

MCNTS VITAL SIGNS CALVIN 500 MISSIONS UPDATE: CAMBODIA TRIP REPORT SANDY WILLSON: A WORD ON WORSHIP

Second Look

MEMBERS. MINISTRY. MISSION. FALL 2008

Issue Nº 5

BIG IMPACT ON CAMPUS

Campus Outreach Invests in Relationships
to Share the Gospel with Students


Second
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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MOONWALKS • FACE PAINTING
CAKE WALK • GIANT SLIDE



Philip Hale finds himself up a creek at Camp NaCoMe, Second's family camp held each year on Labor Day weekend. Philip is the son of Tina and Cory Hale.

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Todd Erickson STUDENT MINISTRY EXECUTIVE

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Robert O'Kelley RECREATION
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Fenton Wright SHALOM PROJECT

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FIRST WORD

We're back in the full swing of the school year, and it's a good reminder that it's not just our children who need an "education" in order to grow. This issue focuses on the many ways that mental and spiritual development go hand in hand. Campus Outreach is spending quality time with college students, many of whom find themselves book smart but searching for answers. The Memphis Center for Urban Theological Studies is offering pastors and other spiritual leaders a sound theological education in a flexible and accessible format. A team from Second teaches World Relief staff English so they can better work for the poor and disaster-stricken. Is there some way God is calling you to "educate" yourself so you can better serve others?

Dana Hay

Senior Editor
 Second Look
 Members. Ministries. Mission.

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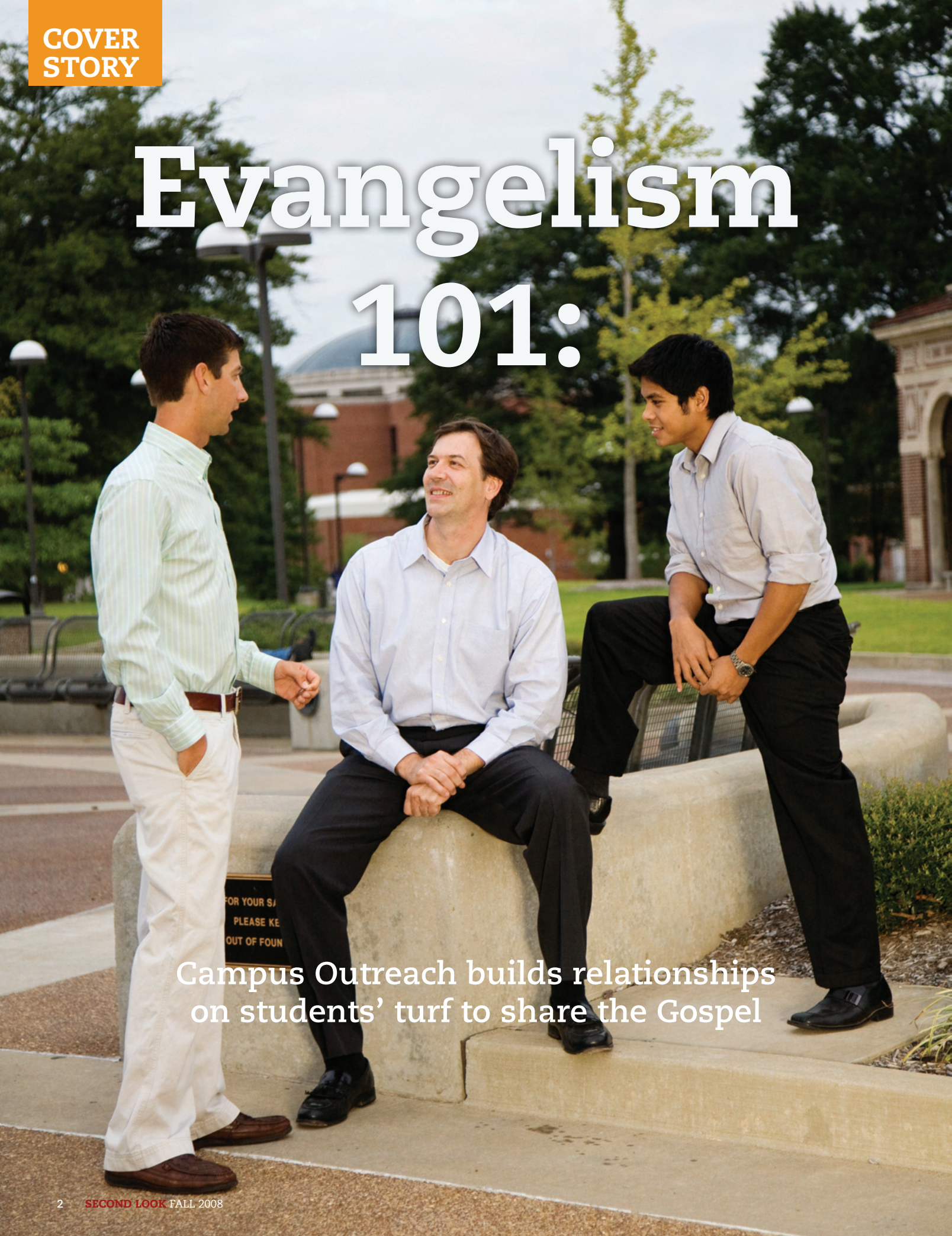
Sandy Willson shares his concerns about the cultural shift taking place in church worship.

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Jason Hood reviews an informative read on getting better acquainted with the Holy Spirit, and pastoral intern David Stenberg offers four of his favorites.

COVER: The Campus Outreach-Memphis team (L to R) Josiah Lawrence, Lee Walker (faculty advisor), Tezar Putra, Brian Lewis and Jordan Holbrook. **PHOTO:** LISA BUSER

Evangelism 101:

A photograph of three men in business casual attire (button-down shirts and trousers) engaged in conversation outdoors on a campus. One man is standing on the left, gesturing with his hands. Another man is sitting on a concrete ledge in the center, looking up at the standing man. A third man is leaning against the same ledge on the right, looking towards the other two. The background shows a brick building with a dome, trees, and a clear sky.

Campus Outreach builds relationships
on students' turf to share the Gospel

As a student and basketball player at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama in the mid-80s, Brian Lewis devoted himself to his teammates and fraternity brothers, longing to see them come to know the Christ he loves. Amid long afternoons in the gym and busy weekends at the fraternity house, he made it his mission to share the Gospel on his college campus.

Twenty years later, Brian still has the same mission: to bring Christ to the college campus and raise up laborers for the Kingdom to minister to a lost world. As Director of Campus Outreach Memphis, Brian oversees a young team that has now planted ministries on 13 campuses in Memphis and throughout the Midwest. Campus Outreach Memphis is an integral ministry of Second to local and regional college students. It is under the oversight of the Campus Outreach board (all 2PC members) and ultimately the Session of 2PC.

Campus Outreach was born as a local effort at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Second became a regional hub church for Campus Outreach in 1996. There are now 20 regional hubs for Campus Outreach, mostly throughout the Southeast and Midwest. After serving in Memphis for a few years, Brian and his family moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri to expand the ministry to new campuses. They returned to Memphis in 2004 because the ministry had grown much larger, and Campus Outreach and Second wanted to begin a ministry at the University of Memphis.

Location, Location, Location

Campus Outreach Memphis has regional administrative headquarters in half of our “mission house,” located just across from the church at 3993 Central Avenue. There are three serving as administrative staff along with Brian: Chris Devine, Eric Coher and Jaye Hudson. Two others serve on the University of Memphis Campus: Jordon Holbrook and Josiah Lawrence. All are former students involved with Campus Outreach on their respective campuses. Brian and his 48 staff on ten campuses raise their own support through churches, friends and family so that they can minister in this way. All of Campus Outreach’s local ministry activities take place on the University of Memphis campus, including large and small group meetings and Bible studies.

“We believe in doing things on their turf, and on their terms,” says Brian of the U of M students. “Jordan and Josiah spend their days in fraternity houses, dorms and athletic fields, getting to know these kids and investing in their lives.”

“We try to approach each relationship with much prayer, sensitivity, cultural relevance, confidence and love. We really want to, by God’s grace, take a genuine interest in each of our relationships. Most people respond with a lot of openness relationally,” Jordan says.

“We also help them move into the dorms, hang out in the cafeteria, play sports with them at the rec center and at the fraternity houses, create dormitory social events such as cards, ping pong or pool parties, and plan other social gatherings in students’ or staff members’ homes,” Jordan says.

“The University of Memphis is an interesting campus because it’s urban, diverse and a commuter school,” Brian says. Although this combination brings many challenges, 40 students came to Christ last year through Campus Outreach. There are about 175 students regularly attending the weekly large group meetings held there, and close to 200 students involved in small group Bible studies.

“We want to integrate them into local church bodies, ours and others,” Brian says. “About 25 or 30 are coming to Second, but most of these students are from this area and already have some kind of local church affiliation through their families.”

Brennan Moore, a senior majoring in exercise sport science, got involved with Campus Outreach through a friend who had waitressed with her at Huey’s. “She invited me to get together with some girls, and it was different hanging out with them,” she says. “They were asking about me, concerned about me. They asked me to come to a Campus Outreach meeting, and it was the most amazing experience ever. There was a really fun icebreaker, and everybody was laughing so hard, and I thought, ‘Hey, these people can love Jesus and have fun too. That’s pretty cool.’”

Brennan, though raised a Christian, says that Campus Outreach shed a different light on the Gospel. “I noticed immediately there was something different about them. They cared about me and they didn’t even know me,” she says. She has moved from her parents’ home in Collierville into the dorms so that she can be more involved with the ministry, and be more intentional about sharing what she’s found with her fellow students.



Video Link

For more of Brennan and Tezar’s stories, please check out the following link to our website:

www.2pc.org/campusoutreach

Inside Out

All of the Campus Outreach staff members are hired from within, meaning that they became involved in Campus Outreach as a student on their respective campuses. This makes for an especially committed, involved and well-informed staff.

Campus Outreach is based on a ‘franchise’ type system. The idea is to reproduce this model of ministry on other campuses and in other regions. As a local Campus Outreach grows and flourishes, it not only leads students to Christ, but establishes them in the basics of the Christian life and equips them to then evangelize and equip their friends. Students who emerge as leaders are often hired after graduation to move to new campuses and begin ministries there. Each campus is then paired with a local church partner, a strong church that has the resources and vision to support the Campus Outreach team. Eventually, some of these campus teams become independent Campus Outreach hubs under the oversight of a local partner church.

Tezar Putra is an excellent example. Born in Indonesia to a Muslim family, he came to Memphis to play tennis and became a Christian in October of 2006. A coach and some Campus Outreach staff were instrumental in sharing the Gospel with him and his eventual conversion. He graduated in May 2008 with a degree in communications, and is now working with the Campus Outreach staff.

“I’m thinking long term,” Tezar says. “I’d like to return to Indonesia someday and lead a campus ministry there, something affiliated with

◀ Campus Outreach Director Brian Lewis (center) discipled U of M tennis coach Lee Walker (left), who now serves as the faculty advisor. Lee served as Tezar Putra’s (right) tennis coach and shared the Gospel with the Muslim-born student, resulting in his conversion to Christianity. Tezar now serves with the Campus Outreach staff and has dreams of taking the ministry back to his home country of Indonesia.



Jordan Holbrook

Campus Outreach. Right now I know I need to grow myself under the leadership here, and gain insight on how to build a ministry from scratch.”

Tezar will be working alongside Jordan and Josiah as the fall semester gets underway, spending time with students and developing relationships with them. “They are out here getting their hands dirty doing the work of the Kingdom,” he says. “That’s what has drawn me to Campus Outreach.”

Because of his Muslim background, he’ll be uniquely equipped to minister to the Muslim world. His father, who had at one time said he preferred for his son to be dead than to convert, has taken the news better than Tezar thought he would. “I know that may change when I go back and begin to minister to him and his family,” he says.

“In the Muslim religion, there’s a checklist to earn your way into heaven, involving prayer and fasting and many other things. I would like to introduce Christianity as a relationship with God, with the understanding that no matter how hard you try, you can never be good enough. That’s why He sent His Son. God’s mercy is not familiar to the Muslim world,” he says.

What’s happening at the U of M is also taking place at other schools throughout the region, including: Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville; Murray State University in Murray, KY; Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY; Centre College in Danville, KY; Georgetown College in Georgetown, KY; Bradley University in Peoria, IL; Southeast

Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, MO; Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, AR; and three universities in Indiana, the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana State University in Terre Haute, and IUPUI in Indianapolis, which are now in an independent region called Campus Outreach Indianapolis, planted by Campus Outreach Memphis. Just this fall, Campus Outreach Memphis added the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Recently, our 2PC Session and the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Peoria, IL, voted to establish their church as a hub regional church to begin ministries on other Illinois campuses.

“Over the past 13 years, it has been our joy to watch the Lord expand the ministries of Campus Outreach

Memphis, as they now cover many campuses with solid Christian ministry and have led hundreds of young men and women to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,” says Senior Minister Sandy Willson. “The staff they recruit are solid young leaders and the heart they have for students is truly a blessing to observe. One can only imagine how God will be leading us through this ministry in the next decade!”

Practical Application

There are three “mainstays” of the Campus Outreach program: Summer Projects, the New Year’s Conference, and Discipleship along with connection to a local church body.

More than 300 students from this region attended Summer Projects in 2008. There are two types: stateside and cross-cultural. The stateside sites were Orlando, FL, Gatlinburg, TN and Sandusky, OH. For ten weeks the students lived in a hotel, often four or six per room, and worked a local job. Their mission was to live out the Christian life in a vocational context, study the Bible, share their faith and disciple others.

The cross-cultural project was an eight-week adventure held in conjunction with a Campus Outreach team in Brazil. The students worked on campus, helping the local team to develop a campus ministry and serving them in the process.

The New Year’s Eve Conference is a five-day event focusing on evangelism, teaching and growth through a series of seminars. More than 1,000 students attended the New Year’s Conference in 2008.

CAMPUS OUTREACH STAFF SPEND MANY HOURS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS EACH DAY:

- Counseling students in areas of personal and spiritual development
- Training and equipping the students in leadership and with the theology, philosophy and skills to effectively reach their areas of influence for Christ
- Hosting small group Bible Studies to help grow Christians in the basics of their relationships with God, self and others
- Leading evangelistic Bible Studies and discussion groups to encourage spiritual dialogue with the lost (in Greek chapters, sports teams, dorms, etc.)
- Leading small Discipleship Groups to encourage accountability and to equip those students wanting to have a personal ministry
- Talking one-on-one with the lost
- Leading weekly large group meetings to encourage Christians and to expose interested and open “lost” contacts to the body of Christ
- Hanging out with students on their turf, building rapport, trust and favor
- Organizing and leading morning prayer groups to pray for the lost on campus
- Planning

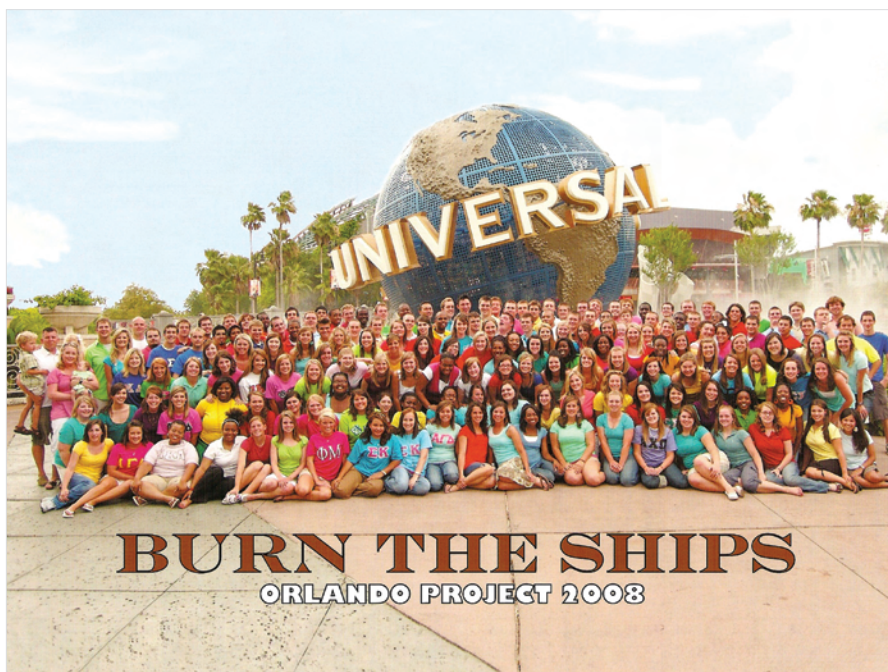
The aim of CO is to make sure that the students they reach for Christ are discipled and eventually connected to a local Bible-centered church. Once the kids graduate and Campus Outreach is no longer involved in their lives, it is the local church that must continue their spiritual growth.

“Those students who are involved with us are making a tangible difference for Christ in their natural spheres of influence, by demonstrating the love and character of Christ through service, building intentional Christ-centered relationships, and sharing the Gospel in a loving, relevant and bold way,” Jordan says. “We want to see mature, intentional, evangelistic student ‘laborers’ in every sorority, fraternity, athletic team and dorm floor.”

If you are a former University of Memphis student and have a heart for seeing U of M students reached for Christ, Brian and his staff would love to know. Please contact Campus Outreach at 320-7036 if you are interested in getting involved.



Brennan Moore, (bottom left) with her Campus Outreach friends.



Hundreds of students from regional schools attended the Campus Outreach summer projects, this one held in Orlando, Florida.

SECOND IMPRESSIONS MEET YOUR STAFF



Robert O'Kelley, Jr.

Family

6-year-old niece, Jaycee Marie Freeman, and a nephew on the way

Job at Second

Recreation Director

Came on staff

A few months ago

The thing about Second that's surprised me most is:

How solid the leaders are and the love and caring that goes on around here.

Any nicknames/how did you get them?

Machine Gun Kelley, because I could shoot the basketball. ROK, the radio station at Wake Forest, gave me that name.

I think Second is great at:

Doing things the right way and making you fat by all the cake and ice cream at parties.

I'd like to see us get better at:

Finding me a wife!

If I had more free time, I would:

Play golf and travel.

A song I'm embarrassed to admit I like:

I still listen to MC Hammer!

Kindest thing somebody has done for me lately:

Everyone at Second being nice and making me feel at home.

Vital Signs

Vital signs are indications of the health of a physical body. They are the guidelines physicians use to determine how well critical parts of the body are functioning. As the body of Christ, we have vital signs too. They tell at least part of the story of how successful we are in fulfilling our mission of worship, service and evangelism. While the facts and figures presented here don't fully reflect the hearts of our members, they can be useful in showing us where we're growing and where we may need to "work out" a bit to get healthy.

MEMBERSHIP

3,697 members
1,145 children of members

Adult Communicant Members

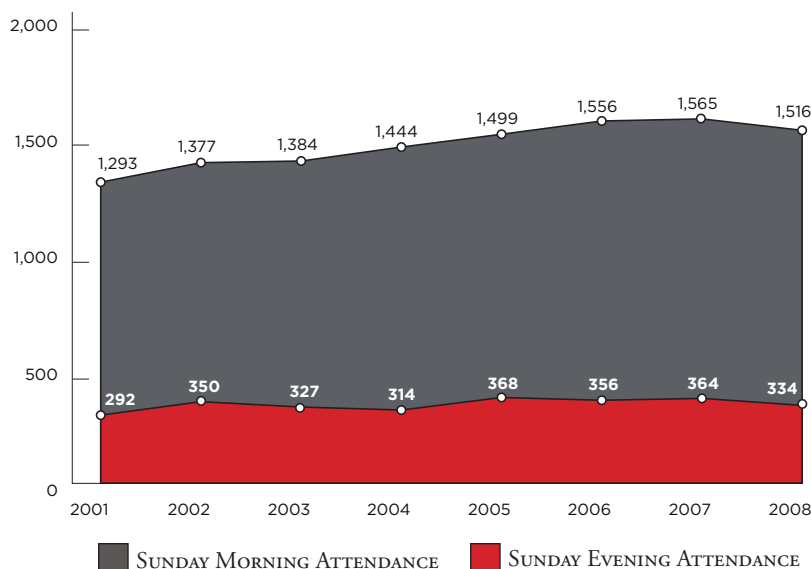
41% age 19-45
26% age 46-60
27% age 61+

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM worship: 1,516
Sunday PM worship: 334
Adult Sunday School: 740
Youth Sunday School: 162
Children Sunday School: 586
AMEN Men's Bible Study: 460
Women's Bible Studies: 638

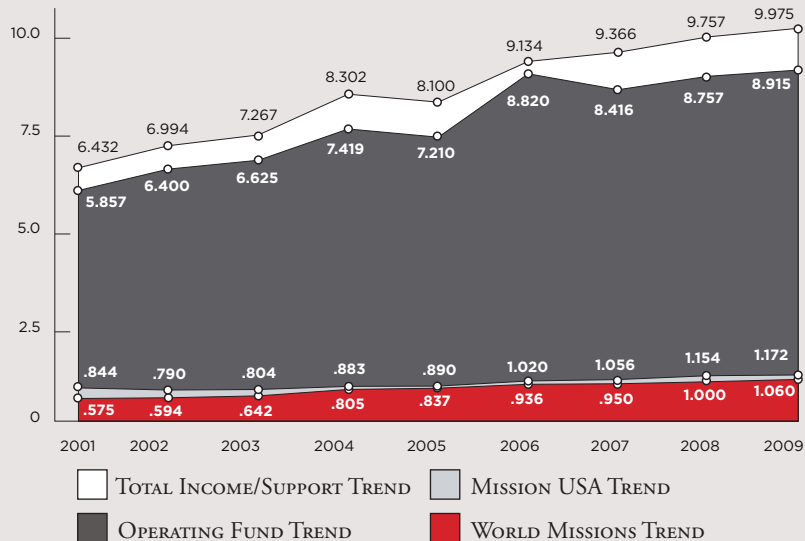
INQUIRERS

- 192 adults and 36 youth stood for membership in 2007 (3 classes)
- 99 adults and 20 youth have stood for membership in 2008 (2 classes)
- Over 50% of the inquirers in each of our 2007/2008 classes came into membership already enrolled in a Congregational Community
- In 2008, 66% of the February class and 68% of the June class attended Second as the result of an invitation by friends or family. Others attended following programs such as Youth Ministry, VBS, Community Bible Study, Recreation, PDS, and holiday services
- 19 of the new members who joined in 2007/2008 made a first time profession of faith



GIVING

- 60% give to annual operating budget
- 66% give to Second in some manner
- Contributions to annual operations up 52% over 2001
- Contributions to World Missions up 89% over 2001



SECOND FOUNDATION

- Total assets \$19,042,727 (as of 5/31/08)
- Total money given: \$9,557,709 (since inception)

Monies given related to Children and Youth Ministry for 2006/07

- 2PC Youth Internship Program \$51,011
- Seminary Student Scholarships \$36,360
- 2PC Children's Music \$10,000
- PDS Scholarships \$10,000
- Berl Olswanger Music Scholarships (college) \$3,000

MISSIONS FOR 2008

- 122 adults and 50 youth on short-term overseas mission trips
- 61 missionary families/units supported by World Missions
- 2,377 members serving in our church or in the community
- 3 successful years of assisting the Sudanese Christian Fellowship and summer camp
- 361 members involved with Berclair Elementary School

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Nursery (Infants to 3-year-olds)

- 10% increase each year for last five years
- Average 120 each Sunday during Sunday School

Preschool through 6th Grade

- 5-7% increase each year for last five years
- Average of 366 students in Sunday School each week
- Number of children memorizing catechism up 20% this year

Kids Konnection (Wednesday nights/2nd through 6th grade)

- 2005/06 attendance: 80 - 85 each week
- 2007/08 attendance: 170 each week

Vacation Bible School

- 2007: 809 children
- 2008: 825 children

YOUTH MINISTRY

Discipleship

- 120 students involved in Sr. High Small Groups
- 126 students involved in Jr. High Small Groups

Outreach

- 220 students and leaders attended the EDGE Conference
- 23 students professed Christ
- TRUE NORTH meetings averaging 190 students
- THREE DEGREES meetings averaging 120 students

Service/Missions

- 121 students went on 5 summer mission trips
- Jr. High Summer Serve and Saturday of Service average 35-50 students
- Over 20 Sr. High students are tutoring Sudanese refugees
- Over 70 Sr. High students are actively serving in some capacity within the church

College Ministry

- College Summer Bible Study averaging over 40 students
- Kairos Class average attendance over 45 students

CAMPUS OUTREACH 2007-2008

- Total campuses where we have ministry presence: 9
- Expanded to Bradley University in Peoria, IL this year
- Total Conversions: 113 (41 at the University of Memphis)
- 294 students participating in 10-week summer training projects



A diverse group of students are pursuing bachelor's degrees in Biblical Studies through MCUTS' partnership with Crichton College.

Church Service

The Memphis Center for Urban Theological Studies builds up the local church by bringing sound biblical study to local pastors and lay leaders.

ACCURATELY AND WINSOMELY preaching the Word of God is the cornerstone of any Christian church. Second deploys many missionaries around the world to do just that—but there are many churches right here in Memphis that are in need of better educated pastors and leaders.

The Memphis Center for Urban Theological Studies (MCUTS) was founded in 2000 because the church in Memphis was, and is, suffering from a lack of vision, unity, resources and formal education in some of its leaders, says Tim Russell, MCUTS president.

MCUTS is designed to be a servant to the church, to bring the tools of biblical instruction and visionary servant leadership to Memphis and the Mid-South. MCUTS desires to bring the Gospel to educate and disciple the region to show forth the holiness, healing and power of God.

It has educated more than 400 students since its founding in 2000.

"We are educating leaders who are ministering to people who need Christ whether they are rich or poor, powerful or oppressed, male or female, citizens or immigrants," Russell says.

New School

MCUTS is a new model for education, offering a flexible schedule, the nurture of individual leaders with a vision for the city, and a holistic worldview. MCUTS students are primarily African American pastors or other church leaders, some bi-vocational and some full-time ministers.

The length of the program varies depending on how each student structures their schedule, but it can take as long as six years to complete. MCUTS partners with Crichton College to offer a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and with Reformed Theological Seminary to offer a master's degree in Religion. Its courses are open to anyone, and lay and staff people from Second and many other areas churches participate.

"Our wonderful city has long needed a school where Bible-believing Memphians can pursue graduate studies in Bible and Theology, and MCUTS has provided that through their partnership with RTS Seminary," says Rob Thompson, VP for Advancement and Professional Studies at Crichton.

"As a student at MCUTS' RTS-Memphis, I've benefited from rigorous teaching, nationally-known faculty, and student fellowship that I could not have previously enjoyed in Memphis. I strongly recommend MCUTS to both the serious student of theology and the casual student," Rob says.

Dr. Kitsie Hendrix, DDS, a member of Second, has also taken advantage of the courses offered through MCUTS.

"Through the years, I have taken about 10 or 12 RTS courses, most recently at MCUTS. Glenda (the MCUTS administrator) and Tim have made it easy plug into RTS study on a weekend basis. My goal has been to simply get closer to Him and better understand Scripture," she says.

The biggest challenge, Tim says, is getting the word out that this resource is available and raising funds to continue. MCUTS relies mostly on one-on-one contact with potential students, but it has used radio and print advertising and well as contacts with area churches and ministerial groups. Many of our partner ministries will

refer candidates to the program. Financial aid is available.

Many people are grateful and receptive to what MCUTS is offering.

Della Brengettsey graduated from MCUTS in May of 2008. She is co-pastor of Focus on the Cross Ministries and in is her fifth year of serving with that church, located at 1700 Southern. She was introduced to the program through a friend at Crichton, who in turn introduced her to one of the professors, Dr. Frank Anderson.

"I was sold the first time I met him," Della says.

"MCUTS is one of the best programs in the country. I can't say enough about the professors, about their love for the Word of God; it opened up so much of my understanding.

"There is a definite need for this in the community. I've learned things not often taught in other venues, like the focus on why we believe what we believe. Some people don't even really know why we take communion or baptize people," she adds.

The guidance and attention from her professors has also been a key component of the program. "They have all been wonderful. They don't mind questions. They give you their home number and their cell number...they don't restrict you to just classroom time."

MCUTS was created through a collaborative effort between Second, the Memphis Leadership Foundation, the Neighborhood Christian Centers, Hope Christian Community Foundation and Hope Presbyterian Church.

Some of the courses offered through the program include Discipling Urban Youth and Urban Youth Evangelism and Culture along with more traditional subjects such as Christian Counseling, The Theology of Paul and Old and New Testament Survey.

According to I Timothy 3:15, the church is to be God's household of faith, "the pillar and foundation of truth," Tim says. "We are training men and women to know, preach and teach the Gospel with the hope that churches and communities may be changed by the Gospel."



Tim Russell, MCUTS President



Many students take advantage of the flexible class schedule to pursue a master of arts in Religion through MCUTS' partnership with Reformed Theological Seminary.



A REFORMATION CELEBRATION

2009 will bring the 500th birthday of John Calvin, and Tim Russell and MCUTS are helping to host a worldwide celebration. Calvin 500 is a conference and tour scheduled for July 2009 in Europe that will offer an impressive list of speakers, topics and tour sites to appeal to pastors, scholars and interested lay people equally.

Tim Russell is serving as the co-chairman for the tour advisory board. He has been involved in planning every aspect of the tour that will accompany the conference, which will include stops in Paris, Strasbourg and Geneva.

"Calvin 500 will offer the joy of experiential learning about the wealth of the Reformed heritage. It's an opportunity to see on site where the drama of the Reformation unfolded 500 years ago, and to do so along with likeminded Christians," Tim says.

Calvin 500 participants will emerge with a better appreciation of God's providence during the Reformation and a deeper understanding of the positive faith we as Presbyterians have received, Tim says. John Knox studied in Geneva under Calvin and brought his teachings to Scotland where they flourished. Immigrants later brought this theology with them to America, and many forbearers of those who founded Second were among those whom Knox and others taught.

There will be time for touring other historical sights as well, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Versailles, Lake Geneva and the Reformation Monument. There will also be time for shopping in Paris.

If you are interested in attending Calvin 500, you may visit www.Calvin500.org, or you may contact MCUTS at 324-2014.

CAMBODIA TRIP REPORT

By Elizabeth Wall

A team of eight visited Cambodia June 5-21 to help one of our World Missions partners, World Relief, by teaching its local staff English skills. World Relief is primarily a relief and development agency, but through their effective holistic ministry, over 700 house churches have been planted, which is not among one of their stated aims. By meeting basic human needs, the opportunity has arisen to share Jesus Christ, and thousands have responded to the Gospel in this country where less than 1% of the population is Christian. In order for these emerging young Christian leaders to one day pastor and lead in holistic ministry, they are going to have to be able to speak English. This will allow them access to Christian literature that doesn't exist in the Khmer language, and will also allow them access to relief and development resources that are available from the West, when the need is articulated well.

Divide and Conjugate

Our team of eight divided into smaller groups to offer classes in several locations. The small teams were as follows: David and Jenny Stenberg and Laura Glenn on one team; Dennis Berry and Wesley Bailey on another team; Pat Bogan, Barbara Ruff, and I on a third team. Our team remained at Joke Van Opstel's house, and the other two teams went to other locations. Ron Sadlow circulated among all the teams.

Our team was responsible for one intermediate ESL class and one advanced class at each of our three teaching times.

The WR staff holds a worship service every morning before their workday begins. They start with music. The first song I heard had a familiar tune. I recognized it as "Because He Lives," which is a song I discovered the day before Ramsay lost his job many years ago. How wonderful to hear the same music in Cambodia!

Wednesday of our second week we were able to go out and see some of our students in action. By this time we had come to know and love them, and it was a special treat to see them entertaining the children with songs, simple games, puppet shows, drama, and Christian teaching. They were creative, resourceful and funny.



Out & About

Almost everyone uses small motorbikes – called motos – as their main transportation. It was common to see three adults on one bike. Babies were often in front of the driver with their small hands on the handlebars.

We saw people using motos to carry everything imaginable, including a mattress, a ladder, several huge sacks of rice, two live adult pigs, baskets of multiple baby pigs, about thirty live chickens, and even a patient receiving an IV drip held by the third passenger.

They drive on the right side of the road – most of the time. Lanes are marked, but no one pays attention. The motos weave in and out, often coming within an inch or two of cars and trucks. It is sort of like a huge, city-wide game of chicken with virtually no margin for error. The crowded conditions prevent any high speeds, which may explain why any of this works at all.

We usually fixed our own peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for breakfast, but lunch and dinner were delicious Cambodian meals. They always had rice and two other dishes on the table, one of which was soup. These dishes usually had a small portion of fish or meat and lots of vegetables.

Since the daytime mosquitoes can transmit Dengue fever and the night mosquitoes can transmit malaria, we stayed covered in insect repellent most of the time. I don't think I got even one bite, but we did see mosquitoes frequently.

Malis, one of the ladies in our one o'clock class, knew about s'mores. We decided to make them. Pat and I got our driver to take us to a supermarket, and we found the necessary ingredients. Malis brought candles, a lighter, and chopsticks to hold the marshmallows, and we made s'mores.

The graham crackers were stale, the chocolate bar we had found was too thick, and they usually burned the marshmallows, but we still had a good time.

Afterwards the class gave us pictures of our group which they each signed. Then they laid hands on us and prayed for us. That was a very moving experience.

We could have skipped our late class in Kandal, since we had a plane to catch that evening. However, one of the hardest things about the trip was leaving the people we had come to love. We decided we had time. Besides, we still had enough to make s'mores for them, which turned out to be lots more fun. This class gave us each a small decorative clock as a remembrance.





2PC Missionaries Return to Field

Dear Praying Friends,

It is with great sadness and triumphant joy that I write you this letter. We have been medically cleared for the field, and we leave August 3 for our country of service (Central Asian Muslim country).

When we came off the field in June 2006, we traveled quite a bit: sharing news of our ministry, touching base with supporting churches, and catching up with friends and family. It was in November of that year that I was diagnosed with breast cancer and then began to go through treatment, which finally finished at the end of February 2008! Meanwhile, the boys started school in Fairhope, Alabama where we've been living, and Bill finished his doctoral work for Gordon Conwell Seminary. Bill graduated this May about the time the boys were finishing up school (William, 7th grade; Robby, 5th grade; Thomas 2nd grade; and Joseph just being at home with me!) Within the last month, I've had both a PET scan and a mammogram, as well as seen three doctors, and I am good to go for another six months.

We have seen God's goodness, mercy, compassion, gentleness, wisdom, and healing hand as never before. Our family has grown closer to the Lord and to each other. We have walked in fear and darkness holding the Lord's hand, and, truthfully, most of this time has been wonderful! Not to belittle the difficult times, but the Lord has given us such good memories that leaving the States is really difficult.

As I mentioned, we leave in early August. Our goal is to start house-churches and to train Christian leaders. Bill will also be teaching English – which is how he will get his visa, and it is also a great way to meet people. I plan to teach ninth grade English and History at the missionary school where the boys will study. We'll all be learning the local language. The house we've been building should be finished, so we hope to move in as soon as we arrive. Here are a few of our prayer requests for the next couple months of transition:

1. That we all would adjust quickly to life there, meeting friends and neighbors, remembering language and getting ready to work and go to school
2. And most importantly, that we would each seek the Lord and love Him with our hearts, souls and minds (and love each other too)

Thank you, thank you for all your prayers, love and support. It is our privilege to proclaim: God is good! With love,
Janie
(for all of the Hamptons)

SECOND IMPRESSIONS MEET A MEMBER



Pat McCarty, Jr.

Birthday

December 22, 1942

Family

Married to my childhood sweetheart Bankie McCarty for 45 years; son Patrick and his wife, Amanda; son John and his wife Lyn; and daughter Sissy and her husband J. Hickman. Seven grandchildren ranging in age from 6 to 11.

Ministries you're involved in?

Elder; taught kindergarten Sunday School for four years, now moving to fourth grade; Caring Ministry hospital volunteer; Senior Adult Ministry Team; Ukraine mission trip; Neighborhood School lunch volunteer; teach accounting skills at Advance Memphis; and Bankie and I plan to teach an ESL class at Berclair.

Nobody would believe that:

I recently had Botox injections! They were used as therapy on nerves damaged by the radiation treatments I received for cancer. I love Brussel sprouts, and I would eat peanut butter on almost anything, including pancakes.

Your favorite activity at 2PC?

Joyful worship in morning and evening services.

Most interesting thing I've learned lately?

There is no end to what you can learn from Google. Podcasts and audio books on my iPod are a wonderful way to redeem driving time and to learn new things.

I spend most of my time:

With family and friends. I also like reading, baby-sitting my grandchildren, exercising at the Germantown Athletic Club, and working in the yard. I would spend a lot more time playing bridge if I could.

Ministry you'd like to see Second add or expand?

I would like to see Second continue to fulfill its mission statement in an ever more exemplary manner.

The Service of Worship

CAN THE AMAZING GRACE OF WORSHIPPING GOD BE FOUND IN TODAY'S CHURCH?

The Amazing Grace of Worship

It is an act of God's amazing grace that we are called by Him to join the angels in offering Him worship. Amazing grace that we stand before Him as acceptable worshippers! Amazing grace that our voices are blended with those of the seraphim! Amazing grace that He reveals Himself to sinners like us! To worship God is to experience amazing grace.

This past year, like most years, I have had the opportunity to worship in many churches outside of Memphis. Through the years I have enjoyed these moments. They have been memorable occasions of experiencing God's grace in worship. Additionally, it is good for my soul occasionally to be an anonymous worshipper in the pew, not having planned the service, not coordinating the various elements and participants, not concerning myself overly much with what's coming next or what I'm going to say, and especially not worrying about what time we finish the service!

A Serious Downgrade

I have to say, however, that recent experiences have not been consistently encouraging ones. I appreciate the fact that all of the churches I have attended are full of fine Christian folk with very good intentions, but I have been saddened by what seems to me to be a steady downgrade in the very essence of corporate worship and in the form and content of contemporary preaching. Don't misunderstand: many of the musicians were well-gifted and many of the preachers were good communicators. That's not the problem.

The problem is that the American evangelical church seems to be losing its sense of God's presence, its understanding of God's Word, and its very purpose for assembling together. We have become so focused on ourselves that we have gradually perverted every aspect of worship. In many churches, no longer is our worship a "service" (to God), but it is an "experience" (for us); no longer do we consciously seek to please God, but rather ourselves; no longer are His attributes exalted, but rather the personalities of the performers; no longer is worship considered something profoundly serious (before God), but rather it is something primarily fun, entertaining, and exciting (for us); no longer do pastors carefully interpret and apply what God has said in His Word through expository preaching, but rather they select some (if any) Bible verses to support whatever preconceived practical advice they want to give to the people; no longer are we left with a compelling sense of God's majesty, our sinfulness, and

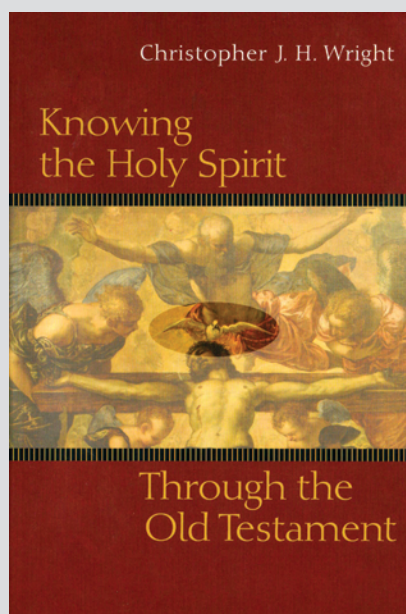
the wonder of His redemptive love, but rather we leave with a sense that we really need to feel better about ourselves and, by George, we can do it; no longer do we enter sanctuaries that remind us through words and symbols that we undeservedly belong to God's ancient people and that He is our God through the sacrifice of His Son, but rather we enter spaces no different than the local theater or shopping mall to remind us that anybody can worship God, even without atonement and regeneration; no longer do we carefully comb through the libraries of human language, art, and music to present our best offerings to God in worship, but rather we pitifully scramble for the latest tunes and technology to be "relevant" to our own age. The net result, I fear, is that we, ironically, have become tragically irrelevant because we have lost our chief pleasure — the unspeakable delight of meeting the Triune God, being graciously forgiven for all our sins and being covered with the righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ, and together bringing Him pleasure while rendering to Him the glory, honor, and obedience that He alone deserves. In one instance after another I left many of these "experiences" feeling robbed of the most important experience of all — the real thrill of being led into His presence. More importantly, I felt that God was robbed of what He alone deserves — our complete, joyful submission to Him in worship, according to the guidance of His own Word.

What To Do?

I found myself concerned for the next generation of American Christians, many of whom probably have never learned to express reverence or sincere gratitude to God in a thoughtful manner. What does one do about this?

After thinking about it, I realized that God has seen His people through many historic moments of spiritual and moral (and liturgical) declension, and He never once needed me to get us through those times! Secondly, I realized that I am more committed than ever to robustly biblical worship at Second Presbyterian Church. And thirdly, I believe He wants me to pray — fervently, believingly, and patiently — for His Church that He loves so much. He doesn't love us, after all, because we are such great worshippers. Just the opposite. We worship Him because He loves such weak worshippers — like me. Amazing grace indeed.





BOOK REVIEW

Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament

author
Christopher J. H. Wright

genre
Non-fiction

Some theologians have called the Holy Spirit “the shy member of the Trinity”. But given the hundreds of references to the Spirit in Scripture, surely getting better acquainted

would be a good thing! An opportunity to do just that awaits in a recent masterpiece by Christopher J. H. Wright, *Knowing the Holy Spirit through the Old Testament*.

Wright, international director of John Stott Ministries and former minister at Stott’s church in London, is a renowned leader in evangelical missions who has quietly become one of the finest authors in contemporary evangelicalism. This book is the second in his series on the Trinity in the Old Testament and follows the highly regarded *Knowing Jesus through the Old Testament*.

This readable, short (160 pages) volume kills two birds with one stone. First, we learn to appreciate the person and work of the Holy Spirit in profound ways. Secondly, Wright’s book functions as a powerful demonstration of how biblical theology reveals the unity of the great story that runs from Genesis to Revelation. Jam-packed with Scripture, *Knowing the Holy Spirit through the Old Testament* helps us see both the “big picture” and the individual details with clarity. Readers are sure to learn more about unfamiliar texts (Ezekiel) as well as their cherished favorites (Romans 8).

While the book itself is designed to be informational, not devotional, Wright still manages to write the sort of book that leads readers to stop, reflect, pray, and worship the Triune God. Highly recommended for personal reading and small group studies (a handful of discussion questions conclude each chapter), this text would also provide invaluable content and structure for a Sunday School or Wednesday night series.

—JASON HOOD

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

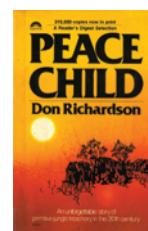


Miz Lil & the Chronicles of Grace

author
Walter Wangerin Jr.

genre
Fiction

Though this book is a work of fiction, it is based on the life of the author. It tells the adventures in faith from growing up to becoming a young pastor. This book will make you laugh and cry as you are taught lessons of grace.



Peace Child

author
Don Richardson

genre
World Missions Biography

How does one share the Gospel with a group of people, who when told of Jesus’ betrayal, revere Judas and laugh at Jesus? How can the Gospel penetrate a culture that is based on violence and trickery? Peace Child is the true story of how the Gospel is transmitted to a tribal people. If you have ever wondered how the message of God can come to a people group who have never heard the name of Jesus, then you will be amazed by how one of their own rituals is used to share the Gospel.



The Tears of My Soul

author
Sokreaka S. Himm

genre
Autobiography

This book tells the heart-wrenching story of a family under the rule of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Detailed in these pages is the account of one man’s miraculous survival, and his salvation. As a child of God, does Jesus really call him to put down his hatred, and forgive his enemies?



Under the Overpass: A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America

author
Mike Yankoski

genre
Autobiography

This is an adventurous, autobiographical account of two college students living homeless for five months. Endorsed by the Memphis Union Mission, this book can help open our eyes to the struggles of the homeless. You will not want to put this book down!



Copies of these books may be available in
The Bookmark Bookstore or the Growing Place Library.

CALENDAR

October

- 3-6, 12 Inquirers Class
- 13 3M Lunch
- 16-17 Halftime Summit
- 24-26 3 Degrees Fall Retreat
- 31 Fall Fest

November

- 2 Stewardship Sunday
- 7-9 Senior High Fall Retreat
- 7 Off the Wall Olympics
- 9 Commitment Sunday
- 19 Last MidWeek of Fall Semester
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holidays*
- 30 Hanging of the Green (Evening Service)

December

- 7 Choral Concert (Evening Service)
- 8 3M Lunch
- 14 Festival of Carols (Evening Service)
- 16 Women's Christmas Coffee
- 21 Lessons & Carols (Morning Service)
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
4PM, 5:30PM, 8PM & 11PM
- 25-26 Christmas Holidays*
- 27-31 Campus Outreach New Year's Conference

**Church Offices Closed*



Acts 2:42 · Adult Bible Study · Chapel Class

Community for Christ · Cornerstone · Covenant Keepers

Crossroads · Curry Gillespie · Emmaus · Faith Works

Fellowship Class · Growing in Grace · Honeymooners for Life

Internationals · Jeb Russell · Kairos (College) · Marriage 101

Singles at Second · Sojourners · Walking by Faith

Covenant Women Bible Study Class


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