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AROUND THE SOR: DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

AROUND THE SOR

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Congratulations to Dr. Scott Phillips on the birth of his fifth grandchild, Levi Allen, on September 5th.
- Missions Emphasis week is approaching, September 21-23.
- Join fellow students as they petition God for missions around the world, Monday-Friday at 5pm in RH 111
- Three Professors in the School of Religion will be speaking in convocation. Dr. Gutierrez on October 7th, Dr. Hindson on October 14th, and Dr. Habermas on October 19th.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION PROFILE

The School of Religion seeks to produce Christ-centered leaders with the values, knowledge, and skills required to fulfill the Great Commission. The Religion Major is designed to provide a thorough, biblically-based, cognitive, and spiritual foundation for effective ministry. The Liberty University School of Religion is comprised of six departments, including the School of Religion Online. Biblical Studies, Church

Ministries, Pastoral Leadership, Philosophy and Theology, and the Intercultural Studies programs prepare students for effective ministry. Each of these departments plays a vital role in the development of Godly men and women. Currently, the School of Religion has nearly 1000 residential students enrolled in full time religion programs. Of these 1000 residential Religion stu-

dents, 100 are freshman, over 200 are sophomores, 200 are juniors, and almost 350 are seniors. The School of Religion depends on it's faculty members to increase interest and to encourage current students in their studies. The School of Religion boasts over 45 full time faculty members with numerous part-time and adjunct Professors.



DR. GUTIERREZ RECEIVES WORD OF LIFE ALUMNUS AWARD

Dr. Ben Gutierrez received the Word of Life Alumnus Award in May of 2009. Dr. Ben Gutierrez is an alumnus of the class of 1994 at Word of Life Bible Institute. Currently, Dr. Gutierrez is the Dean for Liberty University Online, Chairman of the Pastoral Leadership Department,

Director of Pastoral Training, and Professor of Religion in the School of Religion at Liberty University. He holds a PhD in leadership from Regent University and is a graduate of both Liberty University & Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary where he received both his M.A.R. and

M.Div. The annual Alumnus of the Year Award for Word of Life Bible Institute is considered a high honor and is reserved for graduates who have demonstrated a heart for ministry and faithfulness to God's Word. With Dr. Gutierrez being a very highly rated teacher

For more information concerning the newsletter, please contact Dr. Gabriel Etzel at gbetzel@liberty.edu or by phone at 434-582-2568.

DR. GUTIERREZ AWARD CONTINUED:

among the students at WOLBI, it was especially impactful for him to receive this award with the very students present whom he had so faithfully ministered to earlier that year. The student body of WOLBI knows Dr. Gutierrez as a capable and compassionate teacher as he has been their guest lecturer for the past three years teaching the Gospel of John. Executive Director of Word of Life International,

Dr. Joe Jordan, Director of Word of Life International, Mr. Don Lough, and Co-Founder, Mr. Harry Bollback were all present at the ceremony. Alumnus, current students, faculty, and staff were also in attendance. Dr. Gutierrez deeply values the relationship Liberty University has with Word of Life International & Word of Life Bible Institute. Liberty University attracts approximately 80 percent of their

graduates & they serve in many of Liberty's student & spiritual leadership positions. Thus, guest lecturing at Word of Life Bible Institute campuses in NY, FL, and Canada is the start of a strong relationship that continues on the campus of Liberty University.



Dr. Ben Gutierrez receives Word of Life Alumnus Award in May.

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

Dr. Elmer Towns received an award in convocation Wednesday, September 9 at 10:00 am. The staff of Destiny Image Publishers honored him with the "Destiny Image Gold Award 2009," which the company gives to the author of its most published work that year. Four members from Destiny Image were present. The award is for Dr. Towns's series on *Praying the Scriptures*. He has done something that has

never been done in the history of Christianity. He has translated the books of the Bible into modern day prayers. As a result, a person doesn't just read the Bible, but prays the Word of Scriptures as they go through the Bible. This innovated way of reading the Bible has brought revival to many individuals so that they find themselves talking to God rather than just learning about God. Dr. Towns was trained in both

New Testament Greek and Old Testament Hebrew in his four years of graduate study at Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas. He claims, "I am not a brilliant scholar, but a journeyman who works daily with the original text of the Bible so that I understand what God has said, then writes it plainly so people can understand God's message." Thus far Destiny Image has released 11 volumes in this series.

DR. DAVID BAGGETT TO GIVE PRESENTATION

Dr. David Baggett, Associate Professor of Philosophy, will be giving a presentation of his paper entitled, "Taking Divine Necessity Seriously" at the 70th annual Virginia Philosophical Association on October 23rd and 24th at Lynchburg College. According to his abstract, Baggett's

paper focuses on the implications of God's necessary existence as they bear on the question of morality. The following is a brief excerpt from Baggett's abstract. "This paper brings to bear the modal implications of Anselmian theology to the meta-ethical question of the

connection between morality and God. I argue that philosophers on occasion too quickly assume as metaphysically possible a world that is potentially a counter essential, an intrinsically impossible world." This will be the first time that Dr. Baggett has spoken at this event.



Dr. David Baggett
Associate Professor of
Philosophy

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES NEW FACULTY: JEFF RITCHEY

The Liberty School of Religion welcomes new faculty member Jeff Ritchey. Dr. Ritchey graduated with a B.M. from Hardin Simons University. Later he continued on to receive his M.Div., M.A.(R.E.), and Ph.D., from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Ritchey has served as a pastor and minister of education in Texas. He served as a missionary in Croatia where he directed a

distance theological education program. Dr. Ritchey has coauthored several interactive theological workbooks and has served as the interactive design editor for a Decentralized Theological Education curriculum for training leaders in Europe. He was professor of Christian Education and director of the distance education program at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and Col-

lege. Dr. Ritchey has two daughters, both currently attending Liberty, and a younger son in high school. Dr. Ritchey's wife, Brigitte Ritchey, is currently completing her Ph.D. at Liberty and has a proclaimed, "heart for missionary kids," as she herself grew up in Africa with missionary parents. Ritchey is an Associate Chairman as well as an Assistant Professor for Intercultural Studies.



Dr. Jeff Ritchey
Associate Chairman;
Assistant Professor of Intercultural Studies

DR. WAYNE BRINDLE SPEAKS IN ITALY



Dr. Wayne Brindle
Professor and Chairman of
Biblical Studies

Dr. Wayne Brindle, Professor and Chairman of Biblical Studies, gave a presentation on Romans 9:22 at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (the largest biblical scholarly society in the world) on July 2, 2009, at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome,

Italy. The event commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Pontifical Bible Institute in Rome. A number of evangelical scholars from around the world were in attendance at the conference. Following the meeting, Dr. Brindle and his wife spent a week touring the ancient

and medieval sites of Rome and Pompeii, and later combed through the Renaissance art and history of Florence, including the monastery that served as Savonarola's home at the time of his execution in 1498.

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