

Building up the Body of Christ

CALVARY TODAY

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Why Seminary?

Dr. Gary Gromacki shares the Torah scroll with local IFCA Pastors

Today, very few seminaries are committed to a consistent dispensational hermeneutic. And, with the apostasy creeping into the Church, the biblical and theological training at a school committed to consistently applying the normative hermeneutic (i.e., dispensationalism) is more important than ever. The Calvary seminary Master of Arts in Bible & Theology (MABT) degree deepens your biblical and theological knowledge and increases your interpretation and critical thinking skills, so you will gain the confidence needed to interpret God's word accurately.

So, why seminary?

There are so many false ideas about "my truth", and the encouragement to "be yourself" today as the way to find personal fulfillment. As a result, our world has produced many hurt and confused people. The Calvary seminary Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling (MABC) degree will equip you with the depth of biblical, theological, and psychological truth in God's Word needed for you to help people apply God's Word to their lives so they may find true peace in Jesus.

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Seminary Spotlight cont.

So, why seminary?

Too many men are avoiding pastoral ministry, and too many pastors are leaving ministry, in large part because they were not prepared—biblically/theologically and practically/relationally—to handle the challenges, conflicts, and complex life questions of pastoral ministry today. The Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree is designed to equip you with advanced biblical study skills using the biblical languages, training you for excellent preaching. But pastoring a church takes more than just exegetical skills. The MDiv also equips you with practical skills through internships and knowledge for ministry to real people in today's challenging world.

...Pastoring a church takes more than just exegetical skills.

So, why seminary?

Every generation needs scholars who can discover and communicate God's truth in culturally relevant ways for a new generation. While God's truth never changes, the need for communicating truth to people facing new life contexts in a culture that more and more is rejecting the truth that never changes. The Calvary seminary Doctor of Philosophy in Bible and Theology (PhD) degree will equip you to write, teach, or



Stephen Mapes confidently presents his doctoral dissertation.

do original research in biblical or theological fields and subjects, so you can communicate God's truth with accuracy and confront heresy on a scholarly level.

So, why seminary?

A seminary degree will ground you with confidence and the doctrinal stability to keep you and others from heresy.

A seminary degree will ground you with confidence and the doctrinal stability to keep you and others from heresy.

A seminary degree will give you the needed skills in the biblical languages under the wise guidance of seasoned seminary language instructors, so you gain skill in studying the biblical text to confidently declare "Thus says the Lord!"

A seminary degree will give you the needed relational maturity through guided ministry experiences



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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Dr. Alexander Granados, President

John McGee, Chief Development Officer

Camila Soares de Oliveira,

Photographer

Whitney Moore, Editing Assistant

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

under the wise supervision of seasoned supervising pastors, counselors, and ministry leaders to be adequately prepared to face the tasks of ministry to real people.

So, what's keeping you from attending the seminary at Calvary University? ■

Dr. Michel Dodds
Dean of the
Seminary



Calvary University Alumni Association

Serving & Connecting with Our Alumni

The Alumni Association Team works diligently in partnership with the university's Development staff to serve and support our alumni community. This dedicated team plays a vital role in various initiatives, from selecting the annual Alumni Association Award winner to hosting the Alumni Induction Dinner at Graduation and coordinating regional events.

The team consists of volunteer members who dedicate their time and talents throughout the year to plan and coordinate alumni activities. We're pleased to introduce them and share how they contribute to the university:

David Pierce: A 2010 graduate with a B.S. in Youth Ministry, David is the Lead Pastor at Sherwood Bible Church. He is married to Meghan, and they have three children.



Pastor David Pierce and family

Nathan Phipps: A 2012 graduate with a B.S. in Advanced Biblical Studies, Nathan is the Associate Pastor of Youth at Flint Hills Bible Church. He is married to Allison, and they have five children.

Jonathan Gohdes: With a B.A. in Pastoral Studies (2012) and an



Pastor Jonathan Gohdes

M.A. in Biblical Counseling (2017), Jonathan serves as the Lead Pastor at Shawnee Bible Church. He is married to Merrilee, and they have two children.

Key Areas of Support

The Alumni Association Team actively supports the Development Department in three primary areas:

Alumni Induction Dinner: As part of the Graduation ceremonies each May, the team hosts a celebratory dinner for new graduates. This event welcomes them into the

Alumni Association, introduces its activities, and recognizes their accomplishments.

Alumni Association Award: Each year, the team plays a crucial role in selecting the Alumni Association Award winner. This award, formerly known as the Alumnus of the Year Award, recognizes an outstanding alumnus for their achievements and contributions. The team carefully cultivates nominees each October, confirms their qualifications, gathers supporting data, and thoughtfully discusses candidates before presenting their recommendation to the university leadership.

Alumni Events: Throughout the year, the team plans events that provide opportunities for alumni to connect with each other and learn about the latest developments at Calvary University. This past February, six open houses were held to engage with alumni as part of the Alumni Campaign.

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Alumni Induction Dinner 2024

The unchanging mission, objectives, and core values of Calvary University

Since its founding in 1932, Calvary University has experienced various changes. We have faithfully served the Lord and His people under different names and at several locations. Calvary University is the successful result of a merger in 1961 between two small and struggling Bible colleges – Kansas City Bible College (KCBC) and Midwest Bible College (MBC) in St. Louis. A second merger took place in 1987 when Citadel Bible College of Ozark, Arkansas, joined Calvary.

These mergers represented a blending of institutional objectives, assets and liabilities, alumni associations, and doctrinal goals, as well as values that were held in common by all of the institutions. ***The unchanging mission, objectives, and core values of Calvary University is the ageless legacy from the various names and locations.***

OUR MISSION

Calvary University is an independent, non-denominational 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

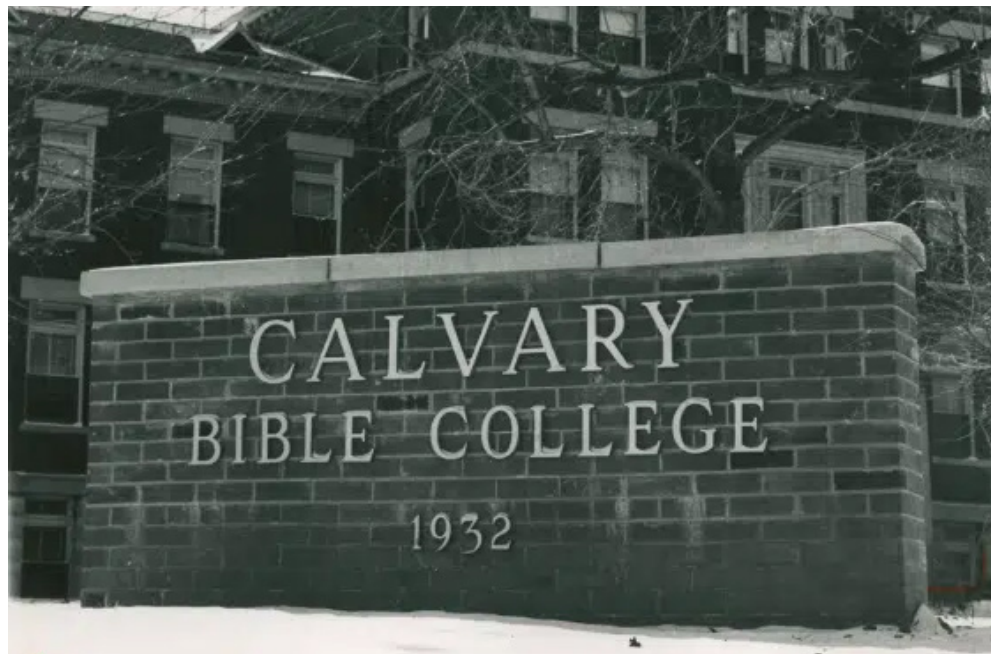
worldview. This is accomplished by providing appropriate educational curricula and a climate that fosters the development of intellectual and spiritual maturity, leadership potential, servanthood, and a sense of mission. The purpose of every program at Calvary is to teach

Our Mission: To prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and the world according to the biblical worldview.

students Bible and theology and to prepare them for Christian ministry.

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Through the process of preparing the student for effective ministry and building of Christian character, we desire to prepare God's people to be: (1) Biblically Sound - 2 Timothy 2:15, (2) Culturally Relevant - Matthew 22:36-40 and 28:18-20, and (3) Ministry Directed – Ephesians 4:11-13. It is Calvary's objective to produce graduates who will live according to a biblical worldview and serve as Christians in the church and in the world.



Our Institutional Learning Objectives are as follows:

■ Students will be able to construct sound conclusions based upon a proper analysis of qualitative and quantitative data.

■ Students will be able to demonstrate sound research methods for inquiry and the dissemination of knowledge.

■ Students will be able to apply a consistent literal grammatical-historical interpretation of the Bible in order to think from the biblical worldview.

■ Students will utilize their gifts and abilities to serve with excellence in their local church and chosen profession.

■ Students will be able to develop discipling relationships and contribute to the spiritual growth of others by employing principles of servant-leadership.

CORE VALUES

Truth: We hold the inerrant Scriptures to be true, the focal point of our education process, and the authority for all we teach and do (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Character: We promote the development of intellectual and spiritual maturity, leadership potential, servanthood, and a sense of mission and ministry (Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 1:28; 2 Peter 1:3).

Relationship: We cultivate godly relationships among students, staff, faculty, and with alumni, the local church, and the society in which we live (Philippians 2:1-4; Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 10:24).

Service: We prepare men and women to live according to the biblical worldview by consistently linking their education with the implications for Christian service in the church and the world (Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 3:23-24).

Relevance: We prepare men and women to understand and effectively relate to the world in which we live (Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:16; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

ACADEMIC CONVICTIONS

Biblical Core: Calvary shall always maintain a Christian accreditation, and specifically Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) as long as it is available, or another comparable accreditation if ABHE is not available, to ensure accountability in maintaining a biblical core and Practical Christian Ministry requirements. (Calvary University By-Laws Article II, §2.5).

Bible Requirement: The Bible shall be a required textbook for every course offered at Calvary. (Calvary University By-Laws Article VII, §7.2).

Biblical Foundations: Calvary's faculty shall recognize and teach the biblical foundations for the subject matter of every course. (Calvary University By-Laws Article VII, §7.3).

PHILOSOPHY

The curriculum of Calvary University is designed to prepare Christian men and women to live according to biblical standards and to serve in professional or lay Christian ministry with the biblical worldview.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! ■

**Dr. Alexander
Granados**
President



The Steward's Pen



Psalm 24:1 boldly declares, "The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord." This verse encapsulates the sovereignty and dominion of God over all creation—both tangible and intangible. It reminds believers that everything we see, experience, or possess is ultimately under God's ownership. From the air we breathe to the people we interact with, all are crafted and sustained by His power. This truth invites reflection on how we live in light of God's supreme authority.

In our daily lives, worldly concerns often dominate our attention. Yet Psalm 24:1 calls us to shift our focus toward a deeper reality: God's dominion and eternal

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

Psalm 24:1 (NASB)
purposes. Trusting God for salvation and eternity should naturally extend to trusting Him in the present moment. This perspective challenges Christians to align their actions and attitudes with God's ownership and eternal plans.

Living with a Godward mindset requires intentional effort. As 2 Corinthians 4:18 encourages, believers are called to fix their eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen—on eternal truths rather than temporary distractions. This mindset shapes

decisions and actions, enabling believers to live each day in alignment with God's purposes. It forms a key aspect of a biblical worldview that integrates faith into every area of life.

For students at Calvary, exploring how God's sovereignty impacts daily choices is vital. How can one live each day in light of His ownership? By acknowledging His dominion over all creation and allowing His eternal purposes to guide our lives, believers can cultivate a perspective that honors God's authority while navigating the complexities of modern life. Psalm 24:1 serves as a powerful reminder of this divine truth. ■

John McGee
Chief Development
Officer



Calvary University Alumni Association **cont.**

Supporting the Annual Alumni Campaign

The Alumni Association Team also provides key leadership and assistance with the annual Alumni Campaign. Alumni support has been instrumental in a variety of projects over the years, including new security cameras, computer

lab equipment, technology upgrades, and dorm improvements. This year's campaign focuses on the Warrior Café, a central gathering place on campus that has seen many upgrades from senior classes. The team is focused on helping to upgrade the flooring. Alumni support for projects like these provides significant encouragement for current students and enhances the campus experience.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Alumni Association Team for their dedicated service to our alumni community and the university. Your hard work and commitment are deeply appreciated!

If you are a Calvary Alum and would like to connect with us, join our Facebook group: <https://bit.ly/CUAlumniGroup> ■

Calendar of Events

MARCH

10-14 Spring Break

21-23 **Agatha Christie's**

Mousetrap by the Theatre

Department

28 **Feast & Fund** *Live and Silent*
Auction

APRIL

11 Hosting the **Midwest**

Christian School Academic

Meet

18 **Good Friday** Offices closed

25 **Spring Concert**

MAY

9 **Board of Trustees** Spring
Meeting

10 **Commencement**

12 **Summer Session I** begins

26 **Memorial Day** offices closed

June

6 **24th Annual Golf Tournament**

27 **Summer Session I** ends

For more details, visit
calvary.edu/calendar

Alumni Updates

MARRIAGES

■ **ADAM WEEKS (CU19 & 22)** and Reagan Holden, February 8, 2025

1970s

■ **MIKE JACKSON ('74)**, Assists with Bible study every Saturday morning in Warrensburg, MO. working with: "Standing in the Gap Ministries", assisting those trying to break alcoholism and drug dependence- many who have been recently released from jail.

■ **MICHAEL MARTENS ('74)**, Primary consultant for the "Sopi" Bible translation team. This is a large people group (approx. 5 million) that is 99% Muslim. Currently he is revising UMA New Testament, and he hopes to have it ready for printing next year.

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!



Staff Updates

CARRIE PAXTON We welcome Carrie as our new Cashier and Associate Director of Financial Aid. Carrie comments that the transition into her new role has been easy because "everyone has been extremely kind and welcoming."

FEAST&FUND

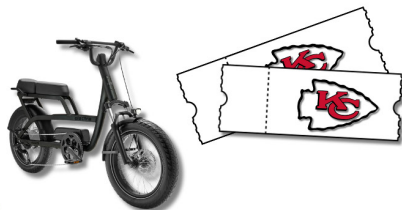
March 28th, 2025

\$35 per Ticket!

calvary.edu/auction



PRAISEFEST
BRANSON
FALL *Retreat*



Five (5) Night All Inclusive Mexico Resort

President's Dinner 2025
September 25th



Save the Date!

24th ANNUAL *Calvary Classic* GOLF TOURNAMENT



FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025
Eagles' Landing Golf Course
Belton, MO

Registration
opens April 1!