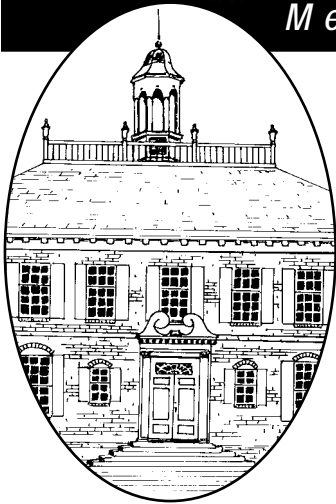


# The Bridge

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## Bridging the Stresses of Ministry

by Dr. Ed Gray, professor of counseling

A bridge is designed to function well for an optimal load range. God has designed us in a similar way as we serve him. The apostle Paul admonishes, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up," (Galatians 6:9). Weariness or overload can cause us to lose our focus. Bad things happen to well-intended Christians when we ignore the warning signs of stress overload

in our lives.

In our ministry, if we burn out, "fallout" may not be far behind. The kingdom of Christ suffers loss. At times we may take Paul's encouragement of "I can do everything through him who gives me strength," (Philippians 4:13) as a mandate that we **must** do every good thing that comes to us. We do have our limits. We begin to suffer physically, emotionally and spiritually. Judgment is

impaired; morality suffers.

When we are burning out, we become poor in our ability to assess the extent to which "our bridge" is being overloaded. We tend to work longer and harder even though we may be less efficient. Those closest to us hear our bridge creaking before we do.

The questions below can assist us in assessing the load that is on our bridge. If you are

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1. What effect is my ministry having on me personally?
2. How would do I balance ministry with other things that recharge my batteries, such as friends, hobbies and outside interests?
3. What would my spouse say about the depth of intimacy in our marriage relationship? Dare I ask him or her? **Or, if you are single:** What are the depths of my relationships with friends?
4. When was the last time that I asked for help personally with something in my life from a trusted friend?
5. How willing am I to delegate responsibility to others? Do I need to have a finger in every pie?
6. Do I seem to be working harder and accomplishing less?
7. Do I tire more easily or feel fatigued rather than energetic?
8. Am I able to laugh at a joke about myself?
9. Does sex/intimacy seem like more trouble than it is worth?
10. Am I increasingly cynical, disenchanted, irritable or more short-tempered with those around me?
11. Do I have a close confidante to whom I am fully accountable?
12. Is it hard for me to find something else to talk about besides ministry?
13. To what degree do I feel lonely or unappreciated?
14. How well maintained are the fences and boundaries in my life against temptation?
15. How do I describe what is stressful to me and how do I manage it? How do I change my moods?
16. What opinion do my children have of my ministry?
17. Would I welcome an accountability group in my life weekly or monthly?
18. Which areas of my life are most vulnerable to Satan?
19. How would I describe my current relationship with God?
20. Do I find this list of questions irritating or helpful? (Why or why not?)

## Student Papers Take Awards

Two biblical studies majors at the Graduate School split this year's American Schools of Oriental Research SE Callaway Prize for excellence in student papers, awarded at the southeastern regional meeting of AAR/SBL/ASOR March 16.

Trevor Thompson and Jason Knight were honored for papers on a Greek inscription from the biblical city of Philadelphia, and on evidence about food animals in the ancient Near East, respectively. They were competing with other student members of AAR/SBL/ASOR, including Ph.D. students. They split a \$250 prize.

Each read his winning paper at the regional meeting and then fielded questions for discussion.

Thompson also presented his paper at the central regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, where it received the student award.

## Alumni News

**Marlin K. Moore** ('84) was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force at ceremonies July 30, at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas. Moore is married to **Marcia Moore** ('85).

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## From the Dean



### Enrollment Trends in Theological Education — a National Survey

In the spring of 1999, the Auburn Center for the Study of Theological Education sent 10,254 surveys to students entering master's-level theological studies in Jewish, Catholic and Protestant schools. The 2,512 responses identified some national trends for training in ministry. For example:

*Most students come from churches* rather than a college or university, and most make this decision after they leave college. Only one in five went straight to graduate school after completing a bachelor's degree. Very few colleges consistently "feed" students to theological schools.

*Theological schools are not highly selective* — 90 percent of the students went to their first choice for theological studies, compared to 46 percent of law school students.

*Seventy two percent of students in seminaries work part-time* during their first year, in contrast to only 27 percent of law students.

*The average age is increasing.* The mean age is 35, compared to 24 in medical school and 26 in law school. What this means is that "most future lawyers and doctors are already set on their professional course before most future ministers have begun to consider theirs" (Auburn Studies, July 2001, p. 20).

#### The Graduate School Picture

The overwhelming majority of our recruiting has focused on recent college graduates. Younger students certainly bring academic strength and zeal. But how do we

recruit from churches? Older students bring experience and a commitment to the church. What is our future if we assume that all preachers, missionaries and counselors will come straight from Christian colleges? We all need to work together to challenge more of our active, gifted church members to go into ministry, while still encouraging more young people to go into ministry. Both groups are represented in our student body today. Free church audit classes each semester can be a great entry point for second-career adults. Encourage your church members to enroll! Encourage your young people to aspire to ministry!

We have been blessed to be able to keep our standards high and still attract more than 200 students this semester. Ministry demands our best. The endowed Lewis Scholars program will consistently identify some of the best. I was pleased to announce the first two Lewis Scholars at our convocation on Aug. 27 — Trevor Thompson and Doug Oakes.

As we greet our incoming students on campus, online and at extension sites, pray for them and us. And encourage them and others by supporting the school, attending classes yourself, and connecting someone with the Graduate School for a future in ministry.

— *Everett W. Huffard* ([dean@hugsr.edu](mailto:dean@hugsr.edu))



Trevor Thompson and Douglas Oakes Jr. (back) are the first two Lewis Scholars receiving the scholarship which honors Clyde, Jack and Annie May Lewis (front).

## First Lewis Scholars Named

Harding University Graduate School of Religion named the first two Lewis Scholars at its annual convocation in the West Center Auditorium Aug. 27. Trevor Thompson and Douglas Oakes Jr. were awarded the full-tuition scholarships based upon academic merit and promise for ministry.

The Lewis Scholarship, named after long-time professor Dr. Jack P. Lewis, founding librarian Annie May Lewis, and Clyde Lewis, is the Graduate School's most prestigious scholarship. The two scholarships were endowed by a gift from Sherman and Julie Rogers of Bloomington, Ind., in honor of Sherman's father, Oliver E. Rogers, and family friend, Cleaton F. Crosby.

Oakes graduated summa cum laude from Lubbock Christian University in May with a bachelor's degree in Bible and ministry, receiving the Welch Homiletic Award and the Dean's Award. He entered the Graduate School's master of divinity program this fall.

Thompson graduated summa cum laude from Oklahoma Christian University in 1998 with a degree in Bible and ministry, receiving the Hugo McCord Bible Award. He entered the Graduate School's master of divinity program in

1998. He served three years as the graduate assistant to Dr. Richard Oster and has served three summers as Don McLaughlin's intern at the North Atlanta Church of Christ.

Thompson has received high honors while at the Graduate School, including the Joseph A. Callaway Prize for Biblical Archaeology by the American Schools of Oriental Research (Southeast region) and the prize for an Outstanding Student Paper by the Society of Biblical Literature (Central states). He now serves as president of the Student Association. After graduation Thompson hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in early Christian studies and Greco-Roman religions.

Jack Lewis has taught at the Graduate School since 1953 and served as a leading force in establishing the high academic standards of the school. Annie May Lewis served as the school's first librarian and cast the vision for what has become the largest theological research library among schools associated with the churches of Christ. Clyde Lewis, a long-time contributor to the school, has exceeded all records of volunteer hours of work given the Graduate School, volunteering thousands of hours to put the library's card catalog online.

## Diploma or Discipline? Rising to the Challenge of Ministry

by Mark Parker, director of admissions

I recently ran across this line on a Web page for a school that boasted being the world's only genuine diploma mill: "People who wish to obtain a doctor of divinity degree from [General Delivery University] merely have to send \$25 by money order or cashier's check, made payable to the GDU." Ridiculous! Can you imagine who would think that such a degree was worth even \$25?

During the first week of classes this fall I watched the students come on campus. Some were new, some returning. I listened as our students talked in chapel about deep spiritual issues, communicating them so clearly that anyone could have understood. I took some students to lunch and listened as they spoke of their dreams for ministry and their preparation at the Graduate School. They didn't just want a diploma; they wanted an education that honed them for the dif-

ficult task of ministry.

What I found in our students, and what contrasted so starkly with the Web page I was browsing, was the disciplined devotion of serious men and women who want to serve God, the church and other people. I found people willing to put in serious, hard work to be prepared for the serious, hard work of leading God's people.

We pride ourselves around here for our exacting academic standards. We boast a faculty, library, facilities and students that stand out in a world full of quick and easy diplomas. This year's student body showed me what I already knew: the Graduate School is where you need to be to meet the challenge of ministry.

If I can help you rise to the challenges of ministry, please call (800) 680-0809 or (901) 432-7750, or e-mail mparker@hugr.edu.

## Advancements in Rank Announced

Dr. Carisse Berryhill has been promoted to associate librarian. A faculty member since 1992, Berryhill implements technological developments in the library and directs the library's effort to computerize its catalog and internal operations. She also supervises the cataloging department staff.

Dr. Dave Bland, director of the doctor of ministry degree program, has been promoted to

professor of homiletics. Bland, who has been on the faculty since 1993, has recently published books on preaching and on Proverbs.

Dr. Ed Gray, a faculty member since 1993, has been promoted to professor of counseling. He directs the Counseling Center, is a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and is a training supervisor for AAMFT.

## Professors to Present at Lectureship

Two Graduate School professors will teach classes at Harding University's 78th annual Lectureship on "Proverbs: Prescriptions for the Heart." Dr. Dave Bland will present "Formation of Moral Character," in three parts on Monday, Oct. 1. Dr. Jack Lewis will present "The Ministry of

Study: How to Do It," in three parts on Wednesday, Oct. 3.

Lewis, professor emeritus of Bible, has taught at the Graduate School since 1953. Bland, professor of homiletics and director of the doctor of ministry degree program, has taught at the Graduate School since 1993.

*Return Service Requested*

## Hollis and Leah Scott: Their Example of Faith Lives On

### “But they shared everything they had” (Acts 4:32b)

Many of us remember Hollis and Leah Scott. Mrs. Scott was my art teacher at Harding Academy in Memphis. She taught us to appreciate art and to develop a love for it. She began a tradition of making a personalized candleholder for each graduate of the Academy. My candleholder, now more than 40 years old, is in a china cabinet at my mother's house. Next to the candleholder is a ceramic piece Mrs. Scott helped me paint and bake. These are very special and could not be purchased at any price.

Mrs. Scott was special because she gave so much of herself. She gave of her time and her talent. Hollis and Leah both gave of their personal possessions. Their lives were dedicated to the Lord's work, and they wanted the work to continue after they were gone. The Graduate School received their estate at the death of Leah in 1994, and the

work has continued. The Graduate School will receive more than \$40,000 this year from the interest of the endowment that continues to grow each year.

Hollis and Leah continue to be good examples of giving and sharing. Recently a couple asked that a large portion of their estate be given to the Graduate School. They were friends of the Scotts and were touched by their example of giving. They said they were also impressed with how the Scotts' intention to continue the Lord's work was being met.

This couple wants to ensure the Lord's work will continue after they are gone. Have you thought about how you could be confident the work will continue? Are you a part of our work now? This year we will give scholarships of \$350,000, or more, to deserving students who want to enter the

ministry. These scholarship funds come from interest from endowments and from gifts to the general scholarship fund.

We would like for you to consider being partners with us in this work. No gift is too small. What better way is there to honor someone than by setting up an endowed scholarship in his or her name?

These can be set up and paid over a five-year period. If you need information regarding this, we would be happy to answer any questions. Please contact me using the information below.

Tom Brokaw calls the Scotts' generation, “the greatest generation,” because of the examples they were to us. Let us learn from them so that generations after us will also have good examples to follow.

— *Larry Arick, director of advancement*  
*larick@harding.edu, (901) 432-7727*

## Bridging the Stresses *continued from page 1*

not in full-time ministry, ask these questions of your job or life situation. Spend some time with God and those close to you, considering the following: We live in a culture that tells us, “You can have it all.” “Have it your way.” “You deserve more.” “Just do it.” Our bridge suffers the overload. Cracks develop. Bridges can collapse. When Christians ignore burnout and overload,

relationships with our friends and family suffer. As burnout is ignored, moral fallout is often not far behind. We have all seen this happen in someone's life. Satan wins a painful victory.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will

find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light,” (Matthew 11:28-30). Jesus calls us to service with him — sharing the load, not carrying it alone. Jesus did not envision Christian service as a burnout proposition. Keep your bridge well maintained. May we thoughtfully listen to him and learn from our Lord of the harvest.