

Building up the Body of Christ

CALVARY TODAY

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Winter 2022

Homecoming Weekend 2022

“It was so good to be reminded of God’s continued faithfulness in using professors and staff to equip students for service.”

- Meghan Pierce (CBC09)

During Homecoming Weekend, members of the Board of Trustees gathered with students, faculty, and staff for a cookout.

I’m so thankful for the Calvary Homecoming because it is a time to reunite and encourage one another by sharing what God has been doing in our lives. The skills we learned in the classroom have been put into action as each of us have been sent out into our professions and ministries. It was so good to be reminded of God’s continued faithfulness in using professors and staff to equip students for service.

The events began with the President’s Dinner on Thursday evening. It was delightful to hear the students sing, and Reese Kauffman, president of Child Evangelism Fellowship, who gave the keynote address on the power of prayer and generosity. God’s people answered the call to generosity by fully funding the Alumni Scholarship Fund with \$120,245 given that evening—
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\$50,000 of which is an endowment for future scholarships. Investing in Calvary helps these future generations to gain biblical training that God can continue to use for the rest of their lives.

On Friday morning, we visited with alumni from different decades. It was great chatting with familiar faces while looking through yearbooks and sharing how God has directed our lives.

Then alumni and current students met with discussion panels

to talk about different topics. In my group, we discussed biblical illiteracy in the local church. We discussed not only the problem, but also what we could do about this growing issue. Lunch was catered by Jack Stack Barbecue, and we ate outside the library with Chef Joe's cookies for dessert. My kids definitely ran up to get seconds! Friday evening, alumni and current students joined together to sing and worship our Savior. This was one of my favorite events because the body of Christ

was worshiping together outside of the church walls. The evening ended in the gym for Warrior Madness with a dunking contest and scrimmages.

Homecoming concluded with a brunch where we were encouraged to share with others the great things Calvary is doing for God's glory. May we continue to join together, strengthening one another as co-laborers for Christ, and investing in the next generation of strong Christ-followers who can train up others. ■

Meghan Pierce
(CBCog)



Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Calvary had the chance to fellowship together at the President's Dinner on September 29, 2022.



Al Pierschbacher served as a faculty member and missionary-in-residence at Calvary from 1990-1991.

Allen "Al" Pierschbacher 1954-2022

Allen "Al" Pierschbacher (CBC86), an alumnus and former faculty member of Calvary, passed away November 1, 2022. Al and Nadine served faithfully with Brazil Gospel Fellowship Mission, helping to establish many church plants and other ministries during their time on the field. We are grateful as we remember the impact Al has had. ■



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.

Fall Semester Update

This fall has brought in a new group of incoming freshman and transfer students who are joining with the rest of the student body in growing spiritually, academically, and relationally. Student Resident Discipleship Leaders are living out Jesus' example of servant leadership as they walk through life alongside the dorm students they are leading. The positive impact of this life-on-life discipleship is ongoing in each student's education, work, and



Fall Social 2022: Freshman Josiah Hackman smiles and waves as he test his skills at Faulkner's Ranch.

ministry. From their weekly study of Ephesians and what it means to be "walking workmanship," (Eph. 2:10) in dorm devotions, students are putting their discussion into action and challenging each other to be intentional in ministry opportunities God provides. Whether it is writing an encouraging note, fixing a friend's car, or grabbing a meal for someone who is sick, students are intentionally stepping up to serve one another. "Hall parents" have also been connecting with students through attending dorm devotions,



The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon: Snow White, played by freshman Valerie Herbert, rewrites the outcome of a classic fairy tale.

sharing meals with students in their homes, and celebrating birthdays with students who live far away from family.

Exciting opportunities for music and theatre involvement and attendance have been present this year. This fall's theatre production, *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, was a charming and witty production, featuring students, alumni, and members of the local community. Chorale had their first performance of the year at President's Dinner and will present Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem" on December 3rd. This Masterworks performance will also feature a selection of Christmas music and all—students, alumni, and other members of the community—are invited to come and enjoy this beautiful winter production. Throughout the semester, three graduates from the music department presented recitals. Eric Norman, Ashley Maxwell, and Chris Stolberg each welcomed audiences to share the fruit of their dedication and hard work.

The athletic teams have experienced exciting successes and learned through challenges this fall. The women's volleyball team has been ranked as high as #6 in the country, placing third in the Midwest Christian College Conference tournament, and competing in the

NCCAA Regional Tournament. The Lord has blessed Calvary with a talented and supportive team. The men's soccer team is a young one, and is going through a rebuilding season. Their theme is from Psalm 34:8: "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him". The team's young group of core players are seeing substantial playing time and will improve greatly in the future. The women's basketball team has been on the move from the day the players arrived on campus; they have even been inviting outside students to early morning workouts, and on some mornings, numbers have grown to twenty-five students! The men's basketball team is an older team with nine returning players

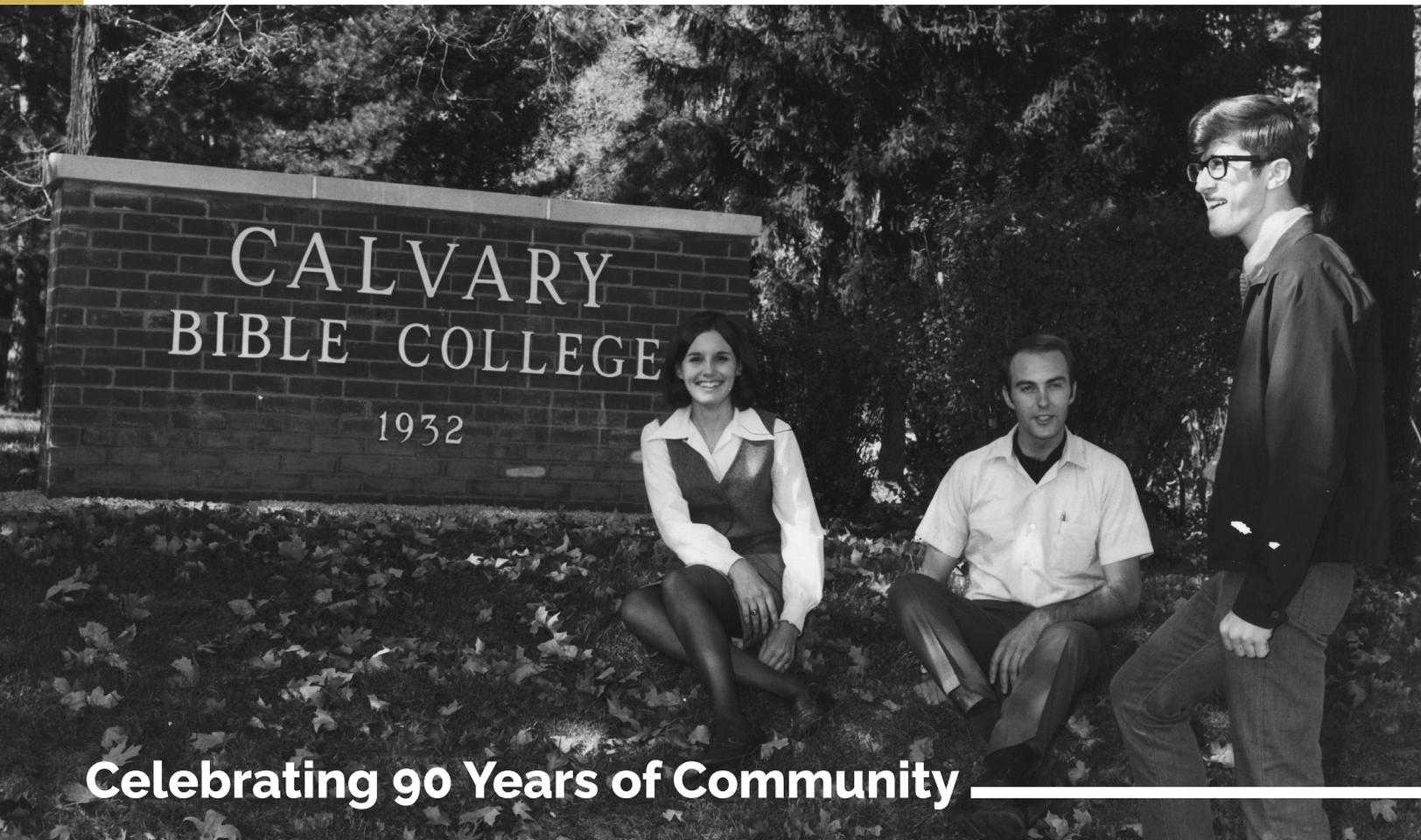


Sophomore Jeovany Castillo, captain of the soccer team, dribbles down the field.

who have matured greatly; the team is determined, resilient, and ready for the rest of the season.

Students this semester have had a rich experience, with opportunities to get involved in ministry, athletics, music, theatre, and more. With a noticeable effort to serve both students and the local community, the student life at Calvary is growing relationally, academically, and above all, spiritually, and this abundant overflow is truly exciting. ■

Grace Murphy
Staff Writer



Celebrating 90 Years of Community

Every now and again, it's good to look back and reflect on our past and where we came from. To remember where we started and to consider how far we have come. Our story begins in darkness and despair, in a nation gripped by the Great Depression where there was little hope for the future. Yet, in the midst of such uncertainty, several men of God joined together in a vision to create a school. A school that would be a beacon of light in the heartland. They called it the Kansas City Bible Institute.

We had humble beginnings. Legend has it that the institute began with only \$2.00 provided by Dr. Wilson and Reverend Johnson. In truth, though, many people of God came together to support the vision in many ways. Some gave their prayers, others gave their money,

and still others gave their time. The Ladies Committee were absolute warriors in the cause: they sewed, painted, and ran down enough donations (of things like 500 lbs. of flour) that the kitchen was stocked and ready to go when the school opened. These people were not content to just start the school and then move on to another ministry, they stayed firm, continuing to support the institute even as it changed, expanded, and relocated. First, we changed presidents, then we merged with Midwest Bible College and became Calvary Bible College, then we changed locations. The people of God stayed firm because they knew that the outer trappings weren't what mattered, what mattered was that the mission stayed the same: preparing people to serve from the biblical worldview.

In fact, our transformation had only just begun. In 1987 we merged with Citadel Bible College and added on the Calvary Theological Seminary because we knew that four years of education in the Word simply wasn't enough for everyone, some people wanted more. We rose to the challenge. Then in 2016 we decided to go even further and rebranded as Calvary University so that we could offer more programs and prepare the people of God to go out and minister

The people of God stayed firm because they knew that the outer trappings weren't what mattered, what mattered was that the mission stayed the same.

to the world in even more vocations and ministries. We wanted more of our students to go out into the world as godly men and women who shine the light of Christ in dark places because the mission is the same. We exist because of Him, through Him, and for Him. "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:36 NAS).

The name of the institution, campus location, president, faculty, and staff may change but what endures is that Calvary University is standing firm, because it is built on the Bible. Every class and every program is committed to excellence and prepares men and women to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the biblical worldview. We have always been committed to providing affordable education. To this day we offer marketable credentials so that our graduates are not only prepared for excellence in life and service, but they are also positioned for it. Calvary is carefully designed to provide not just a place for learning, but a place for growth. Our faculty don't simply teach, they are committed to discipleship. Our students don't just study, they gain real world experience through our Practical Christian Ministries Program. We don't send our students forth blind; we send them out with pragmatic experience of how to live out their faith no matter where God sends them. These are not just words to us; we have a proven track record of over 9,300 alumni who continue to live out the Great Commission and carry God's light into all parts of the world. Some of our alumni have even given the ultimate sacrifice in service to that mission. We remember them.



Martin Burnham's commitment to the ministry of reconciliation led him to live, serve, and give up his life for the lost. Martin's testimony and that of our other alumni are what inspire us to continue in our mission.

To enter Madison Hall, our main administration building, you must walk past a memorial that honors alumnus Martin Burnham. It is a solemn and encouraging reminder of why Calvary University exists. A Calvary University education is a biblical passport for Christian servants to put them on their path to effectively fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40). Our alumni have been provided a biblical compass for life and are empowered by faith to work and make a lasting contribution for the cause of Christ (James 2:14-18). Martin's commitment to the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:11-21) led him to live, serve, and give up his life for the lost. Martin's testimony and that of our other alumni are what inspire us to continue in our mission.

From the humble beginning of two men and \$2.00 the Lord has grown Calvary to be an institution with hundreds of faculty, staff,

and students, thousands of alumni and steward investors, and a multimillion-dollar operating budget. For 90 years, God has utilized Calvary University to send men and women out into His service and we have every confidence that He will empower us for 90 more! To God be the Glory! ■



Alexander Granados

Alexander Granados
President

The Steward's Pen



“...being rich in mercy....” Ephesians 2:4

“But God.” A simple phrase. One packed with meaning and overflowing in purpose. A phrase that indicates how without His intervention – nothing could be done.

Our sinfulness leaves us in the position where only the direct work of God resolves our state. “But God”

looked and saw, us, utterly incapable of fulfilling what was required to bring peace and reconciliation.

“But God, rich in mercy” sent His Son to be born of a virgin.

“Rich in mercy, because of His great love...” provided the sacrifice for our sin and the redemption needed for peace with us.

“But God, rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us” sent His Son to die on a tree that we might live for eternity with Him.

And we, in our response to God, repent, believe, and turn in faith to

accept His free gift.

The lavish gift of a Son sent as a sacrifice. Mary ponders, do we?

This Christmas season as we reflect on the lavish gifts of God, His mercy, His Son, His foresight – let’s be lavish in response to those who need His grace. ■

John McGee

Chief Development Officer



Alumni Spotlight

Matt Brewer

Matt Brewer graduated from Calvary Bible College with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education in Bible and Mathematics, and received a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Clark Summit University. Although his career path began in education, Matt is currently working at Equity Bank. “God’s plan for my life is to walk in obedience and fellowship with Him each day. For me, success is found in the stewardship of where God has placed me.”

Matt’s first professional job was as a mathematics instructor and coach at Blue Ridge Christian School

(1986-1991), where he learned the important lessons of setting an example in his work, family, and spiritual life. After working as a supervisor for his father’s construction company, Matt delved deeper into business at Tomkins Industries (1993-2000), where Matt became a proactive leader.

Matt then returned to work at Kansas City Christian School (2000-2005) as the high school principal, applying his abilities to financial responsibilities as well as putting to use his relational competency and passion for coaching.

In 2005, Matt and his wife, Mary, decided to enter a ministry role. They sold everything and began raising support for a ministry career at Ethnos 360’s Faith Academy in the Philippines. Within six months, they raised support, and stepped out in



Matt Brewer shared at the President’s Dinner on September 29th.

faith, moving to the Philippines with their three children. After three years serving on the mission field as an educator, advisor, and leader, Matt and his family moved back to the states, serving as principal at Trinity Academy (2007-2017).

During his time at Trinity, Matt served in administration, student life, academics, and development,

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- 2 – **Masterworks Chorus**
- 3 – **Fall Acting Recital**
- 9-10 – **Special Music Event**
- 19 – Christmas Break Begins

JANUARY

- 9 – Academic Cycle 4 Begins
- 24-27 – **Conference on Global Engagement**

FEBRUARY

- 7 – **Business Leadership Roundtable**
- 10 – Winter Social

MARCH

- 6-10 – Spring Break
- 9-12 – **Spring Musical**
- 13 – Academic Cycle 5 Begins
- 17-19 – **Calvary Days**
- 16-19 – **Spring Musical**
- 24 – **Feast & Fund Auction**

APRIL

- 21 – **Spring Concert**
- 21 – **Spring Acting Recital**

MAY

- 6 – **Commencement**
- 8 – Academic Cycle 6 Begins

For more details, visit
calvary.edu/calendar

and recognized his passion for “building” organizations.

In 2017, Matt started building a training program at Equity Bank, where he coached employees for five years until he was promoted to his current position as Director of Talent Development. Now, he handles executive coaching and leadership development, where he builds up employees into strong and effective leaders.

Matt believes the best years of his service to God are ahead of him: “My wife and I are turning sixty next year, but I believe my opportunities for the Kingdom are great. I’ve gotten more involved in service in the last five years than I have my entire life.” No matter what career path or opportunities come Matt’s way next, he affirms: “Every day, no matter what I am doing, it’s my purpose to live a life of integrity.” ■

Grace Murphy
Staff Writer

Alumni Updates

DEATHS

- **KENNETH ALT (CBC70)**, March 15, 2022 (age 58)
- **ALLEN “AL” PIERSCHBACHER (CBC86)**, November 1, 2022 (age 67)
- **JAMES “JIM” VAN VELDHUIZEN (CBC75)**, March 2, 2022 (age 71)

UPDATES

1990s

■ **ROGER (CBC93*)** and **GEORGIA STEVENS**, recently moved and request prayer to connect to a strong local church for their family. Roger, a medical laboratory technician of forty years, retired this June.

2010s

■ **MILES BAGLEY (CU17)** works as an Athletic Director and Career & Academic Advisor at Superior Central Schools. Miles serves with junior high and high school youth and as an itinerant preacher at his church, in addition to supporting students in his workplace position.

■ **CHARLES (CTS11)** and **SUSAN (CBC1990) BUEGEL** are currently serving at Oak Grove Church and Christ Church of Germantown Hill Illinois, both of which Charles is pastoring with a focus on evangelism and discipleship. They request prayer for strength as they continue to minister while grieving the early homegoing of their second son, Lucas.

*Non-degree-holding

Memorial Gifts

IN MEMORY OF JANNA CARVER (CBC77)

Arthur (CBC82*) and Ann (CBC82*) Flores

IN MEMORY OF KENNETH LEE

Alexander and Dorian Granados

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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