

Lifeline

Keeping the Sunset family connected



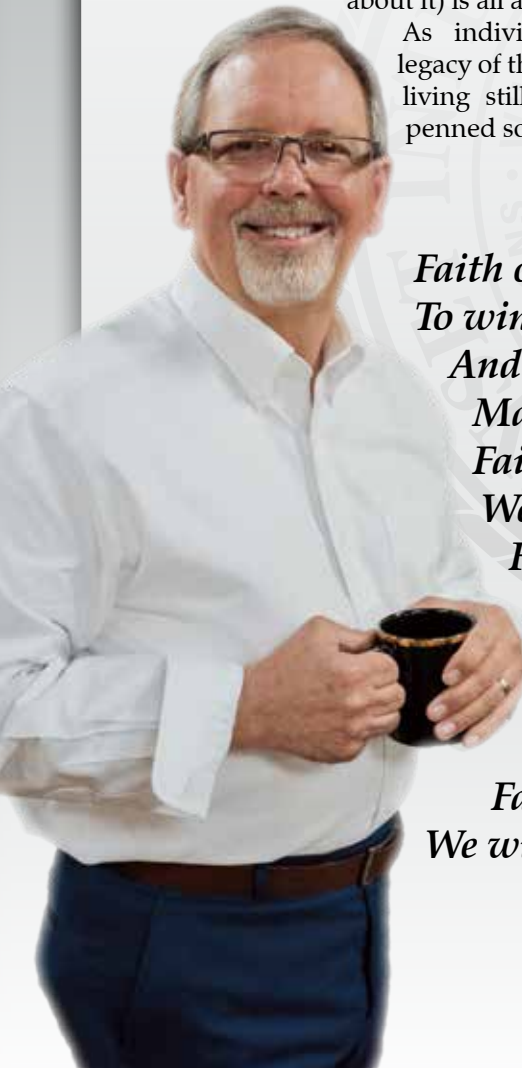
O Legado Brasileiro (The Brazilian Legacy)

Tim's Notes

-Tim Burow

I have been thinking lately about Sunset's legacy. Merriam-Webster says that the word legacy comes from the "Medieval Latin *legatio*, from *legare* to bequeath, something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past." Very often when we read such words as "bequeath" we think of something physical and inanimate as found in the reading of a person's will, but I am reminded of what the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2:15 "... hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter." Paul would also tell his young protégé in 2 Timothy 2:2 "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." SIBI as an institution (when you think about it) is all about legacy.

As individuals we have the legacy of the "Faith of our fathers living still" as Frederick Faber penned so long ago.



*Faith of our fathers, we will strive
To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then indeed be free.
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!
Faith of our fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach thee, too, as love knows
how
By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!*

As I look at the cover of this issue of Lifeline I think of legacy. These men, women and children left their home country and went to Brazil to transmit something that had been bequeathed to them. After all these years, their work stands and has caused others to follow in their footsteps in other parts of Brazil and around the world. As a student of Ted Stewart (one of those men in the photo) I have been given a spirit for world evangelism, which has also been fostered by Cline and Gerald Paden, Truitt Adair, Tim Brumfield, Doyle Gilliam, Truman Scott, Nat Cooper, Francis Habashy, and countless others. These men have all taken the word of God and a zeal for the saving of lost souls and have handed it down to me and to others.

SIBI is first and foremost a training ground for proclaimers of the blessed gospel of Jesus Christ. What we have received from Him cannot be fully appraised this side of the Jordan, but it can be appreciated and it can be shared. With the help of our financial and prayer partners we are enabled to both be and share legacy. May we share it with our manner of life and speech, may we share it through the solar ministry, may we share it through our online studies program, may we share it through our residential training program, our satellite schools, our international schools, may we share it through our mission teams, may we share it with our last physical movement and breath! May this be our good legacy. I hope that you will be blessed by this most current copy of Lifeline.

Tim Burow

Daniel



Jim McGuiggan

The Case for
Historic
Christianity



Reliability of the New Testament
The Evidence for Jesus' Resurrection

by Edward C. Whiston
Study Guide



In Celebration of
COMMUNION
at the Lord's Supper

GERALD PADEN

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The 1961 São Paulo, Brazil Mission Team that began a long legacy of mission work in Brazil.

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Approaching the Book of Revelation

A Guide for Reading and Study



The Book of Revelation is one of the most encouraging books in the Bible, one which was sent by God to reaffirm the faith of his people who were suffering under the persecuting hand of the Roman Empire in the first century. Revelation was meant to strengthen Christian faith. Yet for many Christians today it remains a closed book, a scary writing with strange symbols and weird visions that are difficult to understand. But when the book is read and studied in such a way as to glean key principles, ideas, and truths from the visions and symbols, Revelation becomes a source of hope, assured victory, and blessing to the people of God who hold to its core teachings today.

This brief study aims to highlight seven of these principles taught in the Book of Revelation. These principles also serve as headings for a general outline of the book, guideposts along the way to aid readers in their study and journey through this wonderful book.

Principle #1: God Answers the Church's Urgent Need (Chapter 1)

As mentioned above, the Book of Revelation was written to encourage Christians to remain faithful to Jesus amid trials and persecution. It was sent in urgency, as seen in its opening verse: "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place." The word "*soon*" directs our attention to events close at hand to the Christians of the first century. This was not a message given to communicate events of the distant future. The church, struggling against the force of the Roman Empire, had a need for a reassuring message. We must read Revelation, therefore, as an answer to their prayers for a just God to act on their behalf.

As a response to that prayer, God ensures that Revelation will be a blessing given to those who hear the message of the book: "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near" (1:3).

Principle #2: Jesus Walks With His Church (Chapters 2-3)

In chapters two and three, the book moves into its next section, showing that the glorified Christ (1:9-20) is currently present with His churches. He is aware of their need. There are seven specific congregations mentioned, which are at once literal congregations in Asia Minor and also representative of the church as a whole (as seen in the number seven). Jesus walks among the lampstands, inspecting them and tending to them, as a priest might have done in the Old Testament temple.

Jesus proclaims that messages should be written to the seven churches. These writings are placed into the care of an angel sent to each church, ensuring that the church received them. In these messages, Jesus recognizes the congregation's positive traits, characteristics, and actions. He also informs them of those things which they need to rectify. Each message ends with a challenge to "overcome" and a promised reward if they are successful. Each passage ends with an invitation to hear "what the Spirit says to the churches" (2:7). The words of Christ are also the words of the Holy Spirit, speaking to the individual congregations. The word "hear" implies obedience to the message spoken and is a direct reminder of the blessing given at the beginning of the book — "Blessed are those who hear...." (1:3).

The main point in these two chapters, then, is to show

how Christ is present and among His church. He is not distant and unaware of their situation, but rather He “knows their deeds” and seeks to help them strengthen their faults to be ready for the coming challenges. The messages are encouraging in that Jesus wants to help His people improve. They are corrective in that Jesus wants them to repent of sinful behavior. In all, they exhort God’s people to walk with Christ just as He walks with and among them.

Principle #3: God, Creator and King, is Worthy of Praise (Chapter 4)

In this chapter, John is invited up to heaven: “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this” (4:1). He is then confronted with a marvelous scene—a throne-room scene in heaven reminiscent of passages such as Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 1 where prophets had similar visions of the glory of God.

John first sees a throne with one seated on it, obviously a reference to God the Father, the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:13-14). Around the throne were 24 elders (one of many symbols in this book that describe the church). The Holy Spirit is also present, described as “the seven spirits of God” (4:5).

Surrounding the throne were “four living creatures,” the cherubim angels, who in the Bible are often depicted as the ones who protect the holy things of God such as the Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:17) and the entrance to the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:24). These cherubim angels proclaimed continuously, day and night: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come” (3:8). The 24 elders proclaim, “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being” (4:11).

This reality in heaven contrasts with the “reality” on earth. God’s throne is heavenly, not earthly. God’s throne is eternal, not temporary. God’s throne is established and firm, not fleeting or passing in nature. Only God the Father rules over all creation, for he alone is the Creator and Sustainer of all life. All these truths strike a chord of dissonance against the emperor of the Roman Empire, who thought he was a god.

Christians today need to remember this same truth. What matters most in times of trouble is not who reigns on earth (kings, presidents, governments) but that God reigns from heaven over the affairs of men! Because of that truth, Christians can have confidence no matter what the difficulty or hardship might be.

Principle #4: Worthy is the Lamb, for He Alone is Redeemer! (Chapter 5)

In an equally impressive way, the glory of Jesus is praised in chapter 5. The praise of heaven thunders when Jesus, the Lamb, “looking as if it had been slain” but who in reality was “standing in the center of the throne,” approaches the One seated on the throne to take the scroll (5:6-7). This part of the vision highlights Jesus’ death on the cross but magnifies the truth that he was also raised

to life in the resurrection. This truth looks forward in time to give Christians hope in the event that their lives are cut short by persecution, as will be seen in the fifth seal (6:9). Death is never the end of Christians in the Book of Revelation. They are always characterized by life because Jesus lives!

The reason for praise given to Jesus is identified in 5:9: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” Jesus is the only one “worthy” of praise because only he gave up his life on the cross for the redemption of all humanity. Only Jesus is Savior. Therefore, only he is worthy of praise.

Principle #5: God Will Judge the Enemies of the Church (Chapters 6-16)

This is the central and largest section of the Book of Revelation. It is in this section where the seven seals of a scroll containing future judgments are opened (6:1-8:1); seven trumpets revealing partial judgments are blown (8:2-11:19); and seven bowls containing the complete wrath of God are poured out (15:1-16:21). It is important to recognize the relationship of the seven seals, trumpets, and bowls.

The seals “announce” the coming judgment of God upon the oppressor of God’s people, much like the plagues that were sent upon Egypt in the Old Testament (Ex. 7-11). The seven trumpets are “warnings,” partial judgments sent by God to cause the oppressor (Rome) to repent. The final group of the seven bowls is meant to “pour out” God’s complete wrath of judgment against the Roman Empire when hope for repentance has been exhausted. Rome will be like ancient Egypt: devastated because of refusal to acknowledge God.

The key principle in this section: the three groups of sevens are intended to show the progression of God’s patience with the unrighteous, which ultimately leads to judgment. Complete judgment against the oppressor only comes about when the multiple warnings to repent are ignored (16:9, 11). This entire section is meant to show how God allows time to repent before sending judgment upon a nation. Only when repeated opportunities given for the sake of repentance are shunned and rejected by the unrighteous enemy of the church will God bring his complete judgment upon Rome.





Principle #6: The Enemies of Jesus and His Church Are Judged (Chapters 17-18)

In the penultimate section of the book, chapters 17-18, the judgment is confirmed to have been brought against the enemy of the church in this book—the Roman Empire. It is described as “Babylon the Great” and is pictured as having been judged by God. First there is the vision of the beast and the harlot riding the beast. She is “dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls” (17:4), all depicting her “royalty”. This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (17:5).

John also adds that she “was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus” (17:6). This statement highlights the persecution the Roman Empire brought to bear against the first-century church.

Babylon is depicted as a city that has been destroyed: “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!” (18:2). Those who had been made rich by her—the merchants of the sea, “every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off” as they are terrified by her torment and destruction (18:15-17). Only smoke rises as a testament to her defeat by God. Eventually God’s enemies fall by the power of His Word.

Principle #7: Jesus and His Church Are Always Victorious (Chapters 19-22)

The final section of the book emphasizes the victory of Jesus and His church over the unrighteous. Chapter 19 contains four “hallelujah” statements, which “sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven” (19:1). These are intended to emphasize the heavenly praise issued to God for his faithfulness to bring judgment upon those who oppose his people.

A blessing is pronounced upon those who “are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb,” a symbol of blessing of all the faithful of God (19:9). Jesus is the great rider on the white horse who defeats His enemies in battle. His name is “the Word of God” (19:13) and is further described as the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (19:16). These titles show Jesus as victor and Lord of all.

Chapters 20-22 show the church as victorious and reigning with Christ for one thousand years, a symbol of their complete victory with Jesus. This image is not a reference to literal time but to the truth of complete victory over the enemy. In chapter 21 the church is also described as the “New Jerusalem” —the secure, precious, and beautiful city of God (21:1-2), who is at the same time the “bride, the wife of the Lamb” (21:9).

The coming of Christ is seen in the closing paragraphs of the book. This truth is always constant: Jesus will come to judge the wicked and the oppressor of God’s people and at the same time to reward and bless his faithful. God’s judgment is dynamic, coming in many forms and ways throughout time, even unto the final time at the Second Coming of Christ.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’” (22:17).

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.” (22:21)

-Arthur Puente (Arthur is available to speak for seminars or workshops. Contact him at apuente@sibi.cc.)

Surprising Blessings for 2020



January 21, 2020, probably will not become a national holiday or a day that will bring most of us fond memories. On that date the first person in the United States confirmed to have COVID-19 was a man in his 30s from Washington State. Since then, virtually every aspect of “normal” life around the world has ground to a halt, but not God’s kingdom.

Despite the pandemic, God is still continually active and His kingdom continues to grow. Nowhere is this more evident than among the growing number of schools that partner with Sunset to provide ministry training around the world. Among the more than 70 schools associated with Sunset, a few were ordered by their government to cease meeting, but several simply transitioned to online classes and continued to teach. Zoom, Adobe, FaceTime, and other streaming services all became part of their new vocabulary and new normal. Not only have many schools continued to train men and women for ministry, but since July new schools have joined with Sunset.

One example is in Guerrero, Mexico, where Freddy Zamora is one of the local ministers. Over the past eight years he has planted six new congregations and has begun a part-time training program. Freddy reached out to Sunset seeking a partnership, and today La Escuela Bíblica Del Sur is meeting and teaching.

Another example is the school located in Vissannapeta, India, where classes began in January 2020. The newly constructed facilities offer classroom space to accommodate around 60 members, with two bedrooms, a kitchen, and dining hall. Using the proven training curriculum of Sunset International Bible Institute, they offer two levels of degree courses: Associate of Biblical Studies, and Bachelor of Biblical Studies.

The newest school is the Bangalore Bible College, which meets in Bangalore, India. At the height of the pandemic on June 20, 2020, the students began their studies. The opening day was not what was planned, but the number of students grew to over 20 men and women equipping themselves for service.

It is amazing to see how our Lord makes connections. The director of the newest partner school in Bangalore, India, is Palmer Devaraj. Palmer was taught the gospel by Gary Walker, SIBI’s board chairman (see article on page 12). Palmer Devaraj’s son is Princeton Palmer, who recently accepted a role with Sunset International Bible Institute. On August 1, 2020, Princeton became the Dean of Ministry Training for Asia, which includes the Bangalore Bible College in India.

Princeton was born in Bangalore, India. The Palmer family relocated to England, where Princeton learned about and enrolled in Adventures in Missions at Sunset International Bible Institute in 2009. He completed his field element in Mexico City, graduating in 2012. He returned to Lubbock and enrolled in Sunset’s residential program. During his time of study in Lubbock, Princeton met and married Dani. In March

of 2015 Princeton and his family were invited to join a mission team in Mexico City. Both their ministry and family were blessed during the time in Mexico. The first blessing was the addition of their son Elijah, and later he was joined by a younger brother, Micah. The Palmers returned to Lubbock, Texas, in May of 2020, and they are now ready to begin the next chapter in their lives. Please pray for Princeton as he continues to look for partners to support him in this ministry. Contact princeton.palmer@sibi.cc for more information.

Most of the world and some Christians might view 2020 as a complete loss, but what we are witnessing is an awakening. The pandemic has forced the world to pause. At the same time, we are seeing numerous examples of how our Lord is creating opportunities for the spread of His message through new schools and new people.

-Doug Reeves



Above right: Princeton, Dani, Elijah and Micah Palmer
Lower right: Gary Walker and Chris Johnson with Princeton and Dani at School of Missions graduation in 2014

O Legado Brasileiro

(The Brazilian Legacy)

As Sunset International Bible Institute anticipates its 59th year, it becomes easier to reflect on the amazing work of God around the world. Places where work began so long ago are filled with individuals and churches that would not have been without God's blessing and mission. Brazil is one of those places where you can look at works and missionaries who have faithfully served and worked.

Sunset's association with Brazil began early because Ted and Dot Stewart had a dream that another country without God would hear about Him and His love and mercy. While at Abilene Christian University, Ted and Dot joined a mission team of fellow students and served as missionaries in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for 13 years. The missionary group of 16 families established 19 congregations in Sao Paulo and many more congregations in other cities. Ted was director of Sao Paulo Institute of Biblical Studies. Upon returning to the United States, Ted joined the faculty of Sunset and began sharing his dream to reach Brazil with the students. In 1961 when the Sao Paulo team began their work, little did they know that their legacy - *legado* - would continue into the 21st century.

Recently a team that originated from Sunset School of Preaching celebrated the 40th anniversary of their arrival as a team in Recife, Brazil. The team was composed of Joe and Linda McKinney, Charles and Terrie Taylor, Phil and Patricia Grassie, Mike and Peggy Palk, Randy and Kathy Short, and Mike Pruitt. They were making plans to get together for a 40th year reunion,

Top: Diego dos Anjos, '07 AIMER who now works with AME in Brazil, is another part of the Brazilian Legacy. Below: Diego from Recife was baptized by Rodrigo recently.



Teammates from the 1980 team from Sunset prepare for Recife, Brazil.

but the pandemic hit and shut down these plans. Mike felt the need to try to do something about this. Then the idea of a video with testimonies of brothers and sisters in Christ occurred to him. All the testimonies were from people who had become Christians during the first five years of this mission. When the video was done, Mike called a Zoom meeting with the team members and surprised them with the video. It was a very touching moment. The church in Recife is very thankful to the missionaries who pointed the way of Jesus to them. They are also grateful for their families and supporters who made their stays there possible. Mike shared these videos and pictures of the team with Sunset.

Here is an excerpt of a recent report about the church from Mike Pruitt.

The arrival of COVID presented the church with several challenges. After in-person classes were prohibited, some of our School of the Bible students were able to keep in touch with their professors. An example is Diego and his family. They began studying at the School of the Bible in 2017. Diego and his wife began attending Bible courses and shortly after started bringing their twin daughters, Lara and Luana, to learn English in our English Bible courses. They got to know the church and were interested in learning more. When the pandemic hit, his family started meeting online for Bible studies with Rodrigo, one of our School of the Bible teachers. Diego asked what was required to attend our church services. Rodrigo answered: "just come and sit, just like everyone else." After a while, the conversations deepened, and Diego's family started asking a new question: "What is required to follow Jesus?" After more Bible studies, Diego and his family





Randy Short and Doug Reeves distributed solar players in Brazil in January 2020.

were distributed through Brazilians up into the Amazon where Americans are not allowed to go. The people could not believe they were being given something free that contained the Word of God. The Word will continue in the mountains and up the rivers in Brazil as long as there is sunlight to power the players. Once travel is allowed, more solar players will be distributed to complete the current Solar Mission.

Pray that the Recife team continues to keep in touch with the family of God in Recife and across Brazil. As Mike Pruitt said about the baptism

that took place during the time of COVID-19: "Amid all the suffering and uncertainty around us, it was a moment of celebration and assurance that our hope lies in eternity."

-Linda Wagner

decided to be immersed into a commitment with Christ. Amid all the suffering and uncertainty around us, it was a moment of celebration and assurance that our hope lies in Eternity.

Sunset continued to train and send students to Brazil. A three-family team moved together to Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, on February 8, 1984. The McKinney family returned to the United States after three years. The Bontrager family returned to the United States after four years. Tim and Janet Brumfield stayed 12 years. Monty & Melody Huffman came a year or two after the Bontragers left and worked with the Brumfields two years, then returned to the United States after their seven-year-old son died from meningitis. The Brumfields stayed until May 1996. Ron Bontrager lauded Ted Stewart as "a man dearly loved by faculty, our alumni, missionaries and Brazilian Christians. There are very few people in Brazil who are Christians today that could not in some way trace their spiritual birth back to Ted and his work there. Ted was a great encourager of missions as well." Ted encouraged him to go into the mission field and visited him while Ron and his family worked in Salvador, Brazil.

While mission work in Brazil has done much to reach the cities of that great nation, there is much of the Portuguese-speaking world who live without consistent electricity or access to enormous amounts of Bible-related material. In 2019 and January of 2020, solar players in the Portuguese language were distributed to many in Brazil. The players

The church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, is another part of the Brazilian Legacy.



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Thompson, Lola	Tim & Janet Brumfield		W.R. & Mary Collier		Truitt & Kay Adair
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 Kendall, Brandi Brian & Joyce Allamon
 Kretz, Bonnie Jeannette Laging & Family
 Laging, James Truitt & Kay Adair
 Larsen, Michelle Christine Harber
 Locke, Gerald Laura Akin
 Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Mackey, Meg David & Judy Guy
 Marshall, Shirley Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 McClellan, Bill Bruce McClellan
 LaMoine Harrison
 Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Scott & Bennie Raney
 Truitt & Kay Adair
 Moss, Myrtle Ricks (Ricki) Bud James
 Jack Moss
 Ochoa, Raymond Joe The Mac Farrar Family
 O'Neill, Virginia The Mac Farrar Family
 Paden, Bobbie Alice Dennis
 Cassandra Witherspoon
 Christine Harber
 Clarissa Derrick
 Claudio & Virginia Chisholm
 Delores Southerland
 Gwen Turner
 LaMoine Harrison
 Lestie Glover
 Mike & Mary Prosser
 Norm & Ginger Clayton
 Tom & Thelma Cunnius
 Truitt & Kay Adair
 Paden, Gerald & Bobbie Raymond & Laura
 Collier

In Memory of

Given by

Palma, Amos Truitt & Kay Adair
 Palmer, Nancy Mac & Beth Brockman
 Phillips, Herman Carla Phillips
 Truitt & Kay Adair
 Phillips, L.D. Terry Hines
 Randolph, Troy Dawna Gilbert
 Norma Gilbert
 Rieder, Andrew Robert & Cynthia Rieder
 Rigney, Jack Royce Hunter
 Robertson, Paula Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Robinson, Helen Ruth Carolyn Sturdivant
 LaMoine Harrison
 Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Truitt & Kay Adair
 Roper, Sharlotte Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Rush, Guy Barbara Buckel
 Bob & Jan Crockett
 Carolyn Sturdivant
 Charles & Hoycille Valentine
 David & Vi Turnbough
 Don & Charlene Eddleman
 Don & Phyllis Williams
 Earlene Johnson
 Gayla Hodge
 Gwen Turner
 Jack & Keeci Henderson
 Jerry Tarbet
 Joyce Brown
 Joyce Kiker
 LaMoine Harrison
 Lawanna Smith
 Lee & Sharon Towns
 Leta Sarten
 Luciana Murphy
 Mike & Mary Prosser
 Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Modine Lundgren
 Myrtle Finley
 Nat & Jean Cooper
 Norval & Mary Pollard
 Phyllis Cox
 Royce Hunter
 Scott & Bennie Raney
 The Mac Farrar Family

In Memory of

Given by

Rush, Guy Tom & Thelma Cunnius
 Truitt & Kay Adair
 Wanda Parker
 Saenz, Debbie Marie The Mac Farrar Family
 Scott, Hardy Barbara Parks
 Darla Anderson
 Earlene Johnson
 LaMoine Harrison
 Laura Akin
 Lee & Sharon Towns
 Mark A. McCord
 Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Roselee Anderson
 Truitt & Kay Adair
 W.R. & Mary Collier
 Wynelle Wagnon
 Margaret Shady
 Shady, Jim Truitt & Kay Adair
 Singleton, David The Mac Farrar Family
 Smith, Bill Gene Jack Moss
 Solomon, Andrew Dee & Sandy Ellis
 Steen, Joyce Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Tarbet, Sam Michael & Heather
 Thomas, Bill & JoNell Thomas
 Tubb, Nathan The Mac Farrar Family
 Varner, Danny The Mac Farrar Family
 Walker, Karl Bob & Sandy Jackson
 Walker, Larry LaMoine Harrison
 Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 The Mac Farrar Family
 Waters, Linda Floyd Waters
 Watkins, Charlotte Frank & June Stevens
 Waygood, Bill The Mac Farrar Family
 Weir, Raymond Tim & Janet Brumfield
 Wenzel, Kenneth Ray The Mac Farrar Family
 White, Brandon W.R. & Mary Collier
 Wiebe, Patricia Ann Mike & Mary
 Wischkaemper
 Wieler, Johan Mike & Mary Wischkaemper
 Wilson, Jim Mike & Mary Prosser
 Wilson, Pat Ruth McGaugh
 Young, Joyce Mike & Mary Wischkaemper

DEPARTURES

Michael Avara ('10) passed away on September 21, 2020. With a servant's heart, he worked at the Lubbock State Supported Living Center caring for the disabled.



George Bible, Jr. ('67), 88, of Conway, Arkansas, died Tuesday, December 18, 2019. George was a retired minister for the Churches of Christ and ministered faithfully for over 50 years for congregations in Georgia and Florida. George was also a veteran of the United States Navy, where he served as a medical corpsman. George leaves behind a great legacy of love and faith in Jesus.



Charles Bishop ('72), 81, minister and pharmacist, passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2020.



David Lovejoy ('85), 66, was born September 6, 1953. He was a Church of Christ youth minister and pulpit minister serving with congregations in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Colorado, Georgia, and Arkansas. One of his greatest qualities was giving hope to those who had no hope, and he always had an encouraging word.



Abel Ortiz ('66), 90, passed away Wednesday, May 27, 2020, in Houston. Abel Ortiz preached the word of God faithfully for decades and led many souls to Christ.



DEPARTURES

Amos Palma ('67), 92, passed away August 8, 2020. Amos was a WWII era veteran who served in the army. He married his wife, Valentine, in December 1949. Amos worked for the United States Gypsum Company in Sweetwater, Texas, until 1964. He then attended Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas, from which he graduated in 1967. Later, he served as a minister in Wichita Falls, Texas, and then in Midland, Texas. From there he worked for Western Christian Foundation traveling and raising funds for Western Christian College. Later, he was employed at TRW Reda Pump in Midland, Texas, from which he retired.



Don Proctor ('76), 71, passed away in August 2019.

Judy Ramey (wife of Tom Ramey, '81) passed away August 21, 2020. Tom was in one of the first deaf classes at Sunset and is the minister to the Deaf at Highland Oaks Church of Christ in Dallas.

David Singleton ('88) died on September 1, 2020. After boldly holding ALS at bay for 14 years, surviving a couple of strokes and a heart attack, and beating cancer twice, he defiantly succumbed to complications of COVID-19. David had a successful career as an accountant and traveled throughout the country as director of sales and marketing for accounting software specializing in consulting with non-profits and churches.



Fought the Good Fight and Finished the Race!



Alan R. Henderson, former teacher at Sunset, passed from this life into eternity on August 26, 2020, at the age of 76. Alan left behind his loving wife Sharon of 52 years, his son Wyatt, daughter Carrie, and grandson Kai.

Al was known throughout the churches of Christ as the China expert. With an advanced knowledge of the Chinese language and culture, Al served, taught,

and encouraged Chinese people all his adult life. Al and his family served as missionaries in Taipei, Taiwan, for a period of seven years, from 1973-1980.

In 1980 Al received a telegram from Cline Paden inviting him to come to Sunset and start the Chinese Studies Department to train Christian workers to take the gospel to the Chinese world. Students under Al were taught all aspects of Chinese language, culture, religion, and ministry. Al taught at Sunset for more than 13 years.

Al is remembered for his enthusiastic sense of humor. Many of us will not forget the flashing bow tie Al wore at Sunset's Hogwash. His cheerful demeanor was a blessing to all. David Finch, a former student of Al, shared these words. "Al Henderson was my teacher, mentor, and friend. I learned as much from Al out of the classroom as I did in the

classroom. If not for Al's loving investment in my life, I would not have taken the gospel to the Chinese people, and countless Chinese souls would not know Jesus today." In addition to training workers to serve among the Chinese, in 1983 Al helped start the Chinese language programming for World Christian Broadcasting. Al promoted unity and cooperation among the Chinese preachers in North America by hosting the first Chinese Evangelism Seminar in 1983. In the later years of Al's ministry, he traveled extensively throughout the United States, encouraging and equipping churches to reach out to international students in their own communities.

Al fought a battle with Parkinson's disease with related dementia for over thirty years. Despite the sufferings of this disease, Al continued to love and encourage those around him. In a world where one out of every five people is Chinese, and so few workers are sharing the message of Jesus, Al will be sorely missed. Rest well, brother Al. You have fought the fight and finished the race. There is a crown of righteousness waiting for you in heaven.

-David Finch ('83)



Left: Al Henderson with David Finch

Right: Al Henderson with the first Chinese Evangelism Seminar, October 1983

The Tragic Loss of a Godly Couple

For over 50 years, Francis and Ivon Habashy ('94) have been working to spread the gospel in Egypt and across the Arabic-speaking world. Within two months, both soldiers of the faith went to be with their Lord and Savior. Ivon died on July 27, 2020, from complications from COVID-19. Francis was killed in a car accident on September 14, 2020.

Francis was a minister in Cairo, where he worked alongside his son, Alfred ('11). He began following Christ more than five decades ago. The late Jim Ogburn, a longtime advocate for missions among the Arab peoples, helped send the Habashys



to Sunset. Francis graduated from Sunset in 1994 and earned a master's degree in Bible from Lubbock Christian University. Then he and his wife, Ivon, returned to Cairo to continue to strengthen the small, struggling congregation there and to evangelize boldly but wisely all who would listen.

Francis worked closely with Churches of Christ in Greece and other parts of Europe. In 2018 he attended the European Vision Workshop in Bratislava, Slovakia, before traveling to Bremen, Germany, to assist a congregation as it served refugees.

Doug Reeves, Sunset's Dean of International Studies, witnessed Francis as he ministered to refugees in Bremen and Athens. In both locations, the refugees showed such respect for Francis that they invited the group into the camps and their living quarters, the very places that were forbidden to others.

-Truitt Adair

Left: Francis preaching with Alfred at a church in Greece
Right: Francis praying with a man who attended a seminar for muslims in Germany



Staff Transitions

God continues to bring people in and out of the work at Sunset. Even though the last Lifeline was published only a couple of months ago, there have been changes going on with the staff at Sunset. A previous article already mentioned the addition of Princeton Palmer as the new Dean of Ministry Training in Asia. The Advancement department has also undergone a transition as we said goodbye to Christian Thompson and welcomed Kristin Hagins. Christian and his wife Angela are moving their family to work with the Withamsville Church of Christ in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Christian will be the youth minister. Christian had specialized in graphic design and social media over the past four years with the Advancement department following his graduation from SIBI in 2016. Kristin Hagins is joining Advancement as the Director of Marketing and Events. She has been working most recently with Lubbock Christian Schools and brings many new skills to the Advancement team. She has been a member at the Sunset Church of Christ for 15 years and is excited to work with SIBI. Also, Ron and Diana Kretz have moved to York, Nebraska, to be closer to their children and pursue other ministry opportunities. Virgil Yocham has returned as the Dean of External Studies.

Though the family at Sunset changes each year, God continues to provide us with new faces, and His blessings follow those who have moved to new ministries.

-Jeff Rader



Transitions with the SIBI Board of Directors

The Bible says that we are to give honor to whom honor is due (Romans 13:7), and it is only appropriate that we stop and give honor to Bob and Jan Crockett for the magnificent service they have rendered as Bob has served as chairman of the SIBI board for the past 25 years. Bob exemplified leadership through change in so many ways. He was involved in our first large financial campaign. During his chairmanship many elements and ministries were begun, such as: the international department, our satellite schools, and our solar mission. He remained the chairman while many board members came and went and ultimately through a presidential transition. He kept a steady, active interest in the school and was always available to listen and press forward the mission of preacher training. We cannot thank him and Jan enough for all they have done. Bob officially handed over the reins as chairman on August 10th of this year.

We welcome Gary and Kathy Walker, who stepped into this guiding role. For several years, Gary has served as the vice-chairman of the board of directors of SIBI and has worked alongside Bob Crockett for the interests of the school. Gary assumes this role with a wealth of experience in missions. Gary served in India and made countless trips to many other places to counsel missionaries. For a few years, he has taught classes to prepare people for missions and to counsel them before they go to the field. He teaches with a passion for world missions and is an effective leader. Working with Gary as the new vice-chairman of the board is Kevin Dickson, whose wife is Sharon.

All this talk about a board may raise the question in many people's minds:

Who is our Board?

Let me first say that SIBI is a 501C-3. As such, it is legally structured to be governed by a duly constituted board of directors. In the case of SIBI and its bylaws, only currently serving elders of the Sunset Church of Christ are legally qualified to serve on this board. This is an unusual setup for one of our brotherhood ministries, let alone a non-profit organization. Having our elders serve as our board fosters the symbiotic relationship that has existed over the years between the school and the church so that we may be a blessing to each other. They serve as a firewall to maintain a soundness in the faith in our teaching and our many endeavors. We are privileged to be guided by these deeply spiritual men.

So what does the board do?

According to the bylaws, they do such things as approve the annual budget, approve all new teaching and leadership hires, and meet several times a year to recommend on matters of administration. Recently it was with their consent that we began classes again off-site so that training could continue in a safe environment and the Sunset church could be protected in the things it was doing. These leaders serve as ambassadors wherever they go, telling the Sunset story and promoting ministry training.

We have been blessed over many years to be served by these godly men.

-Tim Burow

Top right: Bob Crockett; Next: Bob revealing the total from the capital campaign in 2008; Next: Bob congratulating a graduating AIMer; Next: Gary and Kathy Walker; Below: The SIBI board prays for Tim and Mina Burow. Elders in the picture from left to right are Bob Jackson, Steve German, Kevin Dickson and Kirby Huffman



AN SIBI ONLINE EVENT

THE TIME IS NOW



P R E A C H T H E W O R D

October 27th
8:00-8:45 p.m. CDT

During this year of change and upheaval in so many areas of the world, we, as the Church, have a message of hope and a response to our troubles like no other religion or belief. This will be a time of reaching out to our alumni and partners to help energize you for your ministry. Since SIBI has not been able to raise funds with dinners and in-person meetings, we hope to draw interest in the school and partner with people ready to invest in the Kingdom together.

The Time Is Now to Preach the Word!

(Chris Swinford, minister for Faith Village Church of Christ)

The Time Is Now to Partner with One Another!

(Tim Burow, president of SIBI)

The Time Is Now to Pray to the Lord of the Harvest!

(Zane Perkins, director of advancement relations for SIBI)

Please join us for a special online 45-minute event.

Register early for a special gift.

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