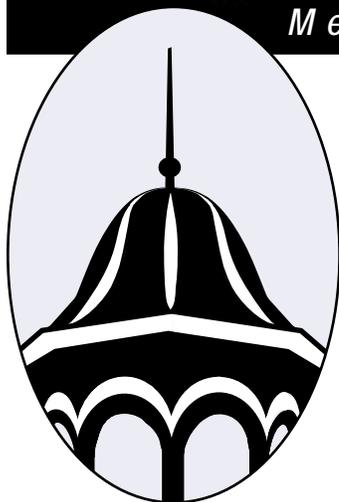


# The Bridge

Memphis, Tennessee

Harding  
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Graduate  
School of  
Religion

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## Bridging the Gaps in Your Knowledge of Greek

by Allen Black, professor of New Testament

Learning Greek is a never-ending journey. In what follows, I want to inform the reader of some tools that can be helpful as bridges from one point to another at various stages of the journey.

Former students who have let their Greek deteriorate often ask me how to go about reviving these language skills. I recommend William D. Mounce's elementary grammar, titled *Basics of Biblical Greek* (Zondervan, 1993). I am not fond of the structure of this book for beginners — Mounce treats all nouns, adjectives and pronouns before treating any verbs. But this organization can be helpful as a useful reference for future use of Greek for those we might call “repeaters.”

To fill the gaps in your vocabulary, I recommend *Reading New Testament Greek* by Bernard Brandon Scott et al (Hendrickson, 1993). This fine

tool provides the best available frequency lists (it sorts the words into verbs, nouns and others and provides the principal parts of all verbs). The frequency lists include words occurring 10 times or more. These are followed by a “reader's guide” with words occurring nine times or less sorted by sections in the Synoptics and chapters in the rest of the New Testament.

Every student of Greek should buy a copy of the third edition of *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, revised and edited by Frederick William Danker (University of Chicago Press, 2000). Yes, you should buy it even if you already own a copy of the second edition. The new edition is more than 200 pages longer and provides significant new information. Danker has completely reorganized each

entry and has provided definitions of each word (e.g., hamartia: “a departure from either human or divine standards of uprightness”), in addition to what used to be called “meanings” but are now called “formal equivalents” (e.g., “sin”).

Finally, for those who are further down the path of Greek learning, I recommend Daniel Wallace's *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics* (Zondervan, 1996). Wallace's grammar deliberately targets theologically significant grammatical issues, making it the most interesting grammar available. It is also a good introduction to many current issues in Greek grammar that are not treated in the old standard works.

The journey of learning Greek never ends because there is always more to learn. But the journey can be exciting as it opens new and deeper levels of understanding God's word.

### On the inside

- 2 Ministry Forum
- 2 From the Dean
- 3 Run for the Son
- 3 Chaplains
- 4 Influential Role
- 4 W.B. West Lectures

## Ministry Forum Slated April 4

“Evangelistic Preaching” will be the theme of the annual Ministry Forum on April 4, 2002, to be held in the W.B. West Jr. classroom building auditorium. Guest speakers will focus on various aspects of evangelistic preaching:

Chris Altrock (Memphis, Tenn.)  
— Evangelistic Preaching to Post-Moderns

James Thompson (Abilene, Texas)  
— Theological Background of Preaching the Old Testament

Keith Parker (Nashville, Tenn.)  
— Evangelistic Preaching in the Sunday Sermon

Don McLaughlin (Atlanta) —  
Preparing a Plan for Evangelistic Preaching

Jimmy Allen (Searcy, Ark.) —  
The Heart of Evangelistic Preaching

The schedule also includes a luncheon in the Hospitality Room. At the luncheon, the Alumni Association will present the annual “Alumnus of the Year” award. Nominations for this award should be sent to Dr. Evertt W. Huffard (dean@hugsr.edu).

For more information about the Ministry Forum, contact Steve McLeod (smcleod@hugsr.edu) or call (901) 761-1353.

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## From the Dean



### Evangelistic Preaching

Each year we select a theme to give focus to our chapel messages and special events. Our current theme of evangelistic preaching calls attention to a forgotten joy, a lost art and a fading spiritual passion. Evangelistic preaching has something to do with pulpits and preachers, but more to do with the committed telling their stories in the public arena. Since all humanity knows sin, we all have a desire for the benefits of the Gospel, but often resist its demands.

#### Tell the Story

One of the demands of the Gospel is to tell the story — of Christ and our hope through the mighty acts of God. For third generation Christians, awareness of their own history is vital to the story they tell, since they are beneficiaries of the radical change in the lives of their grandparents. For first generation believers, the story is much more contemporary. Their zeal is a response to the grace of God that touched them when someone left an invitation to a Gospel meeting on their door or when a Christian family adopted them. The decision to devote a lifetime to ministry was shaped by the friend who studied the Bible with them and led them to Christ. Evangelistic preaching still takes place around the kitchen table.

#### Sending Churches and Mission Churches

Regrettably, too many churches grow old and die. Their faith becomes less public, less organized and less relational. Although they may devote a great percentage of their budget to missions, they are not evangelizing at home. Why? My simple answer is the loss of mission. Authors like Hunsberger and Van Gelder in *The Church Between Gospel and Culture* are calling for all churches to be mission churches. So what is the difference between a sending church and a mission church? One sees little

difference between itself and the culture, the other understands that it exists in a cross-cultural context. One prays for the lost out there in the world, the other prays for its own transformation. One seeks acceptance in society, the other accepts a marginal position. One preaches to the saved on Sunday, the other always has seekers in the assembly. One searches for Jesus in the Word, the other becomes Jesus in the world. One operates with the unstated assumption that it has “arrived,” while the other constantly articulates a vision of what it wants to do. Evangelistic preaching really takes place through the body of believers.

#### House to House

The temptation to look to Christian universities or preacher training schools for a quick fix often ends in disappointment. An evangelistic preacher can meet more resistance getting the church to respond than in his attempts to reach the lost. Evangelism must involve the whole church beyond the Sunday morning worship service. We have students this semester engaged in evangelism every week: house to house in inner city projects, in a mission team preparing to go to Africa, with Hispanic immigrants to the city, in dorm Bible studies in a campus ministry, and in personal studies in youth ministry. Evangelistic preaching really goes on daily from house to house.

#### Ministry Forum — April 4, 2002

Renewal of evangelistic preaching demands leadership with a clear vision and a congregation with a passion for the lost. The alumni officers of the Graduate School have developed a great opportunity for all of us to devote a whole day to this theme. Make plans now to attend the Ministry Forum on April 4 to rekindle a fire for the lost or to reinforce your passion for the ministry of reconciliation we all share. — Evertt W. Huffard (dean@hugsr.edu)

## Third Annual Run for the Son Plans Under Way

by Larry Arick, director of advancement

Plans are under way for the third annual Run for the Son 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Walk. We are planning a whole weekend of activities beginning with the race on Saturday, April 27, 2002, and ending with worship services at various congregations on Sunday, April 28, 2002.

The 5K is a fund-raising effort of the Graduate School Advancement Council and the Associated Women for Harding. All of the funds go into the general scholarship fund or the AWH Scholarship Fund.

We are expanding the event and making it more than just a fund-raiser. We want to use this as an opportunity to connect students with the opportunities for Christian education at Harding University and the Graduate School.

The weekend of activities begins with the race at 8 a.m. on the Graduate School campus. Trophies will be awarded after the race



and Harding University's Belles and Beaux will perform.

On Sunday we want to have our graduates speaking at as many of the area congregations as possible. We would like to have any of our graduates who may have the opportunity in other cities to mention that this is "HUGSR Day." Some congregations might plan a special contribution for the school as well.

We are offering early registration this

year. The fee before March 1, 2002, for runners will be \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 13. Registration on and after March 1, 2002, will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 13. The early registration for walkers is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Late registration for walkers will be \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Runners will receive a free T-shirt, and all participants will receive a free "goodie" bag.

Additional shirts may be purchased for \$10. If you have \$100 in sponsorships, all fees are waived.

If you would like to be one of the many volunteers needed for this fun-filled event, give us a call or e-mail. For volunteer information, registration forms, or answers to any questions regarding the race, call Larry Arick at (901) 432-7727 or e-mail [larick@hugsr.edu](mailto:larick@hugsr.edu).

## Graduate School Alumni Serving as Chaplains in the Armed Forces

Graduate School alumni serve in all 50 states and many foreign countries. Their ministries range from pulpit ministry to youth and family ministry to counseling, and many areas in between. One impressive statistic comes from the United States Armed Services. Of 82 chaplains affiliated with churches of Christ, 28 (34 percent)

hold degrees from the Graduate School. Another four attended the Graduate School. These men serve in all branches of the military. With our country now at war, their service is a critical factor in the well being of our servicemen. Listed are the names of the chaplains and their duty stations.

Name/Rank	Location	Service Branch	Name/Rank	Location	Service Branch
LTC Duncan Baugh	DCSPER Washington, DC	Army	LTC Carl Mills	Tiptonville, TN	Army Reserve
Capt. Robert Brady	Fort Sam Houston, TX	Army	Capt. Gary Payne	Fort Bragg, NC	Army
Maj. Darrell Bruning	Hurlburt Field, TX	Air Force	Lt. Col. (ANG) Allan Qualmann	Little Rock, AR	National Guard
Maj. William Cannon	Brooks AFB, TX	Air Force	LTC Curtis Schlosser	Fort Richardson, AK	Army
Maj. Darrell Clark	Whiteman AFB, MO	Air Force	Capt. Michael Summers	Mannheim, Germany	Army
Col. Terry Dempsey	Fort Lewis, WA	Army	Col. Donald Taylor	FORSCOM, Atlanta, GA	Army
Col. Neil Dennington	Fort Jackson, SC	Army	Maj. Michael Thornton	Dover AFB, DE	Air Force
Maj. Robert Epperly	Wichita, KS	Army Reserve	LTC Thomas Vail	Fort Sam Houston, TX	Army
Col. Michael Hartsell	Fort Benning, GA	Army	Ens. Roy Vaughn III	Memphis, TN	Navy Reserve
Capt. Kendall Hubbs	Wiesbaden, Germany	Army	Col. Larry Walker	Fort Jackson, SC	Army
Maj. Michael Jones	Bryant, AR	Air Force Reserve			
Capt. Alan Madera	Los Angeles, CA	Air Force	The following men are retired or currently inactive:		
Capt. Les Maloney	Troy, TX	Army Reserve	Capt. Tom Childers	Henderson, TN	
Lt. Col. Dennis McCarty	Brooks AFB, TX	Air Force	Col. Peter Christy	NA	
Capt. Brian McCormack	Walter Reed Hospital	Air Force	LTC Thomas Cook	Peachtree City, GA	
Lt. Cdr. Bruce Mentzer	Camp Pendleton, CA	Navy	Lt. Col. James Cooke	Fort Worth, TX	
CIV James Milligan	South Williamsport, PA	FPS	LTC Robert Harms	Fort Hood, TX	

*Return Service Requested*

## Alumni and Friends Serve Influential Role

*by Mark Parker, director of admissions*

I went to look at cars the other day. The salesman was not your stereotypical used-car salesman. He was laid back and comfortable with the cars, the situation and me. He did about everything he could to make me comfortable at his store.

The place I went to look is a strip of road with dozens of dealerships, literally thousands of cars. The choices might easily have staggered me, but the salesman helped me through the whole process. Every car had good qualities, but I needed to know which car was the best for me. The salesman helped me evaluate what I needed and what he could do to meet that need.

I listened and paid attention and stayed with that salesman much longer than I would have if he had been obnoxious. I did not buy a car, but I did learn a lesson about

myself. I am more influenced by relationships than by hype or even data.

Surely this is a lesson all of us at the Graduate School need to remember — including our alumni and friends. What is it, after all, that will influence someone to make the commitment to graduate training in professional ministry or counseling?

I can give all sorts of interesting statistics about how great our school is and how effective our work is. These are true, important things, as true and important as having wonderful cars on the lot. But what influences us to commit?

The same week I went to look at a car, an alumnus of the school drove three hours with his co-worker down to visit us. The co-worker was interested in graduate training, and our alumnus took the time and effort to

bring him to the Graduate School. This young man could have browsed our Web site, read our catalog, and talked with me on the phone. But it was our alumnus, whom he trusted, who is mentoring him to find the right school for him.

As alumni and friends you have great influence on those who need to upgrade their ministry training. I want to challenge you to take a young — or not so young — person under your wing and help make it possible for him or her to come to the Graduate School.

Our faculty and staff work hard to make sure this is a distinctive school. You have the influence it takes to connect what we are with what a future graduate can become. Thank you for your support!

## W.B. West Lectures Scheduled for February 7

*by Trevor Thompson, Student Association president*

Mark your calendars for Feb. 7, 2002, the annual W.B. West Lectures hosted by Harding University Graduate School of Religion. Beginning at 6 p.m. in the classroom building, this year's lecture will feature Dr. Jeff Childers, professor of Bible at Abilene Christian University and co-author of *The Crux of*

*the Matter: Crisis, Tradition, and the Future of Churches of Christ*, and Dr. Stafford North, distinguished professor of Bible at Oklahoma Christian University. The evening will begin with a presentation from Childers on the material presented in *The Crux of the Matter*, which will be followed by a response from

North. A question and answer period will follow the two presentations.

In the spirit of *The Crux of the Matter*, the presentations are designed to facilitate dialogue and open lines of communication for chartering a future of promise, hope and unity. In light of that, the speakers will be

addressing such topics as hermeneutics, church history, ecclesiology, theology, unity, division and the future of churches of Christ. Please make plans to read the book and attend this important night of discussion and exploration.