a degree in architecture and practiced for twenty-five years. Sandy is a retired school teacher and specialized in younger elementary-aged children. Throughout those years in business, Bob served as a deacon in four different congregations. In 1991, Bob took early retirement. The following year, the Jacksons moved to Lubbock and attended the Sunset School of Preaching. Following their training at Sunset, they worked in ministry in the inner city of San Antonio. In 1997, Bob was invited to join the staff of the Sunset International Bible Institute. He served as the assistant vice president for advancement until July 3, 2018.

Bob has been very involved in all the activities of the school, including teaching in the Residential School at times, organizing many dinners held on behalf of Sunset all over the United States, and traveling to promote the school at churches and events. The most loved part of his job is when he and Sandy travel to one of our international schools in Cambodia or Singapore and spend several weeks teaching. Bob and Sandy have done many Bible studies in Japan alongside the brethren and have been involved with studying the Bible using *Friendspeak* to help teach English. They love to travel and hope to continue in this work.

Bob has been helpful to many students, sharing with them how to write reports or seek support. He is known and loved by all at Sunset and will be missed by the office staff. His quiet spirit and loving heart have made him a great friend and confidant both within Sunset and the church. Both Bob and Sandy are active in the Sunset Church of Christ, where Bob serves as one of the elders. Bob and Sandy, thank you for jobs well done.

-Linda Wagner

Top: Bob Jackson; Middle:
Bob with the bus ministry at
MacArthur Park Church of
Christ; Bottom: Bob & Sandy



HELPING THE SUNSET FAMILY

The advancement department at Sunset works to represent Sunset throughout the country at churches and events to help the brotherhood connect with the ministries available through the school, from helping train preachers to working with international schools to distributing solar players. Recently two Sunset alumni have joined the team of field representatives.

Steve Maggoira has joined the Sunset advancement department to represent Sunset in West Texas, where Bob Jackson worked for many years. Steve & Dianne Maggoira met in high school and recently celebrated 45 years together. Steve is a veteran of the United States Navy, has worked in the sheet metal industry, and has served as a deacon and shepherd in Placerville, California. Their two daughters, Michelle and Candace, are AIM graduates. Steve and Dianne came to Sunset in 2008, completing their studies and graduating in 2011. Upon graduation they returned to Northern California and worked with the Central Church of Christ in Sacramento as their evangelist. While there, they continued to do stateside mission trips in the state of Maine. Their ministry relocated to Gold Beach, Oregon, in 2015 to serve the church. God opened the door to work with Sunset, and after much prayer they accepted the invitation and relocated to Lubbock. *"Wherever we are, our goal is to be pleasing to God with every breath we take."*



Dean Whaley is one of the newer faces around the Sunset staff family. Dean and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 50 years. They have three grown children and two grandchildren. He served in the United States Army Security Agency for a little over six years. After his time in the Army, he attended Sunset School of Preaching where he graduated in January, 1980. Dean has preached full time for a little over 40 years in Texas, Oklahoma, New York, and Nevada. Dean serves Sunset as an area representative in the Texas panhandle, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. Dean is somewhere different every Sunday either filling in for the local preacher or telling the story of Sunset.



As these men travel around the country, please pray for their work and encouragement as they try to help Sunset spread the Kingdom of God.

Sunset Needs 5 Internship Congregations

An Internship Congregation would take in a graduate right after graduation and mentor them for 12 to 18 months in real ministry activities. This would include fully supporting the intern through the extent of their internship. The costs would vary depending on the intern's place in life (single, married, family).

Everyone understands the need for a doctor in training to have a residency before being turned loose on the patient world. What great value our graduates would receive from a residency/internship ministry before filling our pulpits and serving in the Lord's Kingdom in a full-time way. This will simply be a continuation of their training in hopes that a solid foundation will better prepare them for the rigors of ministry, and less chance of an early burnout. Our brotherhood needs good, solid preachers who remain faithful as they carry on our mission statement of taking the whole gospel to the whole world.

If your congregation is interested, please contact Speedy Hart to explore the possibilities, speedysibi@sibi.cc or 806-788-3237



“YES, THE BILLS HAVE ALL BEEN PAID!”



That statement has been the answer often coming from the finance office. In fact, it had been said weekly if not daily since 1981 by Marilena Brigham. Marilena was hired in July of 1980 to be a floating secretary to help Marge Smith, secretary for Cline Paden. She did whatever they needed, wherever they needed, whenever they needed it. She also worked part-time for Dave Oakley in development and part-time for Rex Boyles, when he became the youth minister for Sunset. Marilena helped Vera Boatwright in the finance office when Vera was on vacation, and when Vera's daughter became ill, Marilena filled in for several months. After Vera returned to her office, Marilena returned to secretarial work. When Vera decided to retire, Marilena took her job with accounts payable sometime before 1983. She was in her little office from that time on.

Marilena was not just a bill payer. She was a miracle money manager, a detective, a confidante, the office manager for all the administrative assistants, and is a wonderful grandmother and above all, a godly, Christian woman.

We have seen her happiness at the weddings of Kim and Kent and the birth of her grand babies. We have seen her smile through her tears when her daughter Kim was diagnosed with cancer and went through chemotherapy. She has shared in the loss of Cline, Gerald, Bruce and many other of the Sunset elders and Sunset staff. Her smile and soft voice has given comfort to many students who needed a shoulder to cry on and a motherly hug. Marilena has attended countless salad suppers, workshops, banquets, graduations, opening chapels, and end of school activities.

Marilena's retirement came a little earlier than expected when she was diagnosed with cancer early in 2018. To God's glory, the doctors were able to do surgery and she is cancer free. She was able to come into the office some in June, making her retirement date a little easier on the staff. She has been a solid support in the finance office, for Cline, for Truitt, the Sunset faculty and staff, the Sunset elders, and for hundreds of students. She has dedicated the last 37 years to service for her Lord in the work she has done for Sunset and SIBI. We thank you. We love you.

We know God will use you in other areas in His Kingdom work.

-Linda Wagner



Above: Marilena dressed as the money fairy; bottom left: Marilena paying bills; bottom right: Marilena with the ladies of Sunset and Cline in 2002





NANCY HART graduated from Sunset School of Preaching in June, 1990, along with her husband, Speedy. Nancy came to work as Virgil Yocham’s secretary for the External Studies department when Speedy was asked by Truitt and Truman to come to work at Sunset in 1997. Marilena lured her to work in the finance office in 1999 with these words, “You can come in when you want to and leave when you want to, and we will work around your travel with Speedy.” This job made it possible for Nancy to travel with Speedy while helping to support her family. The Harts have done mission work in Finland, Estonia, China, Singapore, and also have helped to deliver solar players to Zimbabwe. One of her many jobs in the finance office was handling student support. Students loved her sense of humor and her commitment to getting their checks to them as soon as possible. Speedy and Nancy have a married son and daughter, and five grandchildren, of whom they are very proud. Upon retirement from the finance office, Nancy said, “My hope in retirement is to assist my husband in his work with Sunset, volunteer

here at the school, volunteer with the Lubbock chapter of Make-A-Wish, and to continue to serve the Lord in whatever areas I can. Servants of the Lord never really retire, they just keep on serving.” Nancy, thank you for your 19 years of faithful, hard-working service to Sunset. May God continue to bless you and Speedy in the Kingdom work.

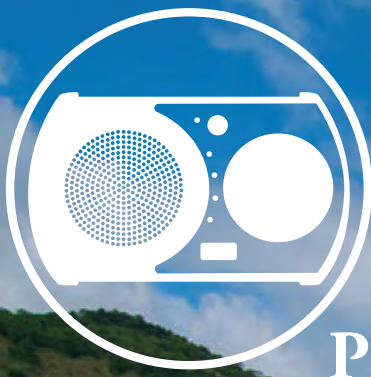
-Linda Wagner

TRANSITIONS FOR SUNSET’S FINANCE OFFICE

SEAN MCNIEL is Sunset’s new office manager as Marilena Brigham retires. Sean is a native of Lubbock and has been a member at Sunset Church of Christ for 35 years. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Abilene Christian University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Texas Tech University. He also graduated from Sunset in 2007 through the External Studies and Evening School programs. Sean is married to Crystal Whitlow McNiell with whom he enjoys his two children, Libby and Jonathan. Sean also serves as the deacon over Bible Bowl for the Sunset Church of Christ. After many years in the banking industry, Sean is happy to be serving God and working at Sunset as we spread the Kingdom.



JANET FALBO works in Sunset’s finance office with student accounts. Raised in Colorado as the youngest of Frank and Sue Ribble’s four children, Janet first moved to Texas to attend Lubbock Christian University in 1987. She graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and promptly moved out of town. Janet returned to Lubbock in 1995 and became a member at Sunset Church of Christ. She met Ray Falbo at Sunset and they married in October 1997. In 2002, Janet started working for the church as the student ministries assistant. In June of this year, she moved to the finance office for the school, where she looks forward to working with both students and staff.



SOLAR MISSION PHILIPPINES

The Solar Mission to distribute 2,000 solar players throughout the islands of the Philippines is well underway. Almost half of the money has been raised, and distributions will take most of the rest of the year to complete the task. At the same time, we are still getting requests from South America and Africa for additional solar players to help fill the needs there.

Reaching the Most Remote

In June, Richard Baggett accompanied Luis Melendez on another solar distribution across Central America. On their journey, they were able to visit a tribe who resides on an island in the middle of a lake in Panama. This tribe holds to many of their traditional ways but has received the Gospel, and a church has started to grow. To help spread the Gospel and mature these Christians, Richard and Luis took solar players out to this remote village. Many of those who received solar players have been going to remote areas such as this, making sure that *the Word of God reaches every corner of the globe, no matter how remote.*



Luis Melendez delivering a solar player to a tribe in Panama

Another visit Luis and Richard made was to the home of Daniel. Daniel received a solar player during a previous trip. He is blind and had been praying to God for an audio Bible. *The solar player has truly brought the light of the Gospel into his life.* Despite his disability, he uses the solar player to evangelize his fellow blind friends, as well as drug addicts and the homeless. He is just another example of God using someone whom society has cast aside and forgotten to spread the Kingdom of Light to a darkened world.

Going Where Missionaries Can't

In late March, Sunset received a letter from a Catholic priest in Mexico. He was asking for more solar players because he ministers to Mexican village populations in an area controlled by a drug cartel. The cartels allow him to stay and minister because he is a priest. Lalo Rocha, a missionary in Mexico City, met a neighbor lady who also has permission from the cartel to enter their area because she brings humanitarian

aid to the villagers. Before one of her trips, Lalo showed her a solar player in Spanish. She asked and received permission from the cartel to take several into the their tightly controlled area. The priest got one of them and loved it. He has sent a letter asking for someone to come and bring more solar players, which he says will help to spread the teaching of Christ to the poor villagers in his area. There is no congregation of the church of Christ in that area. It would be very dangerous to enter this area or to attempt to deliver solar players or to evangelize without the permission of the cartel. Those solar players have been delivered. Continue to pray with us as God shines the light of the Gospel in one of the darkest places on earth.



Letter from a priest in Mexico

Planning and Dreaming

In March, Brian Garnett took 150 players to the Philippines to distribute at a church conference with over 1,500 in attendance. The players were given to church leaders. Brian reported that there were 150 very happy people and 1,350 who were very disappointed. While Brian was on an earlier trip, a congregation contacted Sunset about getting a player to a preacher they knew in Cebu. Brian was able to reach Manuel Daliwa and another preacher at a McDonald's. Since that time, Manuel has planted two churches in the mountains and baptized many using the solar player to help teach.



Brian delivering solar players

In April, Sunset held a meeting for ministry partners who are all working in different ministries throughout the Philippine nation. Among the group were long-term missionaries, Filipinos, and representatives from ministries who have been laboring for years through short-term trips and long-term relationships. Many of the participants were encouraged to see an effort being made to unite the church in a way that will empower them to strengthen themselves against the forces of evil they all face. In discussions, it was mentioned that by uniting under the common teaching from Sunset, it will help to unify the 600+ churches already working to stand strong.

Distributing in Mass

In July, hundreds of Christians in the Philippines met for one of the largest meetings of Christians on the islands. Many representatives from Sunset taught, including Chris Swinford, Brandi and Penny Kendall, and Brian and Betty Garnett. The main event was a part of the Heritage Bible College Lectures. The distribution was the biggest of the year and puts us well on our way to distributing the 2,000 solar players promised by the end of the year. There were 590 distributed at the lectures which brings the total delivered to the Philippines for the year to 955. These were put into the hands of preachers from around the country and even from the predominantly Muslim parts of the country where so few churches exist.



Who will Receive #10,000?

During the Philippine conference, **Sunset distributed our 10,000th solar player.** We will introduce you to the recipient in subsequent updates. We are eagerly anticipating what God will do with this solar player, but it is only representative of the great work of God over the past five years. Words cannot express how humbled we are to be part of planting the Word of God with each of these players. People in groups of 5 or 10 or 100 throughout the world continue to use these players. We can only praise God for the increase He is bringing and will continue to bring. *Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this process of making sure that no one is left in the dark apart from the Light of the Gospel.* We will have more on this milestone for our ministry as we continue to report.

We are still looking to add more churches and individuals as partners in this ministry. At this point, we are about halfway to our fundraising goal and still need your help. *Please let us know if we can come and share how your congregation can be a part of the Solar Mission.* Please contact us for information on how we can work with you to include your church in this mission.

-Jeff Rader

(Much of the information for this article came from the Solar Reports that are sent to donors of the Solar Mission.)

Photos on this page are courtesy of Erik Tryggestad who accompanied the Sunset team for the large distribution in the Philippines in June.

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November 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018

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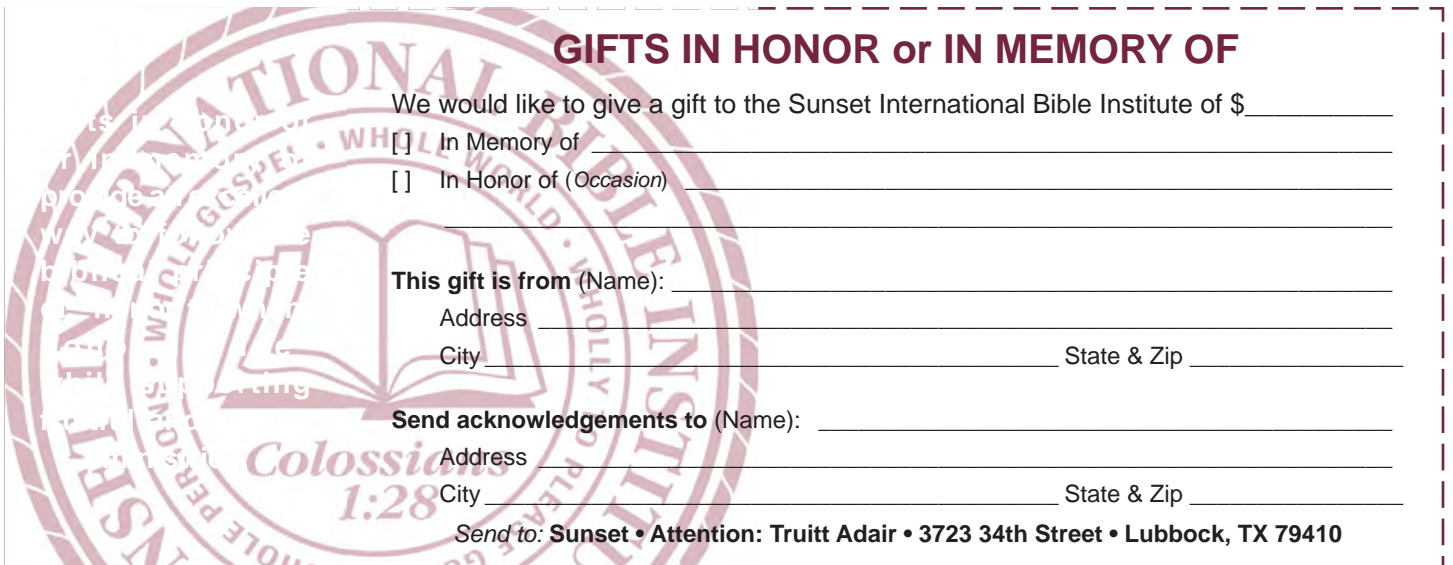
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DEPARTURES

Delbert Bradley ('69) passed away ay August 15, 2018. After graduating from Sunset, Delbert worked in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He and his wife, Carol Ann, moved to Pell City, Alabama, to be near family several years ago. Delbert and Carol Ann have remained faithful servants of God. Delbert passed away August 15, 2018.

Owen Carr ('87) passed from this life on April 30, 2018 in Lubbock, Texas, surrounded by his kids. Owen served for twenty-nine years as the minister for the Main Street Church of Christ in Petersburg, Texas. He was a graduate from the Sunset School of Preaching in 1987. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Bible and Ministry from Lubbock Christian University in 1999. In addition to these, he received multiple graduate degrees from Lubbock Christian University focusing on Bible and Family Studies.



Ronald Downey ('72) of Marysville, California, died of complications following a heart attack on May 2, 2018. Ron was born in Santa Paula, California, on January 24, 1950. The family moved to Marysville in 1960. Ron graduated from Marysville High School in 1968, and went on to attend Yuba College where he played baseball and rugby before transferring to the Sunset School of Preaching. From 1972 to the end of his life he served as a preacher and missionary. He preached for a variety of churches in California. Over his career as a missionary he served churches in Canada, Australia, Mexico, India, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand,



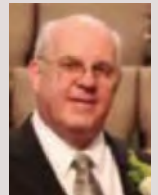
and the Philippines. Ron worked for many years to help Sunset establish and strengthen schools throughout Asia.

Jeannie Lawrenson ('76), wife of Buddy, passed away on February 19, 2018 in Byesville, Ohio.

Jay C. Mack ('67), 91, of Rosenberg, Texas, passed away September 18, 2017, at home. After working at Admiral Corporation, he attended the Sunset School of Preaching. He preached for 43 years. His ministry had an impact on so many lives both in the United States as well as overseas.

Gary Lynn Mathews ('74), 71, of Independence, Louisiana, passed away on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Gary enjoyed life and loved to study the Bible, preaching and teaching for 41 years. He also enjoyed Texas Aggie football, computers, playing the saxophone and spending time with his family. Gary especially loved and adored his granddaughter, the apple of his eye.

Donald Musgrave ('68), 73, of Union City, Georgia, passed away July 16, 2018. He began his ministry at Sunset and travelled the world preaching the gospel from Oklahoma to Africa. Don and his wife Dona spent many years in Claremore, Oklahoma, at the Hope Harbor Children's Home. He later served as the Minister for Fayetteville Church of Christ for 14 years and finished his ministry with Christian City, where he was serving the day he passed away. His ministry did not end when he left the pulpit, he served in Children's Homes, Nursing Homes and Retirement communities all over.



DEPARTURES

Janice Myers, wife of Edward Myers ('69), passed away August 9, 2018. She was 73. She liked water-color, painting, sewing, and spending time with her grandchildren whom she loved very much.

Lloyd Overby ('69) died January 21, 2018, at the Cordell Christian Home. After an honorable discharge from the United States Army, he worked for Phillips Petroleum Company for 15 years. He then moved to Lubbock to attend the Sunset School of Preaching, graduating in 1969. Lloyd preached in New Hampshire, Nebraska, Texas, and Oklahoma, where he retired. He also did mission work in Belize and the Ukraine for 30 years during the summers.

Harold "Rusty" Russwurm was born April 11, 1930 in Independence, Mississippi. He met and married Ramona Sue Fourier on December 7, 1951. Rusty was known for his love for his wife and family. Everyone was his friend, even strangers, often to the embarrassment of any grandchild with him at the time. His life was lived to follow the footsteps of Jesus and the example he set was an inspiration to everyone. Rusty was a member of the Church of Christ since the age of 14. He always served others, including as an Elder at Sunset Church of Christ. His family and church family meant the world to him. Rusty was a member of the Sunset Council and a long-time supporter of the school.



Bobby Sisson ('15), age 32, of Sudan, Texas, passed away on May 4, 2018. Robert Karl Sisson III was born on January 17, 1986 to Robert K. Sisson Jr. and Leoria (Welty) Sisson. Bobby graduated from Sudan High School and had attended the Sunset International Bible Institute. He worked alongside his Dad as a business partner in their company, Covrall Construction and Remodeling. He was an avid soccer player, golfer, and a volunteer fireman. He had served as a volunteer youth minister and went on many mission trips. His greatest joy and accomplishment was how he influenced others for Christ.



Don Solomon ('71) made his journey Home on December 12, 2017. He and JoAnn lived in Eules, Texas, at the time of his passing. Don and JoAnn moved to Lubbock in 1969 to enter Sunset School of Preaching. Upon graduation they moved to Dallas to work as youth minister and then to Australia in 1973. They moved back to Sunset and he served as the first director of Adventures in Mission until 1986. They did mission work in England, Missouri, and other parts of Texas. His deep passion for the Lord will never be forgotten.



Guy Sullivan (Senior AIM), 90, passed away on August 17, 2018. Guy was born November 26, 1927, in Centerpoint, Arkansas. He graduated from Abilene Christian College in 1951. He taught in Snyder, Texas, from 1953-1958 before

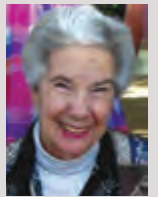


entering into the insurance business. Guy was a charter member of the founding Board of Directors for Camp Blue Haven in New Mexico. After moving to Lubbock, Guy volunteered with the Covenant Hospital Auxiliary for ten years.

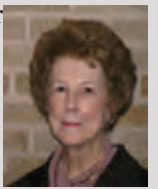
Richard Walker, 95, of Lubbock, passed to his eternal reward August 25, 2018. He was born January 5, 1923. Richard graduated from Abilene Christian University in 1944. He was a Greek scholar who studied at Harvard University, where he earned his two degrees in New Testament Greek. Richard married Helen Elaine (Hinds) Walker on September 10, 1944 in Pueblo, Colorado. Richard and Elaine were among the first missionaries to head to Europe after World War II. After brief stays in Zurich, Switzerland, and Munich, Germany, Richard's primary evangelistic work was in Frankfurt and Heidelberg before the family moved to Berlin, where they lived from 1954 -1968. Other mission work was also done in Austria, Greece, Norway, Bulgaria and India. Richard and Elaine have five children, three of whom have followed in their parents' footsteps and have been active in overseas evangelism. After Richard retired, he was active in writing several books. His works include *Asking in Prayer*, *From the Greek*, *The Kingdom*, and *The Story of the Church*. Many of his writings are available on his web page: thekingdomofjesus.com. Richard and Elaine were married for 64 years prior to her passing in September of 2008. They leave behind a legacy of humble service to the Lord. He was a member of the Sunset Church of Christ.



Jane Whatley (Senior AIM), 95, triumphantly entered the gates of Heaven June 5, 2018. Jane was born in Houston, Texas, December 10, 1922. Jane met her husband Army Air Force Sgt. James Ernest Whatley at the USO Club in San Angelo amidst the perils of World War II. They gave birth to 3 adoring daughters, 2 granddaughters, and 7 great-grandchildren. Jane taught ladies' Bible classes and Sunday School for 44 year at Broadway, Ropesville, Vandelia, Skillman, and Sunset Churches of Christ. In collaboration with Conny Martin, Jane brought to life a scripturally-based scale model of the Tabernacle, earning her the nickname of "The Tabernacle Lady."



Wilma Faye Whitaker, 86, left this world for her heavenly home on Monday, March 19, 2018. On August 27, 1949, she married the love of her life, Robert Henry Whitaker in Ada, Oklahoma. She was a partner with Robert in his construction business. She was the bookkeeper for the business, and still managed to raise four daughters. She was a longtime member of the Sunset Church of Christ. She was instrumental in starting the Bereavement Program at Sunset Church of Christ in 1970. She served in this program until 1982. She served as an elder's wife for 34 years.



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Michelle Herbert
School of Missions
Seattle, Washington



Trent Herbert
School of Missions
Seattle, Washington



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Providence,
Rhode Island



Bobby Lumpkin
Lacey, Washington



Douglas Sears
Puyallup, Washington



Larry Smith
Frankston, Texas



Aaron Solis
Stratford, Texas



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School of Missions
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Port Elizabeth,
South Africa

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY



Jun Fuentes
Philippines

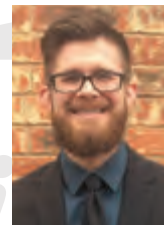


Chris Potter
Concan, Texas



Angela Thompson
Lubbock, Texas

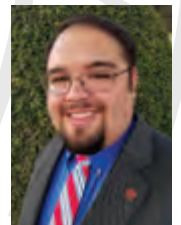
ASSOCIATE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES



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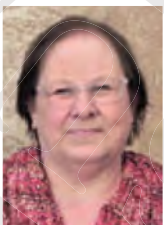


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MISSION AMERICA

SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE

A Commitment to Renew, Revive and Reenergize Churches of Christ Across the United States

Many congregations across the United States are in a state of crisis. The problems differ, but generally relate to a lack of congregational leaders, a lack of preachers, a lack of evangelism and a lack of resources and assistance for church leaders. Sunset has dedicated themselves to assisting congregations in such areas, but the need appears to be greater than ever before. It is time to come together to work side by side in changing the momentum and helping congregations become healthy and grow in maturity and in number. The problem will not simply go away if ignored. It will just become worse.

We have been working on a plan we call *Mission America*. This mission will focus on the following 12 areas:

1. Preacher and Ministry Training
2. Domestic Mission Team Development
3. Leadership Training and Education (SALT)
4. Hispanic Church Planting and Church Growth
5. Humanitarian Assistance and Community Outreach
6. Free Materials and Resource Library
7. US Arabic/Muslim Outreach
8. Campus Ministry
9. Future Preacher's Camp
10. Military Outreach and Education
11. Influencing National Leaders
12. Targeted Partnerships with Ministries

Sunset has been addressing many of these areas for more than 50 years. In these areas, we need to be more fervent and effective in impacting the United States. Some of these 12 areas have not been addressed by our ministry in previous decades but must be addressed with urgency in the years to come.

Fortunately, Churches of Christ have a number of faithful ministries that focus on serving congregations in these ways. With several of these ministries agreeing to work side by side in this effort, we could see a major change in our nation.

Preacher and Ministry Training



For 55 years, Sunset has been training and equipping preachers and ministers and preparing them to preach, to teach and to minister in congregations across the country and around the world. Teachers like Ed Wharton have dedicated their lives to training such Christians. Graduates of Sunset have filled, or are filling, pulpits in all 50 states. The need for qualified and capable preachers, ministers and evangelists has always been important and there is a desperate need for more of them today. Many congregations are struggling without a preacher to fill their pulpit. While Sunset has always sought to meet these demands, there is a need for us to recruit more capable students to be equipped and trained to fill the needs of congregations in the United States.

Domestic Mission Team and Church Planting Development

Sunset has trained a number of domestic mission teams who prepare themselves to work in needed areas of the United States. The King and McDaniel families prepared at Sunset before planting a congregation in Rapid City, South Dakota, six years ago called the Rapid City Church of Christ on West Main. Their congregation started in a house with just their two families and is now a strong and active congregation.

The truth is, we will need hundreds of mission teams like the Rapid City team if we want to make a real difference for Christ in this country. In doing



Above right: Kerry Williams, Dean of Graduate Studies

Bottom right: Sunset students doing evangelism in a neighborhood

this, we will establish a new lighthouse in a dark area of our country and provide an opportunity for the teaching of the gospel, for the maturing of disciples and for meeting the needs of the individuals and families in that community.

Sunset Academy of Leadership Training (SALT)



Many of the struggles being faced in local congregations are a result of congregational leaders who lack education and training for dealing with the issues and situations faced by congregations in our world today. There is a need for accessible assistance for preachers, church leaders and church members who are being developed into leaders for the future. Through the Sunset Academy of Leadership or SALT, seminars and workshops will be held all across the country to train and certify congregational leaders of all types, to provide free tools and resources for congregations and congregational leaders and to provide consulting and mentoring services for participants. Our goal is to make this inexpensive and easily accessible for church leaders all over the country.

Hispanic Church Planting and Church Growth

Sunset began as a preacher training school for Spanish-speaking preachers. There is a real need for Sunset to return to its roots and offer real answers to the needs of Hispanic congregations across the United States. While the population of Spanish-speaking people continues to grow rapidly, Spanish-speaking congregations are struggling, declining and even closing. These congregations are lacking the tools, resources and expertise to grow and mature as they should. The key will be to engage successful church planters and church leaders who have grown Hispanic congregations to help provide real solutions to the problems being faced today.

Luis Melendez has been working with Sunset to distribute solar-powered audio players in Spanish in his native El Salvador, Costa Rica and in other Central American nations. Sunset has asked Luis to return to the school to take the lead in this ministry. He will work with Spanish-speaking congregations and Anglo congregations who are hosting or working with them. Luis, along with other capable Spanish-speaking preachers who were trained at Sunset, are needed to plant new congregations, renew struggling congregations and to assist church leaders dealing with the issues faced by so many congregations.

Humanitarian Assistance and Community Outreach



There is a biblical mandate to serve our communities and to meet the needs of the lost around us in order to have an opportunity to teach them the good news of Jesus. We need to minister to our community and respond to the disasters and emergencies around us and to follow up with evangelistic efforts that will benefit the local congregations. This is not new. Sunset and other ministries have done this in the past and have done it most recently after several natural disasters in the United States. We need to continue good humanitarian efforts along with helping local congregations to ensure there is effective evangelistic follow up with these humanitarian efforts in their communities.

Free Congregational Material and Resource Library

Sunset is digitizing thousands of pages of documents, and hundreds of recorded sermons and lessons on biblical topics have been collected and stored in various formats for decades. This material will be cataloged and made available on a website for church leaders and Bible students from across the country and around the world. Many of our small congregations are struggling to meet their weekly budget but have a real need for information, teaching and insights that Sunset can offer for free.



This will give preachers, church leaders, satellite schools and Bible class teachers materials they can access through the website or an app available for download. It is vital for congregations to have access to practical information on Bible texts and difficult-to-understand scriptures, on leadership and on other ministry topics.

*Above right: Doug Reeves working with missionaries after Hurricane Maria
Bottom right: resources from External Studies*



Wissam Al-Aethawi

US Arabic/Muslim Outreach

Sunset has been working with European congregations to teach and evangelize Arabic-speaking Muslim refugees in Western Europe through the Solar Mission and reaching out to the Arabic-speaking population of the world through an Arabic language website and printed materials. This work will continue, but Sunset has also been using these tools to reach out and evangelize Arabic-speaking people, many of whom are Muslim, in the United States. Wissam Al-Aethawi is working with Sunset to plant an Arabic-speaking congregation and to teach congregations across the country to minister to Muslims and convert them to Christ.

Campus Ministry

College campuses across the USA are receptive mission fields for reaching the lost here in America. In 2018, a team of AIMers joined Isaac McNally, a Sunset alumnus, on the Texas A&M University Commerce, Texas, campus. They will minister and work on the campus under the direction of Isaac and his wife Heather who minister daily there. The goal is to establish a workable disciple-making model for campus ministry using AIM students in Commerce and then to spread that same evangelistic model across the United States. Other campuses in Texas, Arizona, Florida, and California are expected to soon follow this pilot program in Commerce. An additional blessing of this effort is that it will provide a productive ministry for AIMers returning from foreign fields.

Future Preachers Camp

In order to recruit and train a sufficient number of preachers to meet the needs of congregations across the USA, we must begin teaching and training students at an earlier age. Sunset will be hosting a camp for teenagers interested in

learning to preach the Word of God. This relationship with Sunset should lead some, as they develop, to become full-time students at Sunset, in preparation for long-term ministry.

Through DiscipleTrips, which offers short-term mission trips for teens and adults, we are developing relationships with those who plan to attend AIM or come to Sunset to become missionaries. It is expected that this future preachers camp will also be a blessing to the congregations sending young men to be trained in leadership and preaching.

Military Outreach and Education

For years, veterans have come to Sunset and received their education in preaching and ministry using funding from their GI Bill. Sunset is approved to offer this education to veterans and hundreds have taken advantage of this opportunity. Sunset plans to actively recruit veterans to attend Sunset to get their degree and enter a life of ministry and service in the Kingdom of Christ.

In addition, Sunset plans to reach out on military bases across the country and serve those in the armed services and their families. We owe a great debt to those who serve and want to minister to them and make our materials and information available to them.

Influencing National Leaders

Everyone recognizes that those who serve as political leaders in Washington D.C. are in need of spiritual direction. We must recognize that if this direction is to be given, it must be initiated by Churches of Christ and by Christian ministries like Sunset. We plan to make a concerted effort to communicate and interact with our political leaders in any way available to us and by utilizing Christian men and women who have experience working with those on Capitol Hill and other political institutions in Washington D.C.

First Timothy 2:2 reminds us that we have an obligation to pray for our leaders, and we are dedicated to praying for them and the decisions they make. It is obvious that there is more we can do to assist them in making godly decisions.

Targeted Partnerships

Sunset is blessed to have many outstanding partners among Church of Christ organizations. We plan to have a special meeting in Lubbock to coordinate a plan for impacting the United States through Mission America. We are working with a number of congregations and ministry partners, some listed here. This job is too massive for any one organization. There will need to be a coordinated effort. Partners include World Bible School, Gospel Sharing Ministries, HomeMission, NewLife Behavior Ministries, and Churches of Christ.

We hope you will pray for this effort and consider partnering with us in Mission America.

-Chris Swinford, Vice President for Institute Advancement



ANNOUNCING DEVELOPMENT OF *The Free Sunset Online Digital Library*



Boxes of Archived Analog Media



Jason Ulibarri working on the
Sunset Online Digital Library

For more than half a century, men and women have been coming to Lubbock to be taught by our great Bible teachers, missionaries, and gospel preachers. For the first 50 years, recordings were made of classes, workshops, forums and sermons presented in the school of preaching and to the Sunset congregation. A portion of those recordings have long been available through the Sunset Extension School on CDs and DVDs, but now we are ready to introduce the **Sunset Online Digital Library: The Multimedia Archive of Sunset International Bible Institute.**

The **Sunset Online Digital Library** will consist of a website and mobile apps giving users access to almost every class, message, and sermon delivered at Sunset which has been recorded over the past 50 years. Users will be able either go to the website, or open an app on their phone or tablet, and listen or view thousands of hours of teaching. In addition, many printed study guides and outlines will also be available for reading. **With help from generous donors and supporters of Sunset, this access will be free.**

All these media materials will be catalogued and accessible based on speaker, topic, class, series, Bible passage, and media. While the largest portion will be in English, Sunset's archive materials in American Sign Language, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and French will also be accessible. Just a few of the many teachers included are *Richard Rogers, Ed Wharton, Cline Paden, Gerald Paden, Truman Scott, Truitt Adair, Abe Lincoln, Richard Baggett, Ted Kell, Jim McGuiggan, Nat Cooper, and Ted Stewart.*

Development of this project began in January. Two of our Sunset technical staff, Richard Cravy and Jason Ulibarri, are heading up this great work. Jason is the newest member of external studies family. He was born and raised in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Before coming to Sunset he attended New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Arts and Graphic Design and a Master of Arts degree in Physical Computing. Jason moved to Lubbock in 2012 to start his studies at Sunset. Since graduating in 2014, he has been working multiple jobs in Lubbock but has recently been added to our staff and family by working alongside Richard Cravy. Jason is taking cassette tapes, VHS, CD's, and other forms of analog media and digitizing it to build a free online library. This free library will consist of valuable lessons, sermons, classes and other materials so more people will have access to studying God's Word.

While conversion of these materials into digital format is labor intensive, and many other aspects are still in development, we hope the website and mobile apps will be available sometime in early 2019. We anticipate untold numbers of people around the world will be able to benefit from free access to some of the best Bible teaching available anywhere. At the same time, the teaching of many of Sunset's instructors will continue to bless new generations of believers and Bible students.


-Richard Cravy

Lifeline

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