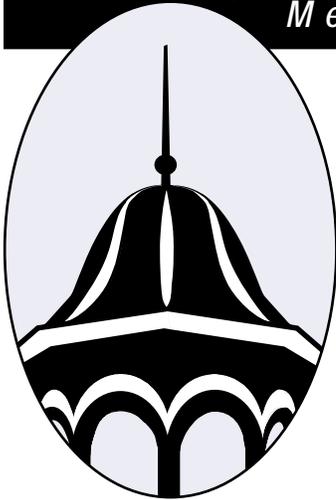


The Bridge

Memphis, Tennessee

Harding
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Graduate
School of
Religion

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Building the Bridge to an Electronic Catalog by Carisse Berryhill, associate librarian

Little by little

the sparrow

builds her nest.

— Haitian proverb

Since 1984, the Graduate School library has been working steadily toward making our catalog available to our readers electronically. That year, we joined OCLC, a consortium of libraries worldwide who share the effort of composing electronic catalog records. OCLC now includes 40,000 libraries sharing a database of 48 million records.

From OCLC we download electronic catalog records, compose and upload records, and use them to exchange materials with other member libraries. In 1999, we loaded records describing about 40 percent of our resources into the online catalog of Harding University libraries, available from a telnet link at www.hugsr.edu.

In December, the catalog link will have a totally new look when the entire Harding University library system converts to new software. More than a year in the making, this transition has involved choosing a new system, securing funding, transferring our electronic data from one database to another, installing hardware, and training, training, training. The Searcy library staff, led by Ann Dixon and Henry Terrill, has done most of that difficult work. Our role has been cooperation and learning, learning, learning.

As we implement all the capabilities of our new software, we will also be installing catalog workstations in our library and training our readers to use them. The new catalog, whether accessed on the Web or in the building, will provide readers with much more powerful searching, and with hot links to electronic resources. From any location, our students will be able to search our catalog and request materials by e-mail. We hope to develop the capability

to deliver many requested materials in digital format instead of as photocopies.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes we will implement the circulation functions of our new software and ultimately all our purchasing and processing management functions as well. We continue to add to our database. We add a record for every new item — some 3,000 a year — while our wonderful volunteer, Clyde Lewis, continues to compile searches for electronic records for books cataloged before 1984. (Lewis has logged more than 40,000 volunteer hours on this project since he began volunteering in 1996.)

Nothing like this gets finished overnight. We have been steadily adding a twig at a time since 1984, quickening our pace with the help of Lewis and our new cataloger, Sheila Owen. Completion of the project is still several years away. But little by little, we are building a powerful worldwide gateway to the treasures that support teaching and learning at the Graduate School.

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Mark Your Calendar!

W.B. West Lectures
Feb. 7-8, 2002

The Student Association-sponsored W.B. West Lectures will be held Feb. 7-8, 2002, on the Memphis campus. Abilene Christian University professor Jeff Childers, co-author with Doug Foster and Jack Reese of *The Crux of the Matter: Crisis, Tradition, and the Future of Churches of Christ*, will be speaking. Stafford North of Oklahoma Christian University will be responding. For more information, watch the Graduate School's Web site, www.hugsr.edu.

Ministry Forum April 4, 2002

The Alumni Association announces that this year's Ministry Forum will focus on this year's Graduate School theme, "Evangelistic Preaching." The forum will be held in the W.B. West Classroom Building auditorium on April 4, 2002. Guest speakers focusing on various aspects of evangelistic preaching will be Chris Altrock, Memphis, Tenn.; James Thompson, Abilene, Texas; and Keith Parker, Nashville, Tenn. Watch future issues of *The Bridge* or the Graduate School's Web site for further details.

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From the Dean



Intentionality

The tragedy of Sept. 11, like so many critical events in our lives, can lead to even greater tragedies — unless we control our fears.

Terrorists try to create a paralyzing fear in all of our hearts. They would be pleased to see us bring all of our missionaries back home for fear of personal safety. They would be pleased to see us reduce our support for Christian services in our community because of new economic fears. They would achieve ultimate victory if we allowed our fears to lead us to abuse and mistreat our Muslim neighbors in America as proof of moral failure in this nation.

Paul calls for self-control in every chapter of Titus, a control that is grounded firmly in the grace of God (2:11-15). Grace teaches us to say "no!" to worldly passion, which in our context includes fear. This spiritual discipline leads us to be intentional about righteousness and good deeds no matter where we are in time and place. This means that our mission work, our giving, our training and our hospitality to the aliens among us become even more intentional.

Since the tragic day, there have been more than 300 incidents of hate crimes against Muslims, 12 mosques vandalized and five Muslim deaths in the United States. However, Muslim leaders in Washington, D.C., have stated that they have gained a new respect for Christians in

this country because of their restraint. The ill treatment of a Muslim or someone of Middle Eastern descent can usually be attributed to ignorance and unfounded fears. All Muslims or all Arabs are not terrorists, any more than all Oklahomans bomb federal buildings.

Sure, a lot of things have changed in our nation since that day. We will be facing this crisis for months or years to come. But our mission will never change. Having lived through an evacuation from Jerusalem and Beirut during the Six-Day War and political tensions in northern Israel for five years, I have observed one thing about times like this — life goes on. If Saul's terrorist threats did not stop the church from growing in Damascus, then no terrorist attacks on our nation should hinder the vital ministries of the church. We cannot love, much less evangelize, those we fear. God will not transform the world through a timid or cowardly church. As you pray for global peace, pray also for boldness to live and serve a mighty God with intentionality at every moment in history.

— *Everett W. Huffard (dean@hugsr.edu)*

Masa and Mari Nonogaki Spread the Gospel in Japan

by Dwight A. Albright, Park Avenue Church of Christ, Memphis

Masa and Mari Nonogaki returned to Japan in 1996 after 3 1/2 years of study at the Graduate School. While Masa worked toward his master of divinity degree, Mari audited numerous courses to prepare herself to help him. They returned as a team to re-establish a Japanese congregation at Yokota.

The military from the Yokota Air Force Base in Tokyo had been meeting in a building on Route 16 since the early 1950s, but at some point they stopped. Masa and Mari felt that this was a good location, and once again began evangelism in the residential community around the building.

What began as just the two of them is now a small group of six to eight meeting each Sunday afternoon. In the last year there have been two baptisms. Mari teaches a ladies' class during the week, and there are fellowships and individual Bible classes.

In addition to their work in starting a Japanese congregation at Yokota, Masa preaches at the Uenohara church about 40 miles from downtown Tokyo. This is a rural congregation begun in the 1950s, currently without a full-time minister. Masa and his family worship with them twice a month, with Masa preaching and teaching. They return to Yokota for the afternoon assembly.

Masa is also a teacher for the Japan School of Evangelism, a school designed to train ministers and leaders for churches in Japan. Masa serves with a group of fellow ministers whose goal is to translate various articles and books that are useful for training leaders and ministers. They have been instrumental in getting several brotherhood articles and books translated into Japanese.

With Mari's help, the Nonogakis have prepared a Web page designed to introduce



Masai, Ken Luke, Riki and Mari Nonogaki.

Christianity to Japanese. The "Bible Room" (www.Bible-Room.org) gives visitors the opportunity to learn about the Bible, discover why people have become Christians, and ask questions. If you have any Japanese friends with computers capable of displaying Japanese, please encourage them to visit

this Web page and learn more about God and His Word.

The Nonogakis have also prepared a Web page for the Yokota military congregation that can be viewed at <http://geocities/yokotachurch/>. Reports on their work are posted periodically at www.geocities.com/masa_nngk.

Professional Ministry Needs Professional Training

by Mark Parker, director of admissions

Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn's movie "House Guest" gives us a glimpse into the popular conception of what ministers are about. Their two characters are not married, but they are pretending to be for his parents. When they have "marital problems," the well-meaning parents bring in the minister to help. The minister is, as we might expect, a caricature of who ministers really are. He is obviously unqualified to handle "real life issues" such as those this couple is facing. He gives trite advice instead of deep insight, and he turns out to be buffoonish comic relief rather than a bearer of good news.

The scene with the preacher

gives those of us in ministry a chance to laugh at ourselves, but it may well point to deeper problems in our churches.

A recent study by the Auburn Theological Seminary warns: "Because other professions have been seriously considered and chosen by many college graduates and ministry often has not, some persons who might make good religious leaders are lost to the profession." This nationwide study of all religious groups confirms what many of us had feared — professional ministry is becoming less and less attractive to those choosing careers.

Myriad reasons can be given for losing qualified ministers

early in the career selection process, but one particular aspect strikes home with me: We expect professional results from our ministers, but we do not yet expect them to receive professional training.

A young lady asked me at a graduate school fair why ministers need training: "If you love God and study the Bible, isn't that enough?" I asked her if she thought ministry was more important than medicine. "Oh, ministry is more important because of its eternal significance," she told me.

She had fallen into my trap! Why do we expect doctors to train for years, but expect no such standards from those who

care for us spiritually? We expect our physicians to continue their education throughout their practices. Do we expect and provide resources for ministers to continue learning and developing?

The simple fact is, when we expect professional results but do not focus the time and resources into becoming professionals, we set ourselves up for frustration. People call me every week seeking a way to update their theological and ministry training. Good for them! I would love to help you advance your ministry through advanced ministry training. Please call me at 1-800-680-0809.

Return Service Requested

“Soldiers of Christ, Arise” *by Larry Arick, director of advancement*

According to all the news, we are involved in “holy war.” But as members of the church we know we have been involved in a “holy war” since the time of Adam and Eve. We also know who the enemy is.

The enemy is Satan. The destruction we witnessed on Sept. 11, 2001, should be a wake-up call to his power and presence. I am thankful for the promise that if we resist Satan, he will flee from us.

I am also thankful for the Graduate School. Students come to the Graduate School to better equip themselves to be soldiers of Christ and to take the good news of the gospel to all the world. As the song says, “Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on.”

We should be even more aware of the need to take the Word of God to a lost world. In the Ephesian letter we read, “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,

against spiritual wickedness in high places.” The writer tells us to “put on the whole armor of God.”

Many of you who receive this publication are on our mailing list because you support the Graduate School financially. You are partners with us in this work to better prepare those who will be on the front lines of this battle against Satan. We appreciate your continued support with your gifts and your prayers, without which the Graduate School would not exist.

This is a critical year for us. Last year the stock market was not kind, so we were hoping for a better year this year. Sept. 11 dashed our hopes for a recovery of the market. However, our true hope is not in the market. It is in God who provides the resources needed for the battle.

Many of you send your gifts to the Graduate School in November and December. If you had not planned on sending a gift, we hope you will reconsider. No

gift is too small. No prayer is too short. No one is unimportant in the fight.

Please send your gift to Harding University Graduate School of Religion, Advancement Office, 1000 Cherry Road, Memphis, TN 38117, or call us at (901) 432-7727.

***New at the
Web Site:
www.hugsr.edu***

The complete Graduate School catalog is now online. You may check the course schedule and register for the spring semester online!

Also recently posted are updated versions of Don Meredith's bibliographies of useful tools in all areas of theological study. Choose links labeled “Library Resources” and “Research Guides by Don Meredith” to get his latest annotations and comments.