We Take Mission Seriously

Our Great Commission

Hollywood and The Bible

A Providential Encounter

REINVIGORATED PREACHING PROGRAMS

NEW BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE
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FALL/WINTER 2014
PRESIDENT
Gary E. Weedman
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
David L. Eubanks
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT/MANAGING EDITOR
Alan Tison
CREATIVE & PRODUCTION
Milton Chamblee
CONTACT INFORMATION
Johnson University Florida
1011 Bill Beck Boulevard
Kissimmee, FL 34744
407.847.8966
JohnsonU.edu/FL

OUR MISSION
Johnson University educates students for Christian ministries and other strategic vocations framed by the Great Commission in order to extend the kingdom of God among all nations.

OUR VISION
To bring glory to God and hope to the world by preparing promising students for excellence in Christian ministry through an affordable, community-oriented, Christ-centered education.

PRODUCTION
The SONLIFE Magazine is a quarterly publication of Johnson University Florida.

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On the cover of this issue of SONLIFE is the recent ribbon cutting for the new School of Business & Public Leadership at Johnson University Florida!

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Get Connected
Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to visit the JUFL website. You can also like us on Facebook to stay up-to-date with the latest info from Johnson University Florida!
The mission of Johnson University is “to educate students for Christian ministries and other strategic vocations framed by the Great Commission in order to extend the kingdom of God among all nations.” We take mission seriously. We take educating students for Christian ministries seriously. Concerning preparing students for Christian ministries, I am occasionally asked, “Are you still emphasizing preaching?” My answer to that question is, “Yes, as strongly as ever.” For instance, here in JUFL this semester we have instituted two programs in preaching: Preaching and Church Leadership and Preaching and Youth Ministry. The second program has a youth ministry component because many young men who wish to preach typically begin their service in youth ministry. In order to promote these programs and to recruit students for them, special preaching scholarships are also awarded to every student who enrolls in them. We also conduct preach.WORKSHOPS at local congregations and a preach.FEST event each year on one of our campuses to encourage and celebrate preaching (go to page 9 to learn more about preach.FEST 2015 hosted on the Florida campus).

These preaching programs are offered through the School of Congregational Ministry. This semester in Florida, 28% of the male students are enrolled in one of these preaching programs. Also in this School, 7% of the student body is pursuing a youth ministry program, and 5% are majoring in Children’s Ministry. In the School of Creative Arts, 6% of the student body are preparing for Music and Worship Ministry, and 5.5% of the student body are pursuing missions through the School of Intercultural Studies. All of the above programs, in some field of Christian ministries, require a Bible major along with a second major in their ministry field.

A vital part of our mission is also to educate students for “other strategic vocations framed by the great commission.” Business and public leadership fall in these categories. So, with this fall semester on the JUFL campus, a new program (both BA and BS) in Business and Public Leadership was introduced. This program places a high priority on ethics, morality, and spirituality in all phases of business and public leadership. It also has a strong focus on ministry and missions.

President Weedman has written a very relevant article demonstrating the strategic role that business is playing in “extending the kingdom of God among all nations,” especially those nations closed to traditional methods of evangelism. Some excerpts from his article follow:

In recent years several Christian leaders have recognized the role that business can have in extending God’s kingdom among all nations. In a paper coming out of the Forum of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (2004) in Pattaya, Thailand, authors Neal Johnson and Steve Rundle identify this renewed emphasis on the ways that business and mission intersect as a “new Movement, which at its core stresses the active participation of lay people in ministry and missions” (Johnson and Rundle, “Distinctives and Challenges…” p.22). Such a Movement as this fits squarely within the ethos of Johnson University and our Stone-Campbell tradition. Johnson alumnus Dr. Joe Ellis, former dean of Cincinnati Christian Seminary, stated, “Our early history was ‘a people’s movement: preachers planted churches, teachers planted churches, doctors and lawyers planted churches, [emphasis mine]—and churches planted more churches.’” In starting a new School of Business and Public Leadership, we reconnect with this part of our heritage and join a contemporary global effort toward world evangelization....
The newest version of the interface of “lay” people involved in the intersection of business and Christian witness is the Business as Mission (BAM). It originated, at least under this name, in 1999 at a meeting at the Oxford Centre for Mission Study (OCMS), Oxford, U.K. I spent the summer of 2014 on sabbatical at Oxford University and connected with OCMS, preaching in their chapel one week. The Centre brings scholars from the global community collaborating among themselves and preparing graduate students on the cutting edge of Christian ministry and mission for the Two-Third World. In contrast to economic development efforts mentioned above, BAM focuses globally on the least-developed, least-reached nations, especially in the 10/40 window. Within five years of the initial meeting at OCMS, BAM meetings occurred on every continent, and its leaders participated in the Forum of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (2004) mentioned above.

Dr. Alicia Crumpton, dean of the School of Business and Public Leadership, led the effort in constructing the business degree programs, bringing the existing non-profit management and the Ph.D. in leadership into the School. Mindful of the transformation among leading business schools, including a focus on ethics, a broad liberal arts education, and communication skills, she also consulted with our own affiliate faculty and outside experts in the field. Crumpton explains, “We have a unique differentiator in the design of our business programs: a focus on leadership + business coupled with our intercultural missionary model that incorporates culture, worldview, and biblical perspective throughout our curriculum. The literature review was very clear that what was lacking in undergraduate and graduate business programs was an emphasis on leadership development. Content mastery without leadership yields unethical decision-making, limited capacity for innovative thinking, and a lack of social intelligence....”

“We mean business–business that prepares men and women to lead enterprises locally and globally–convincing that such an approach supplies a missing dimension to our mission of extending the kingdom of God on earth.”

On the Florida campus 7.5% of our student body is enrolled in the new Business and Public Leadership Program. (NOTE: The School of Business and Public Leadership offers online degrees at the baccalaureate, master’s, and Ph.D. levels.)

Other strategic programs with strong ministry/missions focus are offered through the Templar School of Education and the School of Human Services. On the Florida campus 12% of the student body is enrolled in a teacher education program with a significant component in teaching English as a second language, and 10% of the students are in a human services program with a concentration in Christian counseling. All of these programs also require a Bible major with the second major in the professional field.

We understand that preparing students to serve Christ in a congregational ministry, a missions ministry, or in a “strategic vocation” is not in line with current cultural trends. In fact, our culture is becoming more and more unfriendly to Biblical principles. Yet we are determined all the more to fulfill our mission, confident that our graduates, with the Lord’s blessing, will “extend the kingdom of God among all nations” in and beyond the United States.

Dr. David Eubanks is currently serving as the Chief Operating Officer at Johnson University Florida, and is President Emeritus of Johnson University.
Johnson University’s leadership, faculty, and students joined the community and the Kissimmee Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the opening of the School of Business and Public Leadership (SoBPL), on the JUFL campus. Dr. David Eubanks, chief operations officer and president emeritus, spoke at the ceremony, which was followed by the ceremonial ribbon cutting and refreshments.

The School of Business and Public Leadership launched two new degree programs, a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. These programs, which also require a Bible major, are designed to educate potential leaders who are committed to utilizing their business vocations to serve the Lord in the community marketplace, in the church, and around the globe. The B.A./B.S. courses will be offered on our Johnson University Florida campus one evening per week, to enable working professionals the flexibility to manage a career while earning a business degree that will prepare them for advanced employment and/or graduate study.

The impetus for the SoBPL began when President Weedman was on a mission trip to Thailand and met with leaders of mission agencies commiserating over the problems caused by the lack of business experience among missionaries. One of them challenged him: “One of our colleges needs to start a business program.”

Many missionaries today are entering countries closed to traditional missionary endeavor as businessmen. One such leader has been able to work with house churches in a predominantly Islamic country. This practice has spawned a whole new missions concept called Business As Missions, (BAM).

The faculty of the SoBPL are themselves outstanding Christian administrators, entrepreneurs, and business leaders. Their instructional methods integrate best practices in business administration and entrepreneurial leadership with Christian worldview, Biblical perspective, and high ethical standards.

Rachel Nawrocki is the Business Administration program director and assistant professor of Leadership. For greater details about this program, go to JohnsonU.edu/FL, navigate to the academics tab, and click on Business Administration.
The faculty, staff, and alumni of Johnson University Florida have a common goal, which to us, is more than just a matter of our work, but also a ministry that is at the very core of Johnson’s Mission Statement. “Johnson University educates students for Christian ministries and other strategic vocations framed by the Great Commission in order to extend the kingdom of God among all nations.” Johnson’s entire mission is to educate students for Great Commission ministries to extend the kingdom of God, everywhere. Part of our work, our ministries, in fact, is to see you firmly planted and rooted in the kingdom of God so that you might do your part in helping to extend that kingdom.

What is the kingdom of God? How is it connected to the Great Commission? It goes all the way back to the beginning.

From the opening act of creation, God had a plan that all peoples upon the earth would live according to his vision. The very first people that he created refused to work with him, which resulted in a fundamentally broken world. God began to work out a plan to fix it. He found one man (Abraham) who was willing to work with him and in return promised that he would bless the entire world through Abraham’s descendants. Those descendants, the Jews, were not like Father Abraham. They quickly fell into the sin of Adam and refused to work with God. They thought their way was better and forsook The Way of the Great King. Their way was proven to be false as it led to the destruction of the nation, the disintegration of the tribes, and the loss of the presence of God among them. The tribes dispersed. Their capital city was destroyed. The Temple was burnt to the ground. And God stopped living with them.

God made promises to bring them back, to plant a small sprig of a Jewish cedar and watch it grow until the Gentiles could make a nest in its branches. They came back and rebuilt the Temple, but the people refused, yet again, to live The Way. They spent more of their money on their own homes than they did the Temple. They turned their backs on God and went their own way. And God stopped speaking with them.

During that time, the people began to hope again. They hoped that God would give them another chance and restore them once more; that God would tell them...
They turned their backs on God and went their own way. And God stopped speaking with them.

During the inter-testamental period (the time between Malachi and Matthew) one of their writers laid out a vision for what it would look like when God finally visited his people again. He said that that the Messiah would come and reunite the Twelve Tribes of old, kick out the Gentiles and foreigners that were disintegrating their faith, and then re-establish the allotment of land to those Tribes that had been lost so long ago. All the nations would flock to him, and he would be “Christ the Lord.”

Notice how these ancient people envisioned their restoration, how they envisioned what we call the “kingdom of God.” All of this time they thought the kingdom of God was about land and about certain people coming to Jerusalem. This vision of the kingdom was too small for God’s taste. If God really did create the heavens and the earth, then his kingdom is far greater than a small strip of land on the east end of the Mediterranean. His kingdom is global, universal, even. Every nation. Every government. Every family. Every person. Every thought. Every purchase. Every action. Every motive. All of it is subjected to the will and the command of YHWH and his King.

Even the disciples of Jesus had a hard time breaking away from this land-based kingdom idea. You can hear it in the question they asked Jesus after his resurrection:

“‘Lord, are you now going to restore the Kingdom to Israel?’ Jesus answered them, ‘it is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’” (Acts 1:7-8) And then he said this—what we call the Great Commission: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So go into all the world, make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I’ve commanded you. I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.” (Matt. 28:18-20)

Notice how Jesus’ vision of the kingdom of God is so radically different from that of his ancestors. First, he views the kingdom as comprised of people, not land. Instead of telling them to conquer territories, he tells them to “make disciples.” Second, he views the kingdom as comprised of all peoples. They are to extend the offer of the kingdom to outsiders, not exclude them from it. Finally, the kingdom works by going to them, not expecting them to come to us. He sent his disciples into all the world, and they went. By the end of the New Testament, Christ’s followers had taken the good news of the kingdom of God and the reign of their new king, Jesus, to the far reaches of the known world.

That’s the Great Commission. At its core, it’s about making disciples. That’s the imperative, the only command in this text. Jesus commissioned his followers to make disciples. That’s what we do here, at Johnson University Florida, and why we do it.

This article is an excerpt from the message Dr. Hardin preached at the first chapel of the year in August 2014.
ONLINE PROGRAMS

Johnson University has offered distance learning for more than a century. As technology has evolved, so has the scope of the learning options available to Johnson students seeking a quality, affordable Christian education from anywhere in the world.

The accredited online bachelor’s, master’s, Ph.D., and associate’s programs offered through Johnson University’s Online campus are designed to equip local and global online learners for Christian ministries and other strategic vocations to extend the kingdom of God. Online degree areas include intercultural studies, biblical studies, and leadership.

Johnson University Online is part of the Johnson University system which now has three campuses – in Knoxville, Tennessee; Kissimmee, Florida; and Online.

UNDERGRADUATE:

Intercultural Studies (B.A./B.S.)
This online degree educates students who have a strong desire to plant churches both in the United States and around the world in order to bring hope to people suffering in poverty, famine, and illness.

Ministry Leadership (B.A./B.S.)
The online Ministry Leadership program provides learning experiences to develop knowledge, theoretical foundations, skill sets, and lifelong learning strategies necessary to function effectively in contemporary culture.

Lay Counseling (B.A./B.S.)
This online degree prepares students to serve in various ministry settings with biblical wisdom, pastoral care, and counsel.

GRADUATE:

New Testament (M.A.)
This advanced degree places a special emphasis on the preaching ministry and other areas of kingdom service.

Concentrations:
- Preaching – A program designed for those who wish to study the New Testament in hopes of preaching in the future.
- Spiritual Formation and Leadership – A program designed for those who hope to integrate New Testament research with spiritual formation principles applicable to today’s audience.
- Research – This concentration emphasizes the discussion of New Testament interpretation, the interpretation of Greek text, and systematic research pursuits.
- Customized Concentration – Students create a concentration that focuses on their own interests and connects with the New Testament core. Examples include Early Church History, Pastoral Counseling, Missions, Youth Ministry, and many more.

Intercultural Studies (M.A.)
The online M.A. in Intercultural Studies helps equip humanitarian aid professionals with advanced skills in areas such as community development, translation, literacy, food and clean water distribution, and disaster relief.

Concentrations:
- Community Development – Prepares cross-cultural missional leaders to be agents of community –empowering change and transformation within emerging faith communities
- Missional Church Leadership – Prepares cross-cultural missional leaders to birth and nurture missional churches in the mission fields of western contexts.
- Scripture Impact – Prepares cross-cultural missional leaders for professional contributions to the expansion of God’s kingdom through church planting and intentional application of Scripture.
- Translation – Prepares cross-cultural missional leaders to be Scripture translation professionals for the Bible-less people of the world.
- Customized – Allows students to work directly with the academic advisor to develop a concentration that is specific to their chosen fields.

Business Administration (MBA)
This program is designed to offer students advanced preparation for leadership roles in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, including leadership ethics and decision-making, organizational dynamics and change, human resource development, accounting, marketing and public relations, and other areas of business administration.

POSTGRADUATE:

Leadership Studies (Ph.D.)
An online, research-based, interdisciplinary degree that seeks to facilitate the leadership abilities and roles of Christian men and women working in inter-cultural, cross-cultural, and/or international contexts.

FOR DETAILS OR TO APPLY, VISIT JOHNSONU.EDU/ONLINE OR CONTACT:
Lisa Tarwater at LTarwater@JohnsonU.edu or 865-251-3479 or Stacy Abernathy at SABernathy@JohnsonU.edu or 865-251-3400
**JU Florida to host preach.FEST**

In 2011, Dr. Daniel Overdorf, dean of Johnson’s School of Congregational Ministry, designed a program to promote preaching and encourage prospective students to consider the preaching ministry. The program features *preach.WORKSHOPS*, conducted at local churches, and a *preach.FEST* event, held each year on one of our campuses.

Johnson’s *preach.FEST 2015* will be hosted on the Florida campus on November 14.

Aspiring ministers are invited to prepare sermons, preach, receive evaluations, and earn preaching scholarships to the University at either the Florida or Tennessee campus.

**Learn complete details at** [JohnsonU.edu/Preach](http://JohnsonU.edu/Preach)

**preach.FEST**

November 14, 2015  
Johnson University Florida  
1011 Bill Beck Boulevard  
Kissimmee, Florida 34744

**JOHNSON UNIVERSITY FLORIDA TO HOST THE Next Gen Preacher Search**

Where will the next generation of preachers come from? From the local church? Yes, and those filling the pulpits of tomorrow’s churches must be trained and mentored by today’s preachers. To help find tomorrow’s leaders, Johnson University Florida (JUFL) will host the “Next Gen Preacher Search” on campus February 2-4, 2015. Under the leadership of Jeff Walling and Trevor DeVage and in partnership with the 2015 North American Christian Convention, the three-day workshop will be a great opportunity for high school juniors, seniors, and college students to hone their skills as preachers.

Forty finalists will receive an invitation to one of two host locations: Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, or Johnson University Florida, Kissimmee, Florida. Finalists will be assigned a new sermon text, and Jeff Walling, Trevor DeVage, and other preaching experts will mentor and guide their preparation. Daniel Overdorf, dean of the School of Congregational Ministry and preaching professor at Johnson University, will mentor finalists at the JUFL location.

The final four Next Gen preachers will be introduced during the 2015 NACC in Cincinnati, Ohio. Johnson University will provide scholarships to any of the final four Next Gen preachers who wish to attend Johnson University on either the Florida or Tennessee campus. Go to nextgenpreachersearch.com for complete details.
If we take a look at Hollywood, we get our pick of three different versions of Christianity. The first comes through the Biblical Epic: Either a burlap-wearing Jesus or a staff-toting Moses wanders the wilds performing miracles surrounded by hordes of the desperately poor. The second is found in the rapidly growing Christian-pop genre, which depicts Christians as normal people with normal struggles that they easily overcome through copious amounts of melodrama and cheesiness. The third, and easily most offensive, comes through largely anti-Christian docudramas (or “mockumentaries,” depending on your perspective) depicting Christians as a marginalized fringe of kooks struggling to propagate their own irrationality amidst an increasingly enlightened (i.e. atheistic) society. Thankfully this last category hasn’t surfaced in a little while, but this year we get plenty of choices from the first two, reminding us of the principle from Ecclesiastes 1:9 that there is nothing new under the sun.

The Biblical Epic is enjoying an abrupt comeback. This is due largely to the efforts of Christian producer Mark Burnett, who began a mission to revive the genre last year with the History channel’s unexpectedly popular broadcast of The Bible. In the wake of that success, no fewer than three biblical epics (Son of God, Noah, and Exodus: Gods and Kings) release this year. Sadly, the good news really ends there. Son of God was produced by the well-meaning Burnett, but it was merely a remix of scenes from The Bible broadcasts and was panned by critics for being too safe and too bland. The next two films might be more exciting, but neither were produced by Christians. Noah director Darren Aronofsky’s Jewish background has not prevented widespread criticism of his libertarian interpretation of the Biblical flood. Exodus has yet to be released, but since it’s under the direction of atheist filmmaker Ridley Scott, few Christians seem to be getting their hopes up.

Numerous offerings are available in the second category this year as well. Most notable within the second category so far are Heaven is for Real and God’s Not Dead, both of which take a stab at dramatized apologetics. The first tells the story of a 4 year old’s near death experience, while the second represents the emotional crisis of faith occurring on university campuses all over the country. The good news about films like these is that many believers find genuine delight in the portrayal of the Christian faith.
by fellow Christian filmmakers. The low-budget, high-profit formula of both films continues the trend begun by movies like Facing the Giants and Fireproof, certifying that movies of this type will continue to be made. On the other hand, critics complain that all such movies are guilty of ham-fisted melodrama that oversimplifies both life’s problems and the hard work required by the Christian solution. They argue that movies like these channel Christians away from mainstream evangelism. Instead, they offer easy answers to tough questions and fail to adequately equip Christian viewers to confront real skepticism. And they would be right.

Maybe you think I’m being too harsh. Maybe you loved Heaven is For Real and argue that, despite its flaws, Noah supports the claim that the Bible is still relevant today. And I won’t disagree. I certainly allow there’s nothing wicked about enjoying such movies, and I’m first in line to praise the efforts of Christian film makers like Mark Burnett who are trying to make changes from within the industry. But I also know quite well what Hollywood does best. It’s really good at marketing sensationalized emotions. Problem is, neither marketing nor emotionalism has much to do with the Gospel.

Because of this, I’m never surprised to discover that Hollywood can’t seem to ever accurately portray the Faith. You shouldn’t be surprised either. The vast majority of film producers know very little about Christians or Christianity. They aren’t trying to save souls; they’re trying to turn a profit. And that leads to two facts about Christians that they do know: There are lots of us, and we represent lots of money. And while it’s refreshing that Hollywood has recently shifted tactics by trying to entice this audience rather than trying to alienate it, it’s doing so because of the almighty dollar, not because of God almighty. By that measure, the 2014 films merely represent Hollywood trying to harvest a cinematic tithe from the film-going faithful.

Please pardon me if I sound somewhat jaded and cynical here; I’m not really. The true core of this problem lies with film itself. A gold standard in mass media is that the medium shapes the message. And the medium of film excels at communicating intense emotions, but fails at depicting the calm, abstract rationality which is at the heart of biblical Christianity. This means that however hard a film tries to accurately depict the Christian faith, it will only ever succeed in drawing an emotional caricature of that faith. This is why I don’t tend to watch movies of this kind. I have difficulty financing the propagation of such stereotypes.

**Problem is, neither marketing nor emotionalism has much to do with the Gospel.**

Unfortunately, it’s almost certain that Hollywood will continue having these problems. Film is powerful, yes, and most people love going to the movies, but the incompatibilities between our message and this medium prevent the harmonious relationship we seem to be demanding. Jesus did not come in the flesh to sell movie tickets, and the Christian life is way too internally nuanced to ever be effectively captured on the big screen. Those of us who keep hoping upon hope that maybe the next Christian movie will finally get it right are most likely waiting in vain.


One of the serendipity blessings of being in the family of God for Margaret and me is the relationships that we have established with Christian brothers and sisters in so many localities from a wide variety of backgrounds.

As we travel among the churches throughout Florida, we experience the beauty and encouragement of reconnecting with people we already know and love, while we are meeting new friends for the first time.

One such experience of a most unusual nature occurred in Inverness, Florida. Scheduled to preach at the First Christian Church there, I arrived early to get prepared for the Sunday morning worship service. Everyone was eager for Margaret and me to meet an attractive 101-year-old woman, named Sarah Boger. After visiting with her, I told her how impressed I was that at her age she was so active in the church. She replied that she had been active in the church all her life and that her father had been an elder in the Christian Church.

I asked her where that church was located. She told me that it was in a small town north of Canton, Georgia. I am certain that she thought I would not know that town and probably doubted that I even recognized Canton. I then explained to her that, when I was a child, the only place we ever went on vacation was to Georgia to visit relatives. Long before I-75, we traveled through Canton on the way to Marietta and Atlanta to visit aunts, uncles, and cousins. In fact, I related to her that my father was born at Tate and my mother at Jasper. When I mentioned Jasper, she excitedly explained that Jasper was where the church was located which she attended and where her father was an elder. I asked her the name of the church, and she replied, “The Pleasant Hill Christian Church.” This is the church where the families of Christian church leaders Sarah Bondurant, Barry McCarty, and Johnny Presley were active.

I said to her, “Sarah, I have preached several times for that church. My great-grandparents, my grandfather, and my grandmother are buried in the cemetery there.” In fact, I had spoken for the Homecoming there just three or four years ago and visited the gravesites. My great-grandmother Anderson died two months short...
of her 100th birthday, and my grandmother lived to be 104 years of age. They both were amazing women, an inspiration to all who knew them or knew about them.

To say that what happened next was astounding would be an understatement. Sarah asked me, “Who was your grandmother?” I replied, “Emma Holmes.” My mouth dropped open when Sarah calmly said, “Emma Holmes was my mother’s sister.” Sarah’s mother, Sally Owens, had actually ridden a horse across a mountain one night nearly a century ago to prepare a poultice for my mother who almost died of pneumonia at age four. Sarah and my mother, Berenice, played together as children and interacted as teenagers before they married young and went in separate directions, she to Atlanta and my mother to Knoxville/Maryville, Tennessee.

So far as I know, Sarah and I had never met. My mother would have been thrilled beyond words if I had known Sarah before Mama died and could have brought them together in Florida. Mama use to say, “We have relatives in Florida, but I don’t know where they are.”

I have since learned that in retirement Sarah and her husband Bill lived in at least four locations in Florida: New Smyrna Beach, Fruitland Park, Spring Hill, and Inverness and were strong active members, what I call pillars and posts, in Christian churches in all those places. Out of appreciation for her and what she has meant to the Kingdom, Margaret and I have established a permanent fund at Johnson University Florida, the Sarah Owens Boger Scholarship Fund. Ray Kelly, preacher of First Christian Church in Inverness where Sarah is active, is promoting her birthday – January 18 – as the Sarah Boger Scholarship Fund Day and asking members to bring $103 for the fund in honor of her 103rd year. Another preacher friend, Hank Melton, who has known Sarah longer than Ray, is communicating with other churches and friends. So Sarah’s legacy, already significant, will live on, after she is gone, in the lives of students who are helped in her name to prepare for Christian service wherever God leads them.
Since the beginning of the College’s history Johnson University Florida has enjoyed a strategic partnership with churches. In the early years the churches played an important role in helping then Central Florida Bible College become a reality. The early leaders of the University understood the need for the College and the churches to have a close association. To spread the news about the new Bible College, men such as James Smith, Marion Henderson, Roger Chambers, Glenn Bourne, and Mike Chambers traveled on Sundays, preaching in the pulpits of the Florida churches.

A strategic partnership between the College and Florida churches formed quickly after the first students arrived in 1976, with churches giving the young men opportunities to preach. Many of these students had very little experience preaching; however, the preachers in Florida knew the best way for them to hone their skills was to have firsthand experience in the pulpit. Soon students were not just filling pulpits; they were joining church staffs as part-time youth ministers, worship leaders, and children’s directors. This strategic partnership continues today as young men and women serve the churches in Florida as part-time servants while they continue their education at Johnson University Florida, gaining valuable experience in various ministry opportunities.

As the academic programs of the College grew, a need for the students to have practical experience in their chosen fields of study arose. Thus an internship program was established for the men and women to have hands-on experience in ministry. Each summer students travel to located ministries and spend 11-13 weeks “shadowing” seasoned ministers or mentors, gaining valuable ministry experience. The internship program would not be possible if it were not for the generosity of local churches and their ministers willingly sharing their time and resources to help train future kingdom leaders.

Today our partnership has come full circle, as our young students have now become the leaders of many of the churches in Florida. Currently there are 206 Christian churches in Florida. Fifty-two are led by senior ministers who are alumni of Johnson University Florida; another 65 alumni serve as worship ministers, youth ministers, children’s directors and other full-time vocational ministries. Johnson University Florida is thankful for the partnership the College shares with Florida churches.
The sharing of resources, as well as giving the students opportunities to prepare for vocational ministry, has made it possible for the University to continue the mission of extending the kingdom of God among all the nations. Gifts from local churches remind the University of the value of our partnership. While each gift is vital to the success of Johnson University Florida, we want to recognize the top 30 churches for their gifts this past year.

Englewood Christian Church, Jacksonville
Fairway Christian Church, The Villages*
New Day Christian Church, Port Charlotte*
First Christian Church of Kissimmee*
Fort Caroline Christian Church, Jacksonville*
Christian Church in the Wildwood, Weeki Wachee*
Winter Haven Christian Church, Winter Haven
Central Christian Church, Ocala*
Christ’s Church at Mandarin, Jacksonville
Creekside Christian Church, St. Johns*
Generations Christian Church, Trinity
New Life Christian Church, Lady Lake
Zephyr Christian Church, Zephyrhills
Adventure Christian Church, Tavares
Harborside Christian Church, Safety Harbor
Encounter Christian Church, Jacksonville
Legacy Christian Church of Lakeland
Poinciana Christian Church, Kissimmee*
New Beginnings Christian Church of Tampa*
First Christian Church of Orlando*
First Christian Church of Sun City Center*
First Christian Church of Clearwater*
Journey Christian Church, Apopka
Christ’s Church of Marion County, Ocala
Vero Christian Church, Vero Beach*
Community Christian Church, Ft. Lauderdale*
Salt Springs Christian Church, Salt Springs
Canoe Creek Christian Church, St. Cloud*
Westside Christian Church of Bradenton
First Christian Church of Frostproof
*INDICATES ALUMNI ON STAFF

For the last 15 years Dr. Brian Smith has been a part of the campus of Johnson University Florida.

Brian excelled in academics as a student, and upon graduation was recognized by the faculty as a member of the Zeta Upsilon Society, the highest honor bestowed on students at Johnson University Florida. Brian desired to give back to the University through serving in a variety of academic roles. Brian has served as registrar, associate dean of academics and institutional effectiveness, vice president of academics, and in his most recent role, associate provost of Johnson University Florida.

During his tenure Brian served the university well. His colleagues speak well of his scholarship and his desire to see JUFL become a premier institution of higher Biblical education. One of the highlights of his service to the university was his help to facilitate the merger of Johnson University and Florida Christian College. Brian’s expertise with accreditation associations and his knowledge of academics were vital in the smooth transition of the merger. Our faculty, staff, and students owe him a debt of gratitude for his tireless efforts in seeing the merger come to fruition.

As Brian takes on his new role as president of Dallas Christian College, he will be missed at Johnson University Florida. The faculty and staff of Johnson University Florida wish Brian and his family well as they begin this new adventure in Texas.

Dr. Brian Smith
named President of Dallas Christian College
Johnson University Florida hosted the annual Night of Noel program.

Combined choirs of the Florida and Tennessee campuses treated the audience to songs and scriptures that make Christmas a special time of year.

The Fence Project is complete thanks to the generosity of Johnson University Florida alumni and friends.

The attractive fence provides the desired security for campus life. Many guests have complimented on the new look it gives to the campus.
Celebrating 40 Years of Kingdom Service was the theme for this year’s ROUNDUP. Nearly 400 supporters, alumni, faculty, and students were on hand Saturday, October 11, 2014 to enjoy a country hoedown. Special music was provided by our campus’ very own New Creation and the JUFL Campus Choir and Choral Society, who sang patriotic selections with a rousing salute to our troops. Dr. Eubanks provided an update on improvements to the campus, including the newly installed wrought iron fence, which enhances the beauty of the campus and provides increased security for our students.

Student volunteers supervised the children’s program, complete with a cowboy-themed devotion from Matthew 19:14, pony rides, a petting zoo, bounce house, and Wild West – Panning for Gold. Students preparing for youth ministry positions created an energetic schedule for middle school and high school age guests. Tours were provided of the campus, with several young guests stating an interest in attending here in the near future.

Students enrolled in our Templar School of Education and under the direction of Wendy Guthrie, assistant dean, conducted intensive research into the histories of both Johnson University Tennessee and Florida campuses, from inception to the present. Using information gathered, along with photos, historical documents, and video testimonials of alumni, faculty and friends, groups of students created timelines showing our many common beliefs and core values. Utilizing technology and social media elements, the students presented an example of their final product for our ROUNDUP guests. The presentation, including the school “fight song” spoken with emphasis, moved several viewers to tears. It was obvious the zeal to learn Scripture, to teach those who have yet to hear the Word, and to serve in a darkened land is as strong today, as it was when our two schools, now joined for one purpose, began.

Alumnus Jim Book and long-time supporter, Ross Pepper, shared inspirational messages from God’s Word, encouraging us to continue working towards a bountiful harvest of souls. Johnson University Tennessee and Florida have a long history of preparing ministers, Christian leaders, teachers and missionaries. Over a quarter of the ministers of Florida’s Christian churches are alumni of this institution. With the official launching of the “Investing in the Unseen Campaign,” plans are firmly in place to continue training up Kingdom workers.
**BIRTHS**

Josh and Jill Wright (both ’08) welcomed their second son; Judah “Jude” Marvin Wright was born on November 20th, 2014.

Stephen and Renee’ Corp (both ’12) announce the birth of their daughter Avery Mae Corp born September 23, 2014.

**EMPLOYMENT**

Dr. Brian Smith (’03), has become the new president of Dallas Christian College (please see page 15 for more details)

Brad Warren (’13) began a new ministry as Family Minister at Journey Christian Church in Greeley, Colorado.

**POTPOURRI**

Dr. Greg Hartley (’96) has been named Interim Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences. Greg has served well as the Assistant Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences. We look forward to working with him in this new role. Greg will remain at the Florida campus even though the position involves both the Tennessee and Florida Campuses.

**HELP US KEEP CURRENT**

Send your news, updates, and photos to Johnson at:

- ATison@JohnsonU.edu
- Johnson University Florida
  1011 Bill Beck Blvd.
  Kissimmee, FL 34744

**Leaving a Legacy with a Well-Crafted Revocable Living Trust**

We all want to be remembered, to feel that we have made a contribution in the lives of others. For some, this can be a driving force leading to great accomplishments and extraordinary deeds. But for most of us with more modest goals, what pushes us is the desire to leave a legacy. One such way to leave a legacy is through careful estate planning which honors God with your resources. For more information on how estate planning can be beneficial to you and your loved ones, contact the Advancement Office at 407-569-1389 or email SFoulke@JohnsonU.edu. Planned Giving Coordinator, Sid Foulke, can share ways estate planning will help you create a legacy.
## Gifts to Remember

**IN MEMORY OF**

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<td>M/M Dick Apple</td>
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## Gifts to Honor

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## Gifts that Keep On Giving

Contributions to the permanent funds are invested with a modest percentage of the balance (typically 4% to 5%) used each year. So, gifts to these funds are helping students year after year. The funds listed to the right have been established at Johnson University Florida since May 2014.

Additional gifts to recognize the person named by the fund may be added at any time. Funds are established in the name of the donor or in honor or in memory of a loved one.

For more information call the Advancement Office at 407-569-1388 or email ATison@JohnsonU.edu
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  Joe is the senior pastor of Tomoka Christian Church. Under his 20 plus years of leadership, the church has grown from 140 to 2,500. The congregation has become heavily invested in giving to missions and serving on the mission field.

• GLENN BOURNE / BIBLE STUDY
  Professor at Johnson University Florida
  Professor and 12-year President at St. Louis Christian College

• BETTY GRAY / WIT & WORKSHOP
  Nationally known inspirational speaker, dramatist, & musician.

• PHIL ELLIS / WORSHIP MUSIC
  Worship Minister, Washington Shores Church of Christ

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$135 - $145 for meals, program, and lodging (as available)

Early bird deadline January 31, 2015;
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Details at JohnsonU.edu/FL-Events