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**March 15, 2011**

Liberty University

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# ELMER TOWNS RELIGION HALL

## Around the SOR

March 15, 2011

### Upcoming Events

March 14-18

Spring Break

March 22

Center for Worship- Concert Series

March 28-April 1

Youth Emphasis Week

April 1

Youth Ministry Chapel

April 1

CFW FUSION Event

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### Spotlight

**Seminary Day - April 4th**  
**10:00-11:00am**

Come join us in the Towns Alumni Lecture Hall to worship, hear from Seminary students and Dr. Elmer Towns, enjoy refreshments and learn more about the different degrees you can earn through Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary!

### Biblical Studies Symposium

The Spring Biblical Studies Symposium was held on March 7th. Dr. Robert Chisholm (Department Chair and Professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary) spoke at 10:00am and again at 7:30pm. The attendance at each of the two main sessions averaged at over 300.

Dr. Chisholm delivered an excellent expository message on Isaiah 53 in the morning. In the evening, he gave a thought provoking presentation on the biblical theology of Judges. The responses by Drs. Smith and Hartman were very helpful in thinking through the narrative in Judges. This was followed by a Q&A with all three men.

Some students in Dr. Croteau's BIBL 480 (Hermeneutics) class commented after the event:

-- "I thought it was really applicable for today's world in stressing the importance of godly male leadership, particularly in the church." - Rachel McAllister

-- "It was very helpful and enlightening to see all the professors dialogue openly in that venue." - Alex Loizos

-- "I thought it was applicable to the layman and the preacher alike." - Daniel Cartledge

*Keep your eyes open in the Fall as the Biblical Studies Symposium will be bringing in some more speakers and experts in their field regarding Bible Translations!*



## Church Planting Spotlight

Interview by Kelly Jacobson

I had the privilege of interviewing Pastor Brian Bloye, Liberty University Alumnus (1988) and former Youth Pastor at TRBC. Pastor Brian graduated from Liberty with a B.S. in Communications and finished his M.Div in 1994. He was Youth Pastor at TRBC for 6 years (2 as Middle School Pastor, 4 as High School Pastor) before leaving to plant a church in northern Atlanta.

### ***How did you know it was time to leave TRBC and start a church plant?***

It was a process. I did a study by Henry Blackaby, "Experiencing God," and God used that study to put me through a time of wrestling. As I wrestled, I knew we were going to leave TRBC, I just didn't know where we were going. Dr. Falwell is the one that suggested that I start a church. I used to meet with him and one day after speaking with him, he suggested this and I left his office saying, "Ok, so where are we going?" We started looking all over the country and settled on northern Atlanta. We moved outside of Atlanta, into an area that was 93.7% unchurched.



### ***What did you take with you to start this new church?***

Three families came with us- all Liberty grads.

### ***What was your main mission for starting this church? What did you hope for?***

I wanted to see something that was bigger than anything I'd ever seen before. I wanted it to be all about advancing His kingdom and God getting all the glory- something that would be stupid to ever take credit for.

### ***What is it like now, 14 years later?***

We started with 46 people. Now we have over 5,000 people and three campuses. It is very different. The mission has not changed, but the way we do things has. We moved there to see a community come to Christ, to make disciples, and send people all over the world to advance God's kingdom.

### ***How did your experience here at Liberty University help you in the church planting process?***

The number one thing that I learned here at Liberty University is that anything is possible with God. Dr. Falwell constantly instilled that in us- as a student and as a staff member. God honors faithfulness and prayer. I also learned how to deal with discouragement and criticism from him. I once asked Dr. Falwell, "How do you deal with criticism?" He replied, "I don't. I don't engage it at all. If I spend all my time answering my critics, I won't be able to do what God has called me to do." You have to be very clear on what God has called you to do and stay focused on it.

### ***What is God's main theme in your life- what does He keep bringing you back to?***

The fact that everything is about God's glory- it's not about me. It is a theme I hope I always keep coming back to... not to make much of me, but to make much of Him.

### ***What do you know now that you wish you had learned 23 years ago?***

The idea of family coming before ministry. I wish I would have understood that 23 years ago. God does not promise to make up for misguided priorities. You have to set up boundaries to protect your family and put them first.

For more information about Brian and his church, visit [www.westridge.com](http://www.westridge.com).

## Philosophy and Religion

In February, Drs. Ed Martin and Michael Jones traveled to Hilton Head, SC, to attend the annual conference of the Society for the Philosophy of Religion. This is a conference attended by leading philosophers and theologians from throughout the country. Dr. Martin chaired a session on the British philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein in which Dr. Jones was an invited respondent to a paper presented by Dr. Brad Kallenberg of the University of Dayton titled, "Diamond in the Rough: Rethinking Wittgensteinian 'Fideism.'"

## Carolina Creek Camp & CYM

**Interview by Kelly Jacobson**

In the last issue of *Around the SOR*, I interviewed Keith Oglesby, Executive Director at Carolina Creek Camp in Huntsville, Texas. Carolina Creek Camp and the Center for Youth Ministries have a unique relationship. Carolina Creek recruits at Liberty University because out of the 100 staff members they recruit each summer from all over the country, the best are from Liberty University. "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," Keith commented.

In response to this interview, I met with Chase Hartley, a senior here at Liberty (majoring in Religion/Specialization: Inter-Cultural Studies), who served at Carolina Creek this past summer. After he graduates in May, Chase will be heading back to Carolina Creek Camp to start a one year internship.



### ***What will you be doing at Carolina Creek after you graduate?***

I will be running the high ropes course. After my internship I plan to stay there full time. The camp is expanding - they are building a third camp right now- and as they continue to expand, I will keep the high ropes course intact.

### ***What did you learn here at Liberty University that helped you at Carolina Creek?***

I took the Missionary Discipleship/Church Planting class- it helped me learn to adapt to different cultures. Texas is a different culture. It helped me learn to disciple the students with all the busyness; to get the kids to take part in it as opposed to just hearing it and spitting out answers that they know you want to hear. I have learned to expect everything. Kids will get homesick and run down the road. Literally. And I have to chase after them!

Discipleship in Youth Ministry has taught me the different phases of youth life and how to connect with them. You have to try to get into their lives at home- that is where their baggage comes from and will affect their character. Discipling them is not just a spiritual thing- talking about the gospel and changing their lives- it must change who they are, and how they respond to the environment they came from.

### ***What did you learn at Carolina Creek that has helped you at Liberty?***

Finding a balance between being busy in ministry and making sure I am filled with Scripture. You are with the kids 24 hours a day, and it is easy to get so involved with them and pouring into them that you forget to pour into yourself. It is dangerous if you keep trying to pour out when you don't have anything inside.



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