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ELMER TOWNS RELIGION HALL

Around the SOR

March 1, 2011

Upcoming Events

March 7

Spring Biblical Studies Symposium

March 7

Add/drop deadline- CSER

March 14-18

Spring Break

March 22

Center for Worship- Concert Series

March 28-April 1

Youth Emphasis Week

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Spotlight

CSER: Total hours volunteered for Fall 2010

- Total hours volunteered: 132,106.49
- Total # of students who volunteered: 5,434

Last year's (Fall 2009) statistics:

- Total hours volunteered: 123,160.27
- Total # of students who volunteered: 4,707

Biblical Studies Symposium

The Spring Biblical Studies Symposium is here! On Monday, March 7th, Dr. Robert Chisholm will be visiting Liberty University. He is the Department Chair and Professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary.

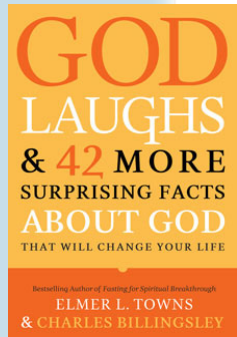
Dr. Chisholm will be speaking at 10am in the Towns Alumni Lecture Hall, giving an Exposition of Isaiah 53. He will be attending various classes throughout the day- Dr. Croteau's Hermeneutics classes, Dr. Fink's Homiletics classes, and Dr. Fowler's Old Testament Backgrounds class. In the evening, Dr. Chisholm will present "A Biblical Theology of Judges: Female Characters and Male Leadership" in the Towns Alumni Lecture Hall at 7:30pm. This presentation will be followed with responses by Dr. Michael Smith and Dr. Harvey Hartman, along with a Q&A to follow.

Come join us for this event!

God Laughs

Dr. Elmer Towns and Charles Billingsley have just released a new book together, titled "God Laughs." When asked about what his favorite part of the book is, Dr. Towns replied, "The stories. My mom was a country girl and she would whistle for me to come to dinner, and God whistles for us like a shepherd and His sheep." The book explores who God is and what He is like- God sings, God has a mind, God has a heart, God whispers, God provides, God's eyes see all, to name a few.

Dr. Towns and Charles Billingsley will be at the Lifeway Bookstore located on Wards Rd. on March 5th from 10:30-11:30am signing their new book, *God Laughs*. They will also be signing the book at Thomas Road Baptist Church on March 6th after all Sunday morning services, at a special price of \$10.



Missions Emphasis Week

Interview by Kelly Jacobson

Two weeks ago, Liberty University hosted Missions Emphasis Week. The keynote speakers for the week were Steve Saint, Wess Stafford (Compassion International), and David Platt (Author: Radical). The theme for the week was Ethnos- "...repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations (ethnos)..." -Luke 24:47



Photo by Joel Coleman/ Promotional Publications

I spoke with Chris Biddix, one of the workers with the Center for Global Ministries. When asking him about this semester's Missions Emphasis week, he made the comment, "We feel this was the best one yet." This year they added a new opportunity for the students, called "ExperienceEthnos." For three nights, the students could come in and experience different cultures firsthand. They had a night for India, a night for Thailand, and a night for Bible Translation. A missions organization based out of these three put together the program for the night. During the night for India, for example, students came in and took their shoes off, ate Indian food, and heard from a missionary from that area. These three nights served to give the students a taste of what other cultures are like to spark interest.

Along with the three convocation speakers, Johnnie Moore, Vice President for Executive Projects and Media Relations, and Campus Pastor, gave the message on Wednesday night to the students. He spoke to them about surrendering their lives to what God had for them- to not run away from what He has, but to embrace it.

The volume of students involved in this year's event was much larger than in semesters past. A lot of missions organizations said that they talked to the most students ever this semester, compared to previous semesters. Wycliffe mentioned that they ran out of sign-up sheets as a result of talking to so many students! We had over 60 organizations and over 120 missionaries on campus this semester.

One story was relayed back to us that a student walked up to a missionary in the back hall of DeMoss. He was listening to what the missionary was doing overseas, pulled out his wallet, and handed over all the cash he had in his wallet to the missionary. "To hear of students doing this is really encouraging," Chris said. "The missionaries want to pour into the students and see them go into the mission field, but it is awesome to see the students give **back** to the missionaries."

We look forward to what God will do through Missions Emphasis Week in the upcoming semesters. Bringing in missionaries and opening the eyes of students to God's heartbeat is our goal and it is exciting to see how God moves each semester!

Women's Health and Wellness Seminar

On Thursday, February 24th, the Office of Student Care along with the Center for Women's Ministries hosted the 4th annual Women's Health and Wellness Seminar. The panel of women for the evening included Professor Tracey Turner, RN (Nursing Department), Professor Sundi Donovan (Psychology Department), and Donna Barber (LaHaye Fitness Instructor). Over 400 girls attended the event. The panelist answered questions that girls all over campus asked, questions such as "How much water should I drink every day?" and "What should I do if my friend is cutting herself and I promised not to tell?"



Dr. Monica Rose Brennan was the guest speaker, and she encouraged the students to seek God and trust in His provision and healing. Vendors from the community had booths for the students to find information on eating healthy, exercising, as well as programs here at Liberty that the students can be a part of. The event was a great success and we look forward to seeing the impact it will have in years to come.



Carolina Creek Camp & CYM

Interview by Kelly Jacobson

I interviewed Keith Oglesby, Executive Director at Carolina Creek Camp in Huntsville, Texas. He was here at Liberty University recruiting students for their leadership team for this upcoming summer. I asked Keith why he came all the way to Liberty University to recruit. He replied, "The students here at Liberty University are kingdom minded. They have the head-knowledge and theology, coupled with the motivation and desire, which is rare to find both together."

The two objectives Carolina Creek Camp tries to accomplish are (1), to provide, in a camp setting, a laboratory for Liberty University students to put knowledge into practice. "They learn about principles and trends in class, and then they can put them into practice at the camp," Keith said. And (2), to train Liberty University students to be more successful in ministry (regardless of the field they choose). "We teach them 100 initiative games with spiritual emphasis that they can use later no matter where they end up- to break the ice and form relationships with students."

Keith commented, "We want to enhance what [the students] are learning at Liberty University; and with a partnership with the Center for Youth Ministries, to develop well-rounded, educated, high energy students to evangelize the world!"

Christ said, in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." There is a great need to teach children and teens about Christ. Carolina Creek Camp is a great place to serve to reach out to these students and gain experience that will partner with what students are learning here at Liberty University.

Carolina Creek Camp has two requirements for their leaders. First, they must have a strong and growing relationship with Christ- right now. Second, they must love kids. "Kids and youth are what we are all about!" Keith said.

"The Center for Youth Ministries has been very gracious and accommodating. They have seen a difference in the students who spent the summer with us," Keith commented.

The most humbling part for me to hear, as an alumnus of Liberty University, was when Keith said that out of the 100 staff members they recruit each summer from all over the country, the best are from LU. Students- continue to study hard, look for opportunities to serve while in school, and continue to make an impact on the world!

To find out more information about Carolina Creek Camp, visit <http://www.carolinacreek.org>.



Recent Publications

- Gary R. Habermas, "Jesus Did Rise from the Dead," in *Oxford Dialogues in Christian Theism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012?).
- Gary R. Habermas, *Why is God Ignoring Me?* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2010).
- Article by Dr. James Borland: "Grace Brethren International Missions" in the new Baker Handbook of Denominations and Ministries.