

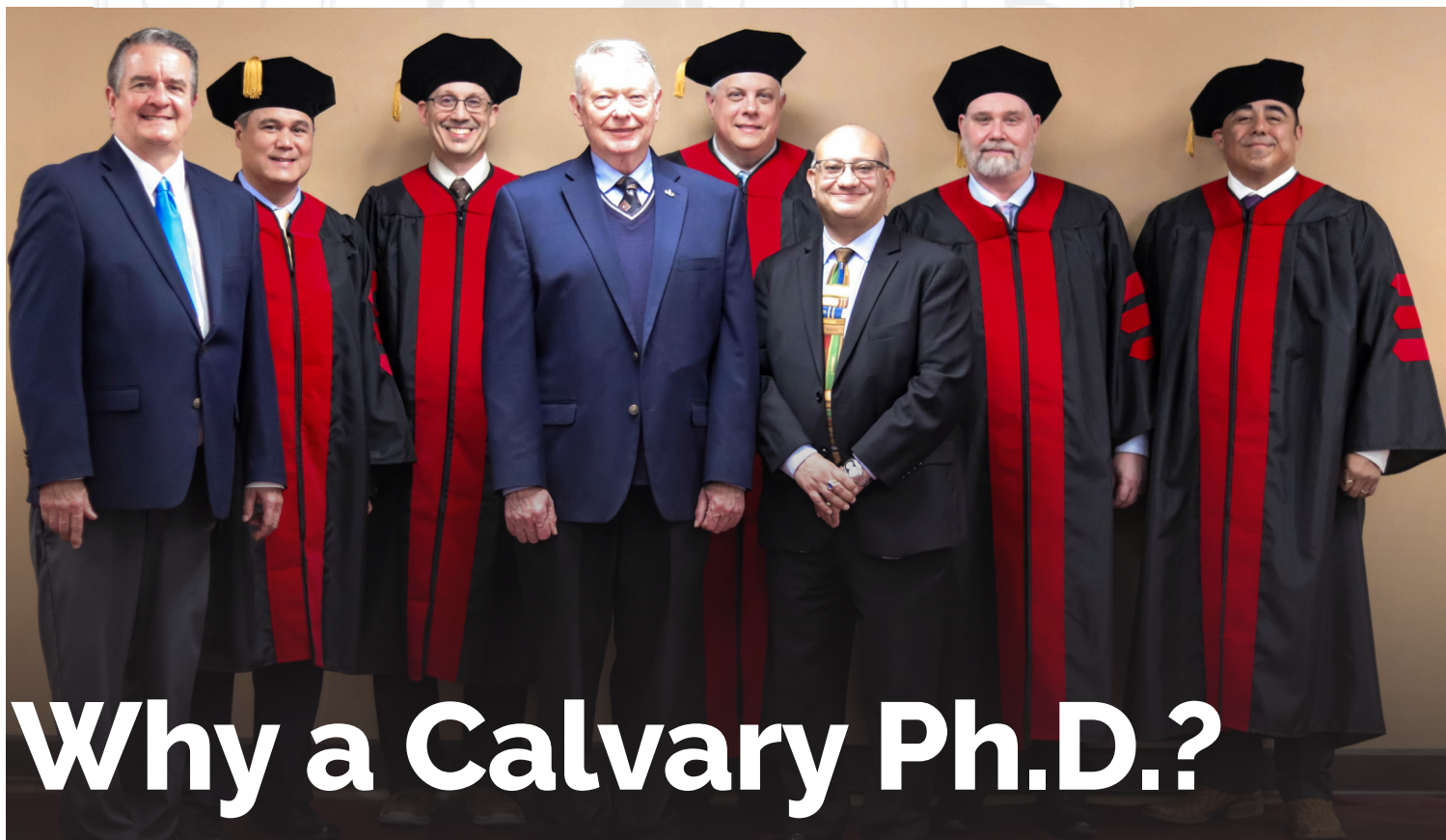
Building up the Body of Christ

CALVARY TODAY

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www.calvary.edu



Why a Calvary Ph.D.?

Calvary University's first Ph.D. Graduates, May 2025

Amidst all the honored graduates at Calvary University's recent graduation, a unique group of men were included. These graduates were the first to complete Calvary's new Ph.D. program. So, why did they choose to get a Ph.D. at Calvary? Why should you?

In 2017, Dr. Gary Gromacki was tasked with developing the first doctoral degree program at Calvary University. It was determined that the school would offer a Doctorate of Philosophy in Bible and Theology degree—a hybrid of the American model (course-based

with culminating research) and the European model (research-based) with a unique program focus on both Bible and theology with both courses and research. After much intense work developing, defending, and achieving accreditation of the program with both the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) in March 2018 and then the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in September 2018, Dr. Gromacki became the Program Director for Calvary's first Ph.D. program.

Calvary's Ph.D. in Bible and Theology emphasizes all the

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Seminary Spotlight cont.

priorities of Calvary University: biblical inerrancy; a consistent literal, grammatical, historical interpretation of the Bible; traditional Dispensationalism; young earth creationism; a cessationist view of the sign gifts; complementarianism; the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church; the Premillennial Second Coming of Christ; and a futurist interpretation of the book of Revelation. Furthermore, the program has a strong emphasis upon the biblical languages: Greek and Hebrew—all prospective students must demonstrate graduate-level proficiency in both languages before they start the Ph.D. program.

Having proficiency in Greek and Hebrew, students in the first year of the program complete in-depth exegesis in the study of both the Old and New Testament in their original languages. In the second year of the program, students exegete all sixty-six books of the Bible. The third year moves the students into theological analysis of all the subjects of Systematic Theology as well as focused research and writing on significant theological issues. The fourth and final year of the program applies all the skills learned for the students to do the research, writing, and defense of their individual dissertations.

Several strengths of the program are the diversity of the teaching faculty, the “cohort” system, and that it has no residency requirement; the program can be completed 100-percent online without having to move to Kansas City. In the development of the program, Dr.



Graduates pray together during 2025 Commencement.

Gromacki sought out teaching faculty who bring years of doctoral-level teaching and personal research experience to the program—many of them currently serving as leaders in significant academic and ministry settings. The cohort system whereby

The goal of this program is “to produce outstanding students of the Bible in its original languages and theologians who can serve both the academy and the church as scholars who communicate their research in Biblical and theological studies.”

students work as a group throughout the program brings a peer support structure of immense value for such a demanding program.

The goal of this program is “to produce outstanding students of the Bible in its original languages and theologians who can serve both the academy and the church as scholars who communicate their research in biblical and theological studies.” Our five recent graduates are prepared to do just that!



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.

Have you or someone you know been thinking of pursuing a terminal degree in Bible and/or theology? Do you / they have a master's degree from Calvary University or an equivalent degree from another Christian university or seminary? Why not be one of those in the next cohort to begin and complete a Ph.D. at Calvary? ■

Dr. Michel Dodds
Dean of the
Seminary



Calvary University Alumni Association

Calvary University Honors Rev. Scott Sundin with 2025 Alumni Association Award

At our Commencement Service just over a month ago, Calvary University was pleased to announce Rev. Scott Sundin (M.S. in Bible, 2000) as the recipient of the 2025 Alumni Association Award. This annual honor is given to a graduate whose life and ministry reflect a deep commitment to faithfulness and service, demonstrating a consistent application of the biblical worldview. After careful consideration of several nominees, the Alumni Association Team selected Rev. Sundin for this well-deserved recognition.

Born and raised in Wheaton, Illinois, Scott's early spiritual foundation was shaped at Northside Gospel Center, where AWANA played a key role in his formative years. At age fifteen, his family moved to Arizona, where he later attended Arizona State University. It was there he met his wife, Kelly, and the two married in 1985. Just a few years after graduating, Scott and Kelly began serving as AWANA missionaries in eastern Colorado—a decade-long ministry during which they welcomed their three children: Tyler, Kyle, and Kaitlyn. Through AWANA Olympics and local club involvement, Scott reached thousands of children with the gospel message.

In 1997, the Sundins moved to Kansas City, driven by a desire to invest deeply in a local community and be closer to family. That same year, Scott enrolled at Calvary University and began serving at Blue Ridge Bible Church (now Word



Scott and his wife, Kelly Sundin

of Grace Fellowship) as Associate Pastor under the mentorship of Pastor William Ross. After Pastor Ross retired in 2000, Scott stepped into the role of Senior Pastor, a position he continues to hold with grace and humility.

Scott's life consistently reflects the values Calvary University seeks to instill in its graduates. His forty-year marriage to Kelly stands as a testament to enduring love and faithfulness. Together, they have raised a family rooted in Christ, and now delight in their growing legacy of nine grandchildren—with one more on the way. Friends and colleagues often point

to Scott's integrity, strength during personal trials, and steadfastness as defining characteristics of his life and ministry.

His long-standing service at Word of Grace Fellowship is especially remarkable. Despite opportunities for change or easier career paths, Scott has remained dedicated to his calling, even while facing serious health challenges. In fact, those who work alongside him describe him as steadfast, long-suffering, and gracious—a leader who preaches the Word faithfully, supports others without micromanaging, and leads with humility and strength. His Associate Pastor of over twenty years, Jim Scott, describes Scott as a man who never complains, remains calm under pressure, and consistently walks in faith without fear.

Rev. Scott Sundin's legacy is one of unwavering commitment to Christ, servant leadership, and

personal integrity. Calvary University is proud to honor him as the 2025 Alumni Association Award recipient. His life and ministry continue to inspire students, alumni, and fellow believers to live out the biblical worldview with conviction and compassion. ■



Calvary President, Dr. Alexander Granados and Rev. Scott Sundin



The Distinctive of Calvary University

The distinctive of Calvary University is to be an institution that is standing firm, built on the Bible, a place for growth, providing a high quality, excellent, marketable education at a low cost. These are our institutional priorities and commitments. We are distinctively Christian; we are not Christian in name only. Our faculty master the skill of integrating biblical truth into academic disciplines.

Standing Firm, Built on the Bible

Calvary University is standing firm, built on the Bible. In every class and every program, we are committed to excellence in preparing men and women to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the biblical worldview. Calvary offers degrees in many different disciplines, and the Bible is the core of every single one. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

An unwavering commitment to the authority of Scripture is the foundation of Calvary's doctrine, both in what we teach and what we do. "All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable,

equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Our education is consistent with the fundamental truths of the Christian faith, taught with love and conviction. "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith." (1 Timothy 1:5).

The distinctive of Calvary University is to be an institution that is standing firm, built on the Bible, a place for growth, providing a high quality, excellent, marketable education at a low cost.

Theologically, Calvary can be described as biblical, fundamental, pre-millennial, and dispensational. Each year, faculty members and trustees must affirm acceptance of the Bible as the inerrant, verbally inspired Word of God.

A Place for Growth

We are persuaded the Scriptures teach that what we *are* is as important as what we *know*. Ephesians 4:15 clearly states that we are to speak the truth (doctrine) in love (Christ-like character). This is the reason we put great effort into developing Christ-like character and a servant's heart while communicating God's Word. In all matters we endeavor to display the "excellent spirit" of the prophet Daniel (Daniel 6:3). This man of God refused to compromise and yet constantly displayed an attitude which endeared him to his superiors. He was neither vindictive nor self-righteous and through his dedicated life made a profound impact upon the kings of Babylon and Persia.

Calvary is carefully designed to provide not just a place for learning, but a place for growth (Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 1:28; 2 Peter 1:3). 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 and hands-on internships. Our campus provides a rich environment for developing lifelong friendships and relationships (Philippians 2:1-4; Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 10:24). Our online

campus and programs are also shaped to bring that formative environment and support system to our students wherever they are in the world.

Excellent, Marketable Education

The goal of our academic departments is to develop intellectual and spiritual maturity, leadership potential, servanthood, and a sense of mission for our students. All programs at Calvary emphasize biblical studies. Each course is complemented by general and professional education, including practical field experience. Ministry opportunities expand beyond the college campus as Calvary students serve in churches and in ministry and fine arts performance teams across the country.

Calvary students also learn how to study and apply the eternal truths of God's Word in every aspect of life and service. Whether their goal is to serve in a full-time vocational ministry setting or if they are looking for a place to grow in their Christian faith while exploring the various career options available, a Calvary education will provide the necessary foundation and credential. Each student receives a solid core of

biblical and theological studies that undergird every professional major and general education requirement. All undergraduate students graduate with a major in Biblical Studies. They do not just learn how to make a living; they learn how to live!

Calvary is committed to providing excellent, marketable education and credentials, so our graduates are not only prepared for excellence in life and service, but they are also positioned for it. Calvary's Master of Science in Education offers a

Calvary is committed to providing excellent, marketable education and credentials, so our graduates are not only prepared for excellence in life and service, but they are also positioned for it.

pathway to certification in certain states and the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling offers a pathway to licensure in certain states (www.calvary.edu/certification and www.calvary.edu/licensure). Our graduates tested 12% above the national average in theology on the ABHE Bible Knowledge Exam, and we are

continually refining and expanding our degree offerings to meet the needs of our students and those whom they will serve. We understand that while core values don't change, ministry environments do. Currently, 96% of our recent graduates are in ministry.

High Quality, Low Cost

The Calvary University distinctive is evident in all of our programs — and we have many designed to meet the needs of our diverse student population. Calvary University is committed to providing every student with the same high quality educational experience in every program, whether online, on campus, undergraduate or graduate. So, whether students are just beginning their college education, whether they are wanting to complete something they started long ago, are wanting to make a vocational or ministry change in their life, or are continuing their growth with a graduate degree program, Calvary University is here for them.

Qualified faculty members are not only involved in academics but also serve as role models in Christian ministry. In Calvary's family atmosphere, one-on-one interaction with faculty is possible to a much greater degree than on larger college and university campuses. Our faculty members are dedicated to both academic success and spiritual growth of each student.

Calvary has become a nationally recognized leader in decreasing the cost of high-quality education for students, so they can begin their ministries and service without the burden of crippling student debt. Ninety percent of undergraduate students receive grant or scholarship aid. On average we award \$7,184 per student in grants and scholarships. We award \$1.4 million annually in financial aid. At the moment,

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The Steward's Pen



A Christian's generosity, at its core, is a reflection of Christ's love—our generosity is not to showcase our own capacity, but to reflect the boundless grace we have already received, each of us an undeserving recipient of Christ's lavish love. It is from that abundance, we give.

We give because God gave everything for us. His sacrificial love is our hope, our joy, and the very foundation of our purpose and salvation. When we give, we offer a glimpse of that love to others—sometimes to people we may never meet or whose lives we cannot fully witness. Our gifts send ripples of grace and His love across our campus, communities, and the world.

"We love because He first loved us."

I John 4:19 (NASB)

Every gift we receive at Calvary—whether it helps a student remain enrolled through scholarships, supports a campus ministry, or creates spaces where faith and fellowship can flourish—echoes the generosity we have experienced in Christ.

At Calvary University, this spirit of generosity fuels far more than academic achievement; it ignites our true calling and advances our mission: to equip men and women to live and serve in the church and the world, grounded in the biblical worldview.

This summer, Calvary is facing the urgent challenge of raising \$500,000 by the end of June, driven by rising expenses, lower-than-expected income, and fewer gifts than usual. Yet even in the midst of financial strain, we are encouraged—hopeful for the future thanks to a strong fall enrollment outlook and, most importantly, the unwavering faithfulness of our great and gracious God.

We know God provides through his people, and when you give to CU, you prove the fact that our students, staff, faculty, and future alumni are seen and supported. And through your example, you remind everyone you touch that they are deeply, truly, and unconditionally loved—not just by a donor, but by a gracious, generous Savior. ■

The Distinctive of Calvary University **cont.**

Calvary is ranked in the top 30 out of 1,300 colleges and universities in the United States for lowest student debt upon graduation, and we won't stop our efforts until every student can graduate without a penny of student debt. This past year, 70% of our graduates graduated with no debt.

The purpose of every program at Calvary is to teach students Bible and theology, and to prepare them for Christian ministry.

The Calvary University distinctive is found in our undergirding every class and every degree program with the Bible and the biblical worldview.

This results in an education that not only provides the quality degree credentials needed, but more importantly, prepares graduates to live and serve in a variety of ministry and vocational settings. ■

Dr. Alexander Granados
President



Calendar of Events

AUGUST

15-17 **New Student** Orientation
 18 Fall Session Begins
 25-28 **Spiritual Emphasis Week**

SEPTEMBER

1 **Labor Day** Offices Closed
 25-26 **Alumni Reunion** 50+ years
 25 **Annual President's Dinner**

OCTOBER

13-17 **Fall Break**
 29 **Day of Prayer**

NOVEMBER

26-28 **Thanksgiving Break**

DECEMBER

5 **Christmas Concert**
 15- Jan 9 **Christmas Break** (No Classes)

JANUARY

12 Spring Session Begins
 26-28 **Conference on Global Engagement**

For more details, visit
calvary.edu/calendar

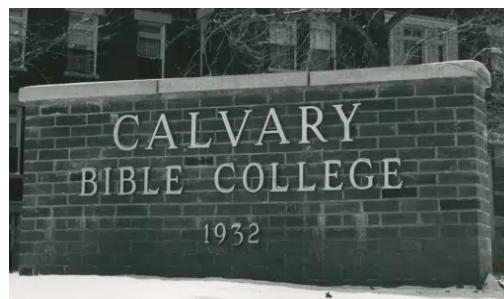
Alumni Updates

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR NEW 2025 ALUMNI! FOR UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES, MAKE SURE YOU JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP:

[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/CALVARYUALUMNI](https://facebook.com/groups/calvaryualumni)

50+ YEAR REUNION!

If you graduated in 1975 or earlier, you're invited to join us for a 2-day reunion in September. Be sure to watch your email for information on pricing, how to register and other event details.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Patricia Wulff** (Hemphill CA72):
 Paul Wulff (CA72)

In memory of **Bonnie Hemphill**:
 Paul Wulff (CA72)

DEATHS

David Dwain Hooper (CA02) on April 19, 2025

If 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

BRAD PAXTON, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS



MATT BROWN, HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH / ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



CAMERON COLEMAN, HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH / ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Save the date!
President's Dinner 2025



6:30 P.M., doors open at 5:30 P.M.
September 25, 2025

CONFERENCE on GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
January 26-28, 2026

Generation Z:
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



Burnham Center
for Global Engagement
CALVARY UNIVERSITY

Register today at
calvary.edu/coge

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



Ted Esler, Ph.D.
*President,
Missio Nexus*