

Building up the Body of Christ

CALVARY TODAY

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“Christ is with you, and He walks with you.”

“We need to remember that we do not walk this life alone anymore. Christ is with you, and He walks with you. The future may be unknown to all of us, but it is not unknown to our Lord.”

- Dr. Richard Bargas, 2022 Commencement

On May 7, Calvary University celebrated Commencement for the class of 2022. A large class of ninety-four students graduated this year including twenty-four students with Master’s degrees, fifty-nine with Bachelor’s degrees, and eleven with Associate’s degrees.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Richard Bargas, Executive Director of IFCA International, exhorted the graduates; “Calvary has given you

a greater gift—much more than an excellent education. This school has entrusted you with the knowledge and truth of Jesus Christ. In your time here you have been exposed to the majesty of our Lord, and you must take care not to squander what you have received.”

The annual Awards Assembly and senior gift presentation was held on May 5, followed by the Alumni Induction Luncheon, with

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Baccalaureate on Friday morning. In keeping with Calvary tradition, the graduating class recommended one of the parents of a graduating student to be the Baccalaureate speaker. Duane Smith, father of Nathan Smith and pastor of First Baptist Church of Waukon, Iowa, was chosen to speak this year.

Speaking from John 21:15-23, Smith challenged graduates to remember that "Loving God is the only love that has a positive effect on every aspect of life. If we love our job, spouse, children, money, or anything else in place of God, every area of our lives will suffer. If God is our primary love, every other area of our lives will glorify Him."

To view the 2022 Commencement weekend event recordings, please visit calvary.edu/commencement. ■

Spotlight on Graduates

Josiah and Lydia Stout

Two graduating seniors who are passionate about spreading the gospel to the unreached are Josiah and Lydia Stout. Their experiences at Calvary have been incredibly impactful and have helped equip them for their future ministry and career. Lydia states: "My intercultural classes have encouraged me to fully consider others' perspectives and



the influences that have shaped who they are." Josiah adds that "Calvary has been instrumental in preparing me for the future. It has an atmosphere that elevates God's Word, opportunities to get your feet wet, and people that help to cultivate your passion." Today, Josiah and Lydia are "anticipating what the future holds" as they enter Ethnos 360's missionary training center this August.



Tom Zobrist

Calvary presented Rev. Thomas (Tom) A. Zobrist with an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity and introduced The Zobrist Family Scholarship for future students who demonstrate a passion for full-time ministry. Tom is an air force veteran who has served faithfully in many ministries, including being a pastor for nearly thirty-five years. After serving for six years in the U.S. Air Force as a B-52 crew chief, he and his wife Cindi were led to Calvary Bible College, where he graduated with a Pastoral degree in 1987. After just one year of internship at a local church, he began pastoring Liberty Bible Church, a small storefront church in Eureka, Illinois, which has now transformed into a lively church home of over 500 members. Since then, Tom has served on the boards of Brazil Gospel Fellowship Mission, Calvary University, Adelphos USA, and the IFCA. Regarding his education at Calvary, Tom reflects: "Calvary gave

me a solid foundation of Bible and theology on which all of the ministry God has given me has been built." Through Tom's faithful service, he has helped prepare a new generation of leaders to serve by building the body of Christ.

If you are interested in investing in the Zobrist Family Scholarship fund, please scan the QR code below, or visit calvary.edu/invest. ■



Grace Murphy
Staff Writer



Our mission is to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and the world according to the biblical worldview.

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To subscribe to *Calvary Today*, provide alumni updates, or offer feedback, please visit calvary.edu/alumni.

Alumnus Recognized

Bruce Baker

Dr. Bruce Baker (CTS '97) and his wife, Bonnie, were married for 40 years and had three children together: Daniel, Jacob, and Elizabeth. Dr. Baker went to be with the Lord on February 13, 2022 from ALS complications.

Dr. Baker served in the US Navy for 11 years until he was honorably discharged in 1991. He dedicated the rest of his life to ministry and preaching the Gospel at various churches and across the globe. He received his Master's of Divinity from Calvary Theological Seminary in 1997 and his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Baptist Bible Seminary. According to his wife, "his extroverted personality made him a natural teacher and expository preacher, and God allowed him to be a gifted one." Bonnie also said that he hardly ever wasted an opportunity to talk about Christ with those around him.

"During his illness, he never quit telling all of the many doctors, nurses, and aides about their need for a saving relationship with Christ."

In 1999, Dr. Baker went on a mission trip and discovered the impact he could have in teaching pastors and church leaders from across the globe who did not have access to sound biblical teaching. From that point on, for as long as his

health allowed him to, he traveled to over 11 different countries on 4 different continents on an annual basis. In 2007, he took a trip to central Africa which stirred within him a passion and love for the people who lived there. The trip also gave him the idea to start his own organization, called Becoming Mature. Dr. Baker created this organization to help train pastors and church leaders, as well as build churches in central Africa. The Bakers' son, Jacob, is now the Executive Director and Missionary-at-Large for Becoming Mature. Bonnie and their daughter, Elizabeth, also help with the ministry. Bonnie is the Office Manager and Elizabeth is the Online Coordinator. The Baker family hopes to continue expanding the ministry and the work being done in Africa through Becoming Mature.

In the last 12 years, Dr. Baker wrote two books. In 2010, he published *Spiritual Maturity: The Road to Wonderland*. After being diagnosed with ALS in 2018, he wanted to write a book of hope for believers who, like him, would stare death in the face. In 2019, he published *For Thou Art With Me: Biblical Help for the Terminally Ill and Those Who Love Them*.

According to Bonnie, Dr. Baker's true passion was teaching others about the Lord and the Bible. "When he could no longer preach, it was



a very low point for him." COVID brought about more complications for his desire to teach, as it meant that he was not able to leave home. However, God continued to use and bless Dr. Baker, "He was asked to teach the adult Sunday School class. He would sit at his computer, in front of the camera and God would give him just enough energy to make it through the lesson. But that was enough for Bruce," Bonnie continued, saying, "Even right up to the end of his life, God just kept giving Bruce small, yet vital roles."

Calvary University is delighted to recognize Dr. Baker for his faithful service in ministry. During Calvary's commencement service on May 7th, Bonnie Baker accepted the Alumni Association Award on behalf of her late husband and announced the establishment of the Baker Scholarship in his honor.

To invest in the Dr. Bruce Baker Memorial Scholarship fund, please scan the QR code below, or visit calvary.edu/invest. ■



Kara Adams
Staff Writer



Building up the Body of Christ

The institution that the Lord assigned to give witness to and advance the glories of the Gospel is the church. The local church is the regional manifestation of the people of God and is to be cultivated and protected. **Calvary exists for building up the Body of Christ.** This means that everything we do, both in and out of the classroom, is designed to support and serve the efforts of the local church. We do this because we believe in five essential truths about the church:

- **First**, the church was established as an institution for the glory of God. It was not founded as a way for us to fulfill and exalt ourselves, no, the church exalts God. Although the church must reach out to people in the love of Christ, it must maintain its focus on God.
- **Second**, the church must firmly stand on the absolute authority of Scripture. The Bible and the Bible alone is the standard for all matters relating to faith and practice.
- **Third**, the church must have sound doctrine. The church needs to teach God's Word and challenge believers to adhere to what His Word teaches.
- **Fourth**, the church must have its members committed to a life of holiness.
- **Fifth**, the church must understand that Christ is the Head of the church (Eph. 1:22; 4:15) and that He mediates His rule in the church through godly leaders (1 Thess. 5:13-14; Heb. 13:7, 17).

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The Scriptures reveal that the church has two foundational purposes: **First**, edification or ministering to the body. The church comes together as a body of believers who minister to one another. **Second**, evangelism or ministering to the world. The church is to minister the gospel to unbelievers in the world. These two purposes are the foundations of the church.

The early church devoted itself to the purpose of edification, to building one another up in the faith (Col. 3:16).

They accomplished their purpose by faithfully teaching God's Word, fellowshiping, and worshipping. The book of Acts shows us how they steadfastly devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles. They preached Christ crucified and resurrected and affirmed that He was indeed the Messiah. They taught and exhorted each other to bring every believer into maturity in Christ (Col. 1:25-29). Every believer was encouraged to utilize their spiritual gifts for the edification of the Body. They emphasized fellowship and met the needs of all the believers by sharing things in common (Acts 4:32) and taking care of the widows and orphans (James 1:27). They stood side by side through the trials and tribulations of persecution. They worshipped and gave glory to God together.

The New Testament church did not attempt to carry out its evangelism within the confines of a building but rather out in the world. In obedience to Christ's command for evangelizing the world (Matt. 28:18-20), the church worked in the world to make disciples (learners) and baptize them. The ministry of evangelism was not carried on by a select few for a select few, but it was carried on by ordinary believers for all people, rich or poor. They preached the good news to both Jews and

For the Body of Christ to function harmoniously every believer must contribute to it by using their unique gifts to serve one another.



Calvary University is an independent, nondenominational institution, providing undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate education which prepares Christians to live and serve in the church and the world according to the biblical worldview.

Gentiles, crossed rigid economic, political, social, and cultural barriers, all to fulfill their mission of bringing people into a relationship with Christ.

According to 1 Corinthians, for the Body of Christ to function harmoniously every believer must contribute to it by using their unique gifts to serve one another (Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4; 1 Pet. 4). Ministry in the context of the church should be our priority. We have been created for ministry (Eph. 2:10), redeemed for ministry (2 Tim. 1:9), called to ministry (Eph. 4:1), gifted for ministry (1 Pet. 4:10), authorized for ministry (Matt. 28:18-19), made accountable for ministry (Rom. 14:12) and rewarded for ministry (Col. 3:23-24).

Let us celebrate Calvary University's unbroken commitment to the vision of being an institution of academic and spiritual excellence that equips servant leaders for

Christian service worldwide. Since 1932, our partnership with the local church has produced over nine thousand laborers who have served in all fifty U.S. states and over one hundred countries. ■



Alexander Granados

Alexander Granados
President

The Steward's Pen



How Am I Investing My Talents?

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the parable of the talents. It is a parable bursting with life lessons, particularly verse 19 which reads "Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them." In this verse Christ introduces the disciples to a new mindset, an intentional view of life that alters their approach to what has been entrusted to them.

While the parable goes on to articulate the ending of the story line – the depth of the life lesson is found here. Accountability. The three people in this story were given accountability over a financial asset. Two were wise with what they were given, the third was not.

The application to present day is apparent and clear. How am I performing in the stewardship that God has entrusted to me? Am I being accountable for it? Am I being wise by purposefully investing it?

These stewardships come in various forms and sizes – professional, social, spiritual,

physical, familial, and financial. God has given each one of us a myriad of gifts and expects us to use them to bring him glory with our every breath.

Every investment that you make using the resources God has provided has an eternal impact. Is your portfolio invested with this thought in mind? ■

John McGee

Chief Development Officer



Alumni Spotlight

David & Meghan Pierce

David and Meghan Pierce minister at Sherwood Bible Church where David was recently installed as the Senior Pastor. Sherwood shares important history with Calvary University as they were both founded by Dr. Walter Wilson. Although both have undergone

(continued on next page)

LEFT:

David and Meghan have three children: Ethan, Zoey, and Micah (left to right).

Calendar of Events

JUNE

3 – **Golf Tournament**

JULY

4-8 – Summer Break

11 – Academic Cycle 1 Begins

18-22 – Accelerate I Courses

25-29 – Accelerate II Courses

AUGUST

1-5 – Accelerate III Courses

11 – Faculty/Staff In-Service

15-19 – Welcome Week

22 – Academic Cycle 2 Begins

SEPTEMBER

1 – Christian Ministry Fair

6-8 – Ryrie Lecture Series

29 – **President’s Dinner**

29 – **Homecoming Events**

OCTOBER

1 – **Homecoming Events**

17-21 – Fall Break

24 – Academic Cycle 3 Begins

NOVEMBER

23-25 – Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

2 – **Masterworks Chorus**

3 – Winter Acting Recital

10 – Special Music Event

19 – Christmas Break Begins

For more details, visit calvary.edu/calendar

various name changes, both hold firm to Dr. Wilson’s original vision: the importance of the Bible.

David shared how humbling it was to be considered for a pulpit with such stature. Not only did he feel overwhelmed and intimidated by a rich history—but the realities of serving in a rapidly changing cultural environment present unique challenges to the ministry.

He then went on to share about the value of the education that Calvary has provided as he begins this new ministry calling. “The value is indescribable, the

theology that formed the basis for my understanding how and why the world works the way that it does has been invaluable in helping to navigate countless situations and hurdles.”

David and Meghan are thankful for how Calvary prepared them to serve in the church and in the world by providing them a foundation for vocational ministry. They are impacting their community and Calvary is proud to have had a hand in preparing them to live and serve in the church according to the biblical worldview. ■

Alumni Updates

MARRIAGES

■ Geoff Barnes and **TRESSA SHOEMAKER (CBC05)**, April 23, 2022

■ **ISAAC MAXWELL (current student)** and **ASHLEY HUSEBY (current student)**, May 7, 2022

DEATHS

■ **ROGER ERTELD (CBC67)**, March 2, 2022 (age 73)

■ **MICHAEL FIRMIN (CBC83, CBC85)**, October 29, 2020 (age 58)

■ **JERRY HOLT (CBC66)**, August 28, 2021 (age 77)

■ **DONNA HUNT (CBC02)**, November 10, 2021 (age 70)

■ **NORMA WATERHOUSE (CBC73)**, November 3, 2021 (age 92)

■ **DIANA WHITWORTH (CBC83)**, January 8, 2022 (age 60)

■ **DONNA (HARCEY) WRIGHT (CBC54)**, October 29, 2021 (age 87)

UPDATES

1950s

■ **JOAN CARTER (CBC55)** moved to East Phoenix to be near her daughter and resides in a Retirement Home.

2010s

■ **CHARIS SCHNEEBERGER (CU19)** is working in Madrid, Spain with Teach Beyond as a Music and Art Teacher. She requests prayer for adjusting to change, the new culture, language learning, and connection.

Do you have updates to share? Please visit calvary.edu/alumni and use the contact form to let us know what God has been doing in your life!



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1932-2022

90 Years of Community

*"...let us consider how to stir up one another to
love and good works, not neglecting to meet together..."*
HEBREWS 4:24-25

Homecoming 2022
September 29-October 1

President's Dinner September 29



Guest Speaker
Reese Kauffman
President of Child Evangelism Fellowship