

Editorial: Meet the Faculty

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary biblically educates God-called men and women to be and to make disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Started in 1957, the seminary is strategically located in Kansas City, Missouri, to carry out its mission.

The volume you hold in your hands is the inaugural issue of the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*, the formation of which is a historical first for the seminary. The journal seeks to honor Christ, help advance the kingdom of God, and serve the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, Midwestern students, alumni, and others.

This first issue features a “Meet the Faculty” theme. Midwestern has a strong faculty, several of which have written articles for this volume. Professors are passionate about their respective disciplines and long to see students equipped to be stewards of the gospel throughout the world. The faculty is well qualified academically, having gone through the rigors of advanced study at a diversity of educational institutions like: Aberdeen University, Cambridge University, Dropsie College, Free University of Amsterdam, Hebrew Union College, New Orleans Seminary, Oxford University, Southeastern Seminary, Southern Seminary, Southwestern Seminary, and others. Midwestern’s faculty also includes experienced churchmen. You will find no one perched in “ivory towers” here. Professors do not divorce scholarship from participation in the local church. Indeed, Christ’s church is their *raison d’être*.

My colleagues and I often hear that Midwestern Seminary is the “best-kept secret” in the Southern Baptist Convention. However, we no longer want this institution and her professors to be enjoyed only by a select few—we invite you to get to know us. This journal issue is an attempt to help you do just that. You will find below a selection of articles and book reviews written by professors who teach at Midwestern. Because of space limitations not every faculty member was able to write papers for this volume. Thus, not only will this extended editorial introduce you to this issue’s contributors, but also to all of my faculty colleagues.¹ They are exceptional and on fire for Christ. They not only teach, they also inspire. As you read about these professors, please keep in mind that they would not just want you to get to know them, they also want to get to know you.

¹ The information below was taken largely from Midwestern’s “Meet the Faculty” brochure and the seminary’s website: www.mbts.edu.

The first paper in this inaugural issue is titled, “A Theology for the Church,” and was originally presented by Dr. David S. Dockery as the seminary’s academic convocation address on August 20, 2002. He has graciously allowed us to publish his manuscript. Dr. Dockery is the president of Union University, a Southern Baptist university located in Jackson, Tennessee.

Dr. R. Philip Roberts contributes to this issue the second article, “To the Jew First—Christian Mission to Abraham’s Children: How are the Gentiles Doing?” He assesses denominational positions on Jewish evangelism. Dr. Roberts is the fourth president of Midwestern Seminary. Previously, he was a vice-president for the Strategic Cities Strategies Group for the North American Mission Board. He also was the Director of the Interfaith Witness Department for the NAMB. He has been a professor of missions and evangelism at Southeastern Seminary and a co-director of the Lewis Adison Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies. He also taught evangelism for Southern Seminary. Dr. Roberts has been a pastor in England, Germany and Belgium. He has taught evangelism for the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Belgium, and has been a dean of theology for the Institute of Biblical Studies in Oradea, Romania, where he currently serves as a trustee. He also has been a dean of theology at the International Academy of Modern Knowledge in Russia and a dean of the Young Itinerant Evangelist’s Institute as part of Leighton Ford Ministries in Russia and Romania. Dr. Roberts has a Ph.D. from the Free University of Amsterdam, an M.Div. from Southern Seminary, and a B.A. from Georgetown College. He conducted post-graduate research at Oxford University. He is the author of several books, including *Mormonism Unmasked* and *The Counterfeit Gospel of Mormonism*. He and his wife, Anna, have two children.

Dr. Malcolm B. Yarnell III is Dean of the Faculty and Vice-President for Academic Affairs. He contributes to this issue the third paper, “Whose Jesus? Whose Revelation?” His article discusses the importance of Carl F. H. Henry for evangelical theology, especially for Baptists. Dr. Yarnell oversees Midwestern’s faculty and provides direction to the seminary’s doctoral, masters and diploma programs. He serves also as Associate Professor of Historical Theology, with expertise in systematic theology, Reformation theology, and Baptist theology. Before coming to Midwestern, he taught systematic and historical theology at Southwestern Seminary in Texas and was a tutor at Oxford University in England. He has also been a pastor in North Carolina, Louisiana and Texas. He has served with a number of short-term mission projects and is a member of the continuing committee of the Baptist World Alliance-Anglican Communion International Theological Conversations. Dr. Yarnell has a B.S. in Finance from Louisiana State University, an

M.Div.BL from Southwestern Seminary, a Th.M. from Duke Divinity School, and a D.Phil. from Oxford University. Oxford University Press will soon publish his doctoral dissertation, *Royal Priesthood in the English Reformation*. LifeWay Press published his expository commentary on 1 Corinthians in 2002. His wife, Karen, oversees the seminary's WISDOM program, which includes the Diploma for the Ministering Wife. She has an M.Div. from Southeastern Seminary and has done graduate studies at Oxford University.

Dr. J. Alan Branch serves as the seminary's Vice-President for Student Development and as Appointed Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics. He contributes to this volume the fourth article, "Southern Baptists and the Sanctity of Human Life," which examines the pro-life stance of the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*. A native of Georgia, Branch earned his M.Div and Ph.D. at Southeastern Seminary. He has a special interest in medical ethics and titled his dissertation, "The Challenge Posed by Autonomy in Medical Ethics." Prior to joining the Midwestern staff in 2001, he was a pastor for eight years in North Carolina.

Dr. Terry Wilder is Associate Professor of New Testament and Greek, Assistant Director of Doctoral Studies (D.Min.), and Editor of the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*. He contributes to this issue the fifth article, "A Call to Endure Persecution Patiently," which takes a fresh look at James 5:7-20 in its context. Wilder earned his Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. His previous studies resulted in an M.Div.BL from Southwestern Seminary and an M.A. in Biblical Studies from Dallas Baptist University. Before coming to Midwestern, Wilder taught as an adjunct at Southwestern Seminary, Dallas Baptist University, and Criswell College. A profile contributor of papers to theological conferences, he has also written for *Biblical Illustrator*, the revised *Holman Bible Dictionary* and the *Tyndale Bulletin*. He is currently working on four books, including a revision of his doctoral dissertation, *Pseudonymity, the New Testament, and Deception* (University Press of America) and *The General Letters and Revelation* (Broadman & Holman). He frequently preaches in churches, leads mission trips and speaks on ethical issues.

Dr. Michael McMullen is Associate Professor of Church History. He contributes to this issue the sixth paper, "He Being Dead Yet Speaketh," which includes a sermon by Jonathan Edwards never before seen in publication. A native of England, McMullen won a major British government scholarship for his doctoral work on Edwards. He did the work at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and at Yale University. He has been a pastor in Scotland and a part-time lecturer at Aberdeen University. He has also been a distance tutor at St. John's College and

the Open Theological College, both in England. He has authored several books, including *Hearts Aflame* (Triangle/SPCK), *Clouds of Heaven* (Triangle/SPCK), *The Passionate Preacher* (Christian Focus), *The Prayers and Meditations of Susanna Wesley* (MPH, London), *God's Polished Arrow* (Christian Focus), and *The Unpublished Sermons of M'Cheyne* (Banner of Truth). He is also Associate Editor (Church History) for Oxford University's *New Dictionary of National Biography*.

Dr. Walter Norvell serves as Assistant Professor of Christian Education and Assistant Director of Doctoral Studies (D.Ed.Min.). He contributes to this volume the seventh paper, "Biblical Foundations for the Teaching Ministry of the Church." Norvell comes to Midwestern with 20 years experience in Christian education at the church level, having served churches in educational ministry, children's ministry and youth ministry. He has taught at Dallas Baptist University. He also has extensive curriculum writing experience with LifeWay Christian Resources, the North American Mission Board and other publishers. He holds a B.A. from Union University, an M.S. from the University of Memphis, and an M.A.R.E. and Ph.D. from Southwestern Seminary.

Dr. Stephen J. Andrews is Professor of Old Testament and Archaeology and Book Review Editor of the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*. With an M.Div. from Eastern Seminary, a Th.M. from Southeastern Seminary, and an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from Hebrew Union College, Andrews taught Old Testament and Hebrew at Southeastern Seminary for seven years. At Midwestern, he also directs the Morton-Seats Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, drawing on his experience on digs in Israel and Jordan. He has provided articles to the *Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch*, the *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, and the *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*. He has served as the pastor of churches in Maryland and Ohio.

Dr. Ben Awbrey is Associate Professor of Preaching. He earned an M.Div. at Southwestern Seminary and a Th.D. at New Orleans Seminary before going to California to serve both as pastor and adjunct professor of preaching at The Master's Seminary. His dissertation on the expository preaching of John MacArthur suited him admirably for his work at Midwestern, where he teaches expository preaching. Awbrey also has been the pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Dr. Albert Bean is Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew. In 1984, he became the first Midwestern alumnus to return to the seminary as a full-time faculty member. He has served as pastor to churches in Missouri, Kentucky, and Colorado. He also has taught at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Southern Seminary, and Simmons University. He received a B.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, an M.Div. from Midwestern Seminary, and a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary. Bean

has been a linguistics editor for *Hebrew Studies* (1977-79) and an editorial assistant for *Hebrew Abstracts*. He was named Midwestern's Professor of the Year for 2001-02.

Dr. Pete Butler serves as Senior Professor of Church Music. Before coming to Midwestern in 1983, Butler was a minister of music in Kentucky and Oklahoma. He has written the tunes for several familiar hymns, including "Redeemed" and "Stir Your Church, O God Our Father." He also completed a commissioned work, "O, Bethlehem," for the millennial anniversary of the nativity. He earned an M.S.M. at Southern Seminary and was honored with the D.C.M. by Southwest Baptist University. His wife, Jo Ann, also was a popular teacher in music at Midwestern.

Dr. Paul Carlisle is Professor of Pastoral Care. He earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies at East Texas Baptist, and an M.S. in Counseling and an Ed.D. at East Texas State. Carlisle came to Midwestern with teaching experience at both Criswell College and Southeastern Seminary. He frequently leads in marriage retreats and other family conferences. He has done mission work in Kenya, Thailand, Mexico, El Salvador and Brazil. He has written "Strength for the Journey: A Biblical Perspective on Discouragement and Depression" and "With All Your Heart: God's Design for Emotional Wellness," both published by LifeWay.

Dr. Mark DeVine is Associate Professor of Theology. He returned to Midwestern in 2001 after serving with the International Mission Board in Thailand since 1998. He taught theology from 1994 to 1998. DeVine received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Clemson University, and both an M.Div. and Ph.D. from Southern Seminary. He has been the pastor of churches in Indiana, South Carolina and Kentucky. He has written extensively for several theological journals and contributed to the *Disciple's Study Bible*.

Recently retired but still serving as an adjunct professor, Mr. Carrol Fowler is Instructor of Domestic Church Planting. The North American Mission Board provided him to Midwestern under the Nehemiah Project for domestic church planting. He came to this position from a rich background in home missions, including planting churches in Michigan and serving as Director of Missions for the Indiana Baptist Convention. He is a 1973 Midwestern Seminary graduate. The Language Missions and Black Church Extension divisions of the North American Mission Board have given him their Kaleidoscope and Denominational Servant awards. Fowler was named Midwestern Alumnus of the Year for 1997.

Dr. Radu Gheorghita is Appointed Scholar in Residence. He came to Midwestern from Emmanuel Bible Institute in Oradea, Romania. His degrees include a B.S. from the University of Cluj, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, an M.Div. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a

Ph.D. in New Testament from the University of Cambridge, England. The author of numerous scholarly papers, Gheorghita has a working knowledge of several languages.

Dr. Lee Hinson is Assistant Professor of Church Music. Before coming to Midwestern, Hinson was the Associational and Small Church Consultant at LifeWay Christian Resources. In addition to his 25 years of experience as a minister of music, he has also taught music at the public school and collegiate levels. He writes the lead article for the *Glory Songs* and *You Can!* kits published quarterly by LifeWay. He has earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from New Orleans Seminary with a specialization in conducting. He also holds an M.M. in Music Education from East Texas State University and an M.A. in Religious Education from Southwestern Seminary. Dr. Hinson directs the church music program at Midwestern.

Dr. Thomas Johnston is Assistant Professor of Evangelism. He emphasizes the practice of evangelism by leading the Midwestern Evangelistic Team, a weekly street evangelism and local church partnership effort that he founded during his first year at Midwestern. Johnston has taught evangelism in Minnesota, Canada, the Netherlands and Russia, and he has eight years of pastoral experience. He has a B.A. from Wheaton College, an M.Div. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary. Johnston's dissertation explores the theology and methodology of Billy Graham.

Mr. Craig Kubic is the Librarian at Midwestern. He also is Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Southern Baptist Library Association. Kubic came to Midwestern in 1989, having served as an acting library director for Golden Gate Seminary. He has an M.L.S. from Louisiana State and an M.Div. from Golden Gate. He is at work on a D.Ed.Min. from Midwestern Seminary.

Dr. Thor Madsen is Assistant Professor of New Testament, Ethics and Philosophy. His rich academic background prepares him for this uniquely varied faculty position. He was first a philosophy major at Wheaton College. He went on to earn an M.A. in philosophy at Western Kentucky University and to spend a year in the doctoral program in philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also has an M.Div. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a Ph.D. in New Testament from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Madsen's dissertation explores the relationship between the fact of the new life in Christ and the obligation of Christians to rise to that reality.

Dr. Tony Preston is Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Leadership. He directs doctoral studies, extensions, and the collegiate ministry programs. Preston is a veteran pastor, having served for 22 years in churches in four states. He earned a B.S. at William Carey

College, an M.Div. at Southwestern Seminary and a D.Min. at Reformed Seminary. He was Professor of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri and served as a trustee of the Christian Life Commission of the SBC.

Mr. David Richards is the Registrar at Midwestern. After 14 years as registrar at Calvary Bible College, Richards now directs the process of registering students and maintaining academic records at Midwestern. He is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, and completed his M.A. at Wheaton College. Richards is enrolled in the doctoral program of the University of Missouri at Columbia, and is a candidate for the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

Dr. Ron Rogers is Associate Professor of Missions. He was a missionary in Brazil for six years, teaching at the seminary in Goias. Previously, he was a pastor of churches in Tennessee, Arkansas, and South Carolina. A native of Alabama, he earned a B.A. from Carson-Newman and a Th.M. and Th.D. from Mid-America Baptist Seminary. He regularly leads students and faculty on mission trips. Rogers was named Midwestern's Professor of the Year for 1997-98. He has contributed an essay to *Missiology*, a book offering a Southern Baptist perspective on missions.

Dr. Gary Smith is Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew. This seasoned professor came to Midwestern from teaching positions in Winnipeg Theological Seminary and Bethel Theological Seminary. He had also taught at Jerusalem University College while on sabbatical. He has a B.A. from Wheaton, an M.A. from Trinity and a Ph.D. from Dropsie. He has authored *Amos: A Commentary* (Christian Focus). He has served on the translation teams for the *New Century Version* of the Bible and the *New Living Bible*.

Mrs. Cherry Stucky is Appointed Instructor of Childhood Education. She has nearly 20 years of teaching experience in Christian schools. She came to Midwestern from Calvary Bible College where she was an assistant professor in the education department. Stucky received her undergraduate degree from Calvary Bible College, and an M.S.E. in Library Science from Central Missouri State University. She completed doctoral studies at Pensacola Christian College and is a candidate for the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Dr. Alan Tomlinson serves as Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek. His rich background includes work as an industrial engineer for the Tennessee Valley Authority, an office manager for a certified public accountant, a dean of men at a Bible college, and a pastor for churches in Colorado and Texas. Tomlinson has a Th.M. from Dallas Seminary and a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary. His research interests

include the study of first-century Greek inscriptions, some largely untapped primary sources that shed light on the New Testament. Tomlinson often speaks at conferences and was named Midwestern's Professor of the Year for 2000-01.

Dr. Don Whitney serves as Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation. He was a pastor in the Chicago area for 14 years. While there, he earned a D.Min. at Trinity, having already earned an M.Div. at Southwestern Seminary. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association distributed 150,000 copies of his book, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (NavPress). Whitney has also authored *How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?* (NavPress), *Spiritual Disciplines in the Church* (Moody), and *Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health* (NavPress). He is a popular conference speaker and was named Midwestern's Professor of the Year for 1999-2000.

Dr. Michael Wilson serves as Midwestern's Vice-President for Institutional Advancement and is also Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and Educational Leadership. He spent five years as a consultant/specialist in evangelism, partnership missions and prayer ministry for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. He has served on two state Baptist convention staffs and on the staff of the International Mission Board. He has a B.S. from Hardin-Simmons University, an M.Div. from Southwestern Seminary and an Ed.D. from Southern Seminary.

I am pleased to introduce to you the faculty of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. If God has called you into his service please consider allowing us the privilege of preparing you for a lifetime of ministry.

Terry L. Wilder
Editor, *Midwestern Journal of Theology*