Is God’s Word Trustworthy?
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Mark L. Bailey

A Bible You Can Trust

At the 1982 International Council for Biblical Inerrancy held in San Diego, California, the late E.V. Hill gave a plenary address that I shall never forget. Weaving a homespun story of what his mama taught him growing up in Sweet Home, Texas, Dr. Hill masterfully defended the authority of Scripture. His climactic conclusion came with fever-pitch enthusiasm as he held up his Bible and shouted, “The Bible! The Bible! The Bible! Trust it! Don’t adjust it!” That brought all of us to our feet in thundering, affirming applause. We are living in a time when that counsel needs to be shouted again. The cultural pressures against Christianity and its founder Jesus Christ have never squeezed tighter.

One of the greatest arguments for the trustworthiness of the Bible is the confidence with which Jesus himself used the Scriptures. Contrary to some modern scholars, he was not afraid to affirm the historicity of Adam and Eve in pinpointing both the beginning of history and the institution of marriage between one man and one woman (Matt. 19:4–6). If Jesus wanted to avoid a controversial passage the liberals have questioned for years—the account of Jonah and the big fish—he didn’t! He linked the experience of Jonah and the fish to that of his own burial and resurrection. He even asserted that the men of Nineveh who repented will be resurrected and will participate in the future judgment of Jesus’s own contemporary audience who failed to believe in him (Lk. 18:3–41). And if that were not enough, Jesus affirmed the reality of Noah and the flood as a parallel to the certainty, yet unexpected timing, of his physical return and judgment (24:36–39). Rather than adjusting the account of Noah’s flood to eliminate its potential offense, Jesus trusted it by affirming it.

Probably the two greatest passages in the Bible about its divine inspiration are 2 Peter 1:20–21 and 2 Timothy 3:16. The first passage describes the process of inspiration: “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (NASB). The second passage stresses the product of inspiration. Paul wrote, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (NASB). The phrase, “inspired by God,” is the translation of one Greek word, theopneustos. This word, which is only used here in all of Scripture, has three components: theos means “God,” pneuma means “breath or spirit;” and the suffix -tos indicates “the result of.” Putting these two passages together, we find that the Holy Spirit so guided the human authors in the process that the end product, every Scripture, was the exact Word of God exactly as God wanted to communicate it in the words of the original manuscripts. The authority of the Bible is rooted in the ultimate author of the Bible—the Holy Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:9–16). Trust it! Don’t adjust it!
“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free’” (John 8:31–32).

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Finally Home  
Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost, 99, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Bible Exposition, passed to Glory on April 28. “Dr. P,” as he was known by his more than ten thousand students, taught at DTS for fifty-eight years. And his legacy continues.

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Remembering Our Beloved Dr. P

Finally Home

The stool in front of the classroom is empty. Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost, the unflappable distinguished professor of Bible Exposition emeritus, who always began class precisely on time by taking his students before God’s throne of grace, is now face to face with the Savior. He passed into Glory three days after his ninety-ninth birthday.

When “Dr. P,” as he was known on the DTS campus, fell and broke his femur in December 2012, he missed class for the first time in sixty-five years. Less than three months after surgery and physical therapy, he was sitting on his stool again, teaching—as he always did—with only a Bible, no notes. Doing so, he said, kept him studying the text for fresh insights. Six months after he returned, doctors diagnosed him with malignant tumors on both sides of his neck. But he kept on teaching.

Dr. Pentecost first amazed and enlightened students at Philadelphia Biblical Institute for eight years. He taught at Dallas Theological Seminary for fifty-eight more. He was still teaching his signature course, “The Life of Christ on Earth,” during the fall 2013 semester. Fortunately, the course was videotaped on location in Israel in 1985. According to Dr. Reg Grant who assisted with that project, the Seminary wanted to capture that course on tape since Dr. P, seventy years old at the time, “was getting along in years.” In the summer of 2003, that video became the basis of DTS’s first online course. And for the past decade, the “Life of Christ” class has provided students across the world with the opportunity to learn from Dr. Pentecost himself.

God’s path led the professor steadily from his staunch Presbyterian home in Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1915, through conservative Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. And in a last-minute change of plans, complete with intercessory phone calls to Dallas two weeks before the beginning of the 1937 fall term, he matriculated into the twelve-year-old school that had just been renamed “Dallas Theological Seminary.” President Lewis Sperry Chafer led a faculty of eight part-time teachers. Dr. Pentecost once recalled, “When I got here, I learned that I was student number one hundred. So I have always thought that Dr. Chafer would have taken a Shepherd dog to reach that number.”

The discipline that provided the foundation for Dr. P’s ministry began early. Following conferral of his ThM, he said the last thing he would do after graduation was teach. But, as he later declared, “Knowing him is living; serving him is living; preaching him is living.”

Dallas Theological Seminary
To retain his proficiency in Greek, theology, and Bible, he set aside two hours each morning, separate from sermon preparation, for review and further study in those fields. He continued this practice even when his pastoral duties expanded.

The young pastor’s second church located him near Philadelphia with a part-time position at Philadelphia Bible Institute. That assignment, particularly during the raging debate over the end times, convinced him to return to DTS for additional study. As he completed his doctorate in theology, then-president Dr. John F. Walvoord invited him to join the Dallas Seminary faculty, where he served until his death.

From 1955 through 1973, he served concurrently as senior pastor of Grace Bible Church in North Dallas. There the children lovingly called out “P” and ran to him for a hug. Their horrified parents insisted they could not call him “P” and suggested “Dr. P.” Because many of those parents were Seminary students, the nickname quickly caught on at the school as well.

For years, Dr. P volunteered weekly at Luke’s Closet, a ministry that provides donated clothes free to DTS students. In the days when all students were men and were required to wear ties to class, he reasoned that “some of the young men who come in are uncomfortable with a woman assisting them.” More than once, he helped a graduating student select a suit, took it home for his wife, Dorothy, to alter, and returned it to the man to wear when he preached at a prospective pastorate the following Sunday.

Dorothy served by his side for sixty-two years, and after her death in 2001, Dr. P described losing a mate as the hardest thing any man could endure. The Pentecosts had two daughters, one of whom, Gwen, died ten years later. The Pentecosts’ elder daughter, DTS graduate Jane Fenby, survives, along with two grandchildren and their families.

A year after Dorothy’s death, DTS’s Swiss Tower student residence hall opened on campus. And at the special invitation of the Seminary board, Dr. Pentecost became the hall’s first occupant.
Consequently, with the influx of student families, Dr. P became honorary grandfather and great-grandfather to hundreds. Those friendships led to a broadening worldwide communication network of former students who have stayed in touch with Dr. P by email, Skype, and a Facebook page filled with photos.

He often opened his apartment to his neighbors, and when he did so, they noticed that its rugs, antiques, paintings, clocks, and photographs reflected his artistry, his personality, and his worldwide ministry. The antiques dated to the time when he could afford to furnish his home only by finding cast-off pieces, sometimes literally in pieces, and refurbishing them. Through that experience he became knowledgeable about old furniture and skillful at restoration. Dr. P also learned to repair clocks. He kept each set at a slightly different time so that on the hour the chimes moved successively through the rooms. The art on his walls reflected exquisite taste, diligent study, and years of collecting. His photographs revealed his love for the Creator, and, again, the eye of an artist. His departure leaves an empty place in the hospitality of Swiss Tower.

And Dr. P was not only hospitable—he was generous. President Mark Bailey recalled how, as dean, he doubled the dollar-per-year stipend of the "retired" distinguished professor. After Dr. Bailey doubled the pay again the next year, Dr. P. called a halt, saying, "Enough is enough."

Chancellor Chuck Swindoll loved to tease Dr. P. Growing wistful, Dr. Swindoll said, "The wonderful thing that I know—because I served as a sort of learner on his staff many years ago—is that behind the scenes he was everything you would wish him to be and see him to be in public. He was a man of remarkable depth and incredible commitment to Christ."

Dr. Ron Allen, a fellow professor in the Bible Exposition department, recalled, "It was when I, as a college student, read his massive work on biblical eschatology, Things to Come, that I decided to enroll as a student at Dallas Seminary in 1964. Clearly this book—this man—changed my life! He lived an amazing life, teaching students who now serve the Lord across the globe."

Dr. Pentecost completed Things to Come in 1957. Though he wrote twenty-one books in all, the one on eschatology is the one for which he was best known. Endorsing it, Dr. Walvoord wrote, "Dr. Pentecost has with rare skill dealt with many controversial issues, has met and solved many prophetic problems, and has provided in large measure the substance of the prophetic Word in systematic and theological form." Dr. Walvoord could have been describing the man as well as his first book. The volume, which began as Dr. P’s doctoral dissertation, has been in continuous publication since 1958, having sold more than 215,000 copies.

Dr. P loved knowing that every week he taught in all fifty states and most countries in the world—through the DTS graduates he discipled. In his words, his was “not a ministry of doing it, but a ministry of multiplication through those I’m privileged to share the Word with.”

In the words of DTS president Mark Bailey, "Dr. P, as we affectionately called him, was an inspiration to so many and an institution in his
own time."

“Few people have known the Word of God like he did, and few loved the God of the Word like he loved Him. Two favorite phrases he used in conversation with me in his last days were ‘God is in control’ and ‘God knows what he is doing.’ We who have had the privilege to sit under him or teach beside him have all come to know and appreciate the whole of the Bible that our beloved friend believed so thoroughly and taught so faithfully for so many years—all centered in the words and works of Jesus Christ. All of us look forward to God’s ‘things to come’ when we will be reunited with him in Glory. Praise God for a faithful man and a long life (99 years) well lived.”

When Dr. P’s department chair once asked, “Do you want to continue teaching?” the scholar answered, “Yes, until the Lord says ‘come home.’” Today the stool and the earthly home are empty, but Dr. P is home. Seeing Him is living.

Visit Dr. P’s tribute page at dts.edu/pentecost to view his memorial service and to read and write memories.

Article by Karen Giesen. Editorial assistance provided by Steven Smith, Sandra Glahn, and Karen Grassmick.
Dr. Wallace, a former surfer and pastor with more than twenty books to his credit, teaches Greek and New Testament at DTS. He also travels the world taking digital photographs of Greek New Testament manuscripts in his capacity as executive director of the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts—an organization he founded twelve years ago. Here he shares with Kindred Spirit readers his journey in pursuit of the truth.

When I was a junior in high school, I made a radical commitment to Christ. At that point I dedicated myself to preparing for Christian ministry.

I grew up in Southern California’s Newport Beach as a surf bum. I would buy New Testaments for twenty-five cents apiece by the boxload, load them into my Volkswagen Beetle, pick up hitchhikers, share the gospel with them, and give them New Testaments.

The man who sold Bibles to me at a discounted rate happened to be an Arian, someone who did not believe in the deity of Christ, and he challenged my faith. It rattled me. And I thought, I have got to learn Greek. If I’m going to commit my life to Jesus Christ, I absolutely have to know if he’s worthy of my trust and my worship. Is he truly God in the flesh?

So in college I minored in Greek. Later, I majored in New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, and I got my doctorate as well in New Testament Studies. The driving motive was the deity of Christ and the trustworthiness of Scripture in terms of what it says about him.

My academic career has had three primary focuses: textual criticism, Greek grammar, and Christology. The route I have taken to affirm a high view of Christ has been especially through Greek grammar and textual criticism. Consequently, I’ve written a book on Greek grammar that’s used in seminaries and Bible colleges throughout the English-speaking world. What motivated me to get into the Greek text of the New Testament and these manuscripts is my love for Jesus Christ.
People ask, “Are the manuscripts trustworthy in the sense that they are trustworthy witnesses to what the original text actually said?” And I can say, “Absolutely. Yes, we have an extraordinarily reliable Bible.” The Bible we have in our hands today is, in all essential respects, what was written in the first century by the apostles and their associates—and long before that by the prophets and others. Not a single cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith is jeopardized by any viable textual variant, and that’s important for Christians to know. The way of salvation is clear. We know that the Bible teaches unequivocally that Jesus died on a Roman
cross right outside of Jerusalem, that he was raised from the dead bodily, that he is, in fact, the God-man who saves us from our sins, and that when we put our faith in him, we are, in fact, saved. These primary doctrines, essential truths of the Christian faith, are simply not tampered with by textual variants.

It’s also important to understand what we mean when we talk about “textual variants.” A textual variant is any place in which at least two manuscripts disagree on the wording of a passage. When we say at least two manuscripts, we could have a thousand manuscripts on one side that all say the same thing and only one, maybe from the fifteenth century, that has one letter difference. That’s a textual variant. If we count the number of such differences, that gives us the number of textual variants. These differences have largely to do with the wording, the word order, spelling differences—this kind of a thing. The vast majority of our textual variants can’t even be translated because they’re so trivial.

For people who want to pursue the truth about the Bible, and especially if they wish to do so in order to defend their faith, I have five suggestions:

Fall in love with Jesus. If we try to defend the faith before we have fully embraced the Savior, our experience will end in disaster. The road to hell is paved with the bones of apologists who have fallen away from the Lord. Someone who starts by wanting to defend the faith may not even know the Savior. I tell my students they should consider their learning an act of worship. We should never divorce our minds from our hearts.

Learn from the best scholars rather than only from other apologists. It’s good to learn from other apologists, but we must also go to the sources. That’s the hallmark methodological battle cry of the Reformation—ad fontes: back to the sources. If an answer is really an easy one, it might be a wrong one. Some Muslim apologists who did good research on the nature of the New Testament cleared up an apocryphal story that Christians had believed. I don’t like to see us embarrassed like that. We must identify the scholars whom the best apologists quote and read their original writings. That includes diving into the books by opponents or works that challenge our understanding.

Be sympathetic to all viewpoints as much as possible, and challenge your own presuppositions. Before we can defend the truth, we have to know the truth. If we’re going to be honest and ready to give an answer to those who have a question about our faith, we have to challenge our own presuppositions. We need to pursue truth more than we defend truth. That has to be the backbone to the defense—the pursuit of truth.

Be humble. If Christians know the truth, we should rejoice that God has been gracious to us when we deserved nothing but hell. All too often, there is kind of a triumphalist spirit among apologists who want to get out there and say, “I can kick some agnostic tail here today.” Instead, we need to love the other person while still presenting powerful arguments. We need to have both. If we’re arrogant, we end up belittling the other person. Paul wrote to Timothy, “Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim. 2:25).

Love. We need to love—really love the person with whom we’re speaking. We must be as concerned about that person as we are about the gospel. I base that on what Paul said: “For I could wish that I myself were cursed” that is, that I would go to hell if it would but save one of my fellow countrymen (Rom. 9:3). He had a concern for his fellow Jews that was every bit as profound as his concern for the truth of the gospel. A person with a sincere love for other people, rather than just a concern for the truth—that’s the kind of person God loves to use.
The Reliable Text
Dr. Wallace’s Recommended Resources

Books by others:
F. F. Bruce’s little book, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* is a great read. F. F. Bruce was a professor at Manchester University in England and a solid evangelical. Although his book is dated, he has written a remarkable piece of work here that’s a good place to start.

Craig Blomberg’s book, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*, first published in 1987 and revised in the past decade, is also an excellent read. It’s a little bit more academic.

A Book by Dr. Wallace: *Reinventing Jesus*, coauthored with Ed Komoszewski (ThM, 2000) and James Sawyer, (ThM, 1978; PhD, 1987) deals with many issues: Are the Gospels reliable? Is the text reliable? Did the ancient church get it right about the canon? Are the creeds reliable when they speak about the deity of Christ? What about mystery religions?

Go to danielbwallace.com to read frequent updates from Dr. Wallace on his views and work, and visit csntm.org for updates on the work of the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts. There you can also order a DVD of the 2011 debate at Southern Methodist University between Dr. Wallace and agnostic scholar Dr. Bart Ehrman. It was the best-attended debate in history about the text of the New Testament.

CSNTM received a tip about the existence of this small, worn, tenth-century manuscript that is privately owned by someone in England. They digitized it, and it is now known as Gregory-Aland 2907. The title on this first page of the Gospel of Mark says (incorrectly), “The Gospel from the according to Mark,” when it should say “The Gospel according to Mark.” The scribe had probably always copied lectionary manuscripts, which begin each Scripture passage with “from the Gospel of ______.”
Serving Living Water in an Oasis

Ask people what comes to mind when they think of the largest of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and you might hear “camel races,” “gold souks,” and “outrageous skyscrapers.” But if you asked Gloria Furman (MA/CE, 2007), she would say “home.” After attending DTS, she and her husband, Dave (ThM, 2007), left the Bible Belt to serve a congregation in a place where Christians represent a tiny minority.

Living in an oasis where they brake for camels, the Furmans participate in a church-planting movement among English-speaking people in the region. Most who live in the UAE are expatriates. They might be from Syria or South Africa, Egypt or India, Lebanon or the United Kingdom. Dubai, a thriving metropolis full of businesses and industry, has a population that consists of more than one hundred nationalities. But the primary languages number only five: Arabic, Farsi, Tagalog, Hindi, and English. And within this great mix of world cultures, a growing number of people are learning to follow Jesus Christ.
In her new home city Gloria speaks freely about religious topics. She explained, "It is not a taboo or rude to do so here, but intriguing. In the U.S. it might be rude to talk about faith and one’s personal devotional life, but here it is so much the warp and woof of everything that it’s not intimidating to talk to people. Because so few here are Christians, people will say, ‘I’ve always wanted to know,’ and proceed to ask about Jesus or the Bible.”

The most common question people ask her about Christianity is "What’s inside the Bible—what’s it about?" She answers and invites people to read for themselves online.

The Furmans’ time in the Middle East began in a small town where they labored to learn Arabic. Each weekend they made a ninety-minute trek to attend church in Dubai. “We’d crash on couches and in living rooms and guest rooms every weekend for six months,” Gloria recalled. “At that time we had one child and one on the way.”

During those weekends, the Furmans participated in the life of the church, met with leaders, and prayed that God would open a door to plant another one with the help of the existing evangelical congregation. After six months, the leaders asked Dave to serve as their church-planting coordinator. So the Furmans moved to join them.

Dave began vision casting with the elders, developing staff, and training leaders. Today he serves as senior pastor of a new church plant, Redeemer Church of Dubai, and is working to establish pastoral training resources. “We continue to be amazed at all that the Father has done,” Gloria said.

All of these developments happened between the births of their first child and their fourth. During this time Gloria focused on parenting, continuing language study, and supporting her husband as he trained leaders. But she also began to write more than the blog posts that kept her family back home happy with updates.

Her theme was finding God in the mundane. “I had jumped from being a full-time grad student at seminary with part-time jobs to being a mom,” Gloria recalled. Their first child was born six weeks before graduation. “I had to bring her to class so I could finish. Then we were on the road fundraising. I went from having adult conversations to ‘which pacifier does the baby like?’” Following season after season of transition with no settling, loneliness set in. “I processed it all by writing,” Gloria said. After moving to the Middle East she carried around an index card with a golf pencil and wrote what she described as

continued
“disjointed thoughts.” She said, “I’d stick those cards in my purse, and they’d get bent five ways. At the end of the day I’d try to make sense of what I’d written, and often I couldn’t. When I got a smartphone with a notes feature, my writing made more sense.”

The reflections typed with her thumbs continued her focus on finding God in the mundane, drawing metaphors and similes from her everyday life. “Take our hand wash,” she said. “It’s 99.9 percent effective. But what about that 0.1% that’s not effective? Compare that to the cleanliness we receive when Jesus makes us pure. It’s perfect.”

As Gloria was developing her “writing voice,” she remembered some advice she’d received—to give away dozens of pieces as she honed the craft. And her generosity paid off. The Gospel Coalition picked up some of her posts, and she developed a following.

As Gloria was building this platform, her author friend and fellow DTS graduate Jennie Allen (MA[BS], 2005), along with their husbands, met for fellowship while the Furmans were on a road trip in the States. Gloria recalled, “Jennie was listening to my stories, and she said, ‘You should write these. Make them longer than a blog post.’ She told me to put them together and write a book proposal. Dave overheard and told Jennie he’d been telling me the same thing.”

Dave kept encouraging Gloria to put together a proposal. So when Dave was otherwise occupied with training for a month, Gloria punched out her concept for Glimpses of Grace. She laughed as she recalled, “After I finished it, I attached it to an email to him—he was sitting next to me on the couch.” Her subject line said, “So there!” That proposal eventually landed at Crossway.

Once published, Glimpses of Grace: 

“I talk to lots of women—homemakers especially—who feel the only time they can fellowship with God is when all is ‘just so.’ But nothing will ever be ‘just so.’”

Treasuring the Gospel in Your Home resonated with many readers. In fact it won the Christianity Today 2014 Award of Merit in the “Her.meneutics” category. CT’s reviewer Megan Hill wrote, “At first glance, this book might seem most appropriate for homemaking moms with young children. But Furman has much to say to any woman concerned about God’s glory. Who can’t relate to her stories of couch cushions distracting her from prayer or the morning her last coffee filter went AWOL? More than practical tips for holy living, the book is a beautiful theology of the mundane: fresh, honest, and filled with the good news of Jesus Christ.”

Gloria’s newly released second book has a more limited audience. Its title tells it all: Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full: Gospel Meditations for Busy Moms. Its content is unique because, as one critical reviewer wrote, “She just keeps talking about the gospel. Every page. Jesus. The cross. The atonement.” What the reviewer meant as a criticism, Gloria took as a compliment, because she intended that singular focus. She said, “I talk to lots of women—homemakers especially—who feel the only time they can fellowship with God is when all is ‘just so.’ But nothing will ever be ‘just so.’ Consequently, they tend to view every interruption as being ‘from Satan.’ A two-year-old might need his shoe tied, and if that mom is trying to pray, she resents the ‘interruption.’ So my focus is on considering the one great permanent circumstance in which we live and move.”

Her emphasis on the uniquely Christian message also comes from living in the Middle East. Gloria said, “I can’t go out with my neighbor and simply say, ‘God is good,’ because she will say, ‘Yes,’ even though she worships a different god. So in my speaking and relating to people, I have to be...
explicit when I speak of grace, hope, love, forgiveness, and all the things we adore about Jesus. To communicate well I must say ‘Jesus,’ and ‘the Cross,’ because he is revered as a teacher and appreciated in some religions, but he is not viewed as the Savior of the world.”

Longings for another world also shape Gloria’s message. When Dave was still a seminary student, his pinkie started twitching. Then his hand started twitching. Then his elbow. Finally, the action became bilateral. He tried physical therapy and occupational therapy. He tried acupuncture. And medications. But nothing helped. He had surgery—in both arms. That helped for a few months. But his limbs returned to their pre–surgical condition.

Gloria recalled, “His arm simply stopped working. It was scary and depressing. We were in the middle of culture shock and learning the language, and I was pregnant. Dave fell into a depression, and I was teetering with him—it was a really dark time. We found ourselves with the only consistent thing to cling to: Christ, who never changes.”

Dave has since had numerous procedures including multiple surgeries and seventeen hospital admissions in eight years. He lives with chronic pain that includes burning from elbows to wrists. In his words, “It’s like white noise.” Some days are worse, depending on whether someone bumps him in the elevator or he turns a knob to a door that happens to be locked. These increase the pain and make it difficult for him to sleep.

His symptoms have a name: Ulnar Nerve Syndrome. Living with it, Dave types his sermon every week as well as preaches and leads a staff. Together the Furmans offer living water to the approximately seven hundred adults who attend Redeemer Church. Some of the Furman children—who now range from toddler to age seven—fasten Dave’s buttons for him, and he relies on others to drive him around. “Our life has been significantly modified by his disability,” Gloria said, “It’s degenerative. We’re not waiting on a new drug. There’s just pain management. At ages thirty–five and thirty–four, the couple—who have wisdom beyond their years—expect to spend the years ahead dealing with Dave’s chronic pain. Gloria said wistfully, “We have prayed for healing…. Dave never picks up our babies. He picked up our third when he was tiny, but he couldn’t hold him any more after a few weeks.”

Having said this, her thoughts pivoted to a greater reality. “Christ has to be our consistency in chaos and craziness, and in our silence and peace. He is the only thing that matters.” It is a message they are both taking to the world.

Read an excerpt from Gloria’s award-winning book, Glimpses of Grace, at dts.edu/ks, as well as an excerpt from her new book and a blog post she wrote, “Kiss the Wave,” inspired by a Charles Spurgeon quote. You can also find Dave Furman’s article, “Life as a Disabled Dad,” along with his reflection on preaching in Dubai, “The Gospel in a Hostile Culture.”

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**Passing on God’s Reliable Truth: Mentoring the Next Generation**

Young people crave mentors, but not the formulaic mentoring styles that worked in the past. To create thriving relationships with next–generation believers, ditch worn–out mentoring models.

Be encouraged. Next generation young adults don’t envision a strict weekly commitment. Nor are they looking for the Bible–answer–person. And a natural rapport must replace artificial matching.

Young adults yearn for a more experienced person to help them apply biblical truth to the challenges they face. They want honest mentors with whom they can process life when the need arises, and people who won’t try to remake them into some preconceived mold. They are looking for a reciprocal relationship, expecting that both people will benefit.

Moses instructed parents to speak of their love for God in everyday moments—sitting together at home, walking from place to place—taking advantage of teachable opportunities when questions naturally arose (Deut. 6:5–8). The same instruction applies to mentoring now: casual and natural. In ancient biblical wisdom we find a mentoring model that works today.

–Dr. Sue Edwards, Associate Professor of Educational Ministries and Leadership at DTS, and coauthor of Organic Mentoring
By Dr. Roy B. Zuck

Dr. Roy Zuck’s service to DTS spanned nearly four decades before his death last spring. Many of his award-winning articles have appeared in *Kindred Spirit.*
Tension filled the air. Israel stood waiting to hear the report of twelve men appointed by Moses to go on a forty-day reconnaissance trip to explore the land of Canaan that God had promised them. And the twelve were divided. Ten said the inhabitants were powerful, the cities fortified, and giants resided there (Num. 13:27–28). But two men, Caleb and Joshua, gave a different report. In a response briefer than that of the ten, these two leaders said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it” (v. 30). But the ten retorted, “We can’t” (v. 31). This story and its outcome reveal four truths.

Reliable Truths Caleb’s Life

The majority is sometimes wrong. In the case of the negative report, the majority was wrong. The pessimistic assessment of the ten caused an entire generation of Israelites to die in the desert—everyone twenty-one years of age and older. Imagine the countless funerals to bury the thousands who questioned what God had promised. Sometimes the majority may be right, but not in this case. As William Penn said, “Right is always right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is always wrong, even if everyone is for it.”

God is bigger than circumstances. Yes, we should consider our circumstances and our environment. But we should not let our circumstances take our eyes off the Lord. When a man asked his friend how he was doing, the response was, “I’m okay under the circumstances.” Then he realized, “What am I doing under there?” Keeping our eyes on the Lord can help us look beyond the circumstances to God’s character and promises.

God’s rewards often require waiting. When Caleb spied the land, he was forty years old (Josh. 14:7). But he did not possess any of it till he was eighty-five years old (v. 10). Imagine having to wait forty-five years to see the fulfillment of God’s promise.

God is our help. Caleb and Joshua had determination and commitment, but they also placed their confidence in the Lord. In fact, Caleb said, “the LORD helping me, I will drive them [the Canaanites] out just as he [God] said” (Josh. 14:12). And he did. Caleb knew that without the Lord’s help he would fail. And like Caleb, we can carry out God’s will only with the Lord’s help and in his strength.

Are circumstances weighing you down? Do you feel like you are facing giants? Do you feel small as a grasshopper? Keep your eyes on the Lord. Remember that the majority is often wrong, that circumstances need not dictate our actions, that God is present even in delays, and that in all we do, God is our help.
Snapshot from the Field: Christ Is Changing Lives in Europe

DTS graduate Steve Henderson (ThM, 1980) has served as the pastor of Munich International Community Church for fifteen years. The congregation consists of people from more than fifty nations, many of whom live in Munich on a short-term basis—the average stay being three years. The woman from Taiwan pictured below was joined in baptism by Ukrainian, German/Korean, German/Chinese, and American believers.

Steve said, “Increasingly, people of the world speak and read English. This creates an unprecedented possibility to penetrate nations and people groups around the world with the gospel through the English language. Also, people often are more open to the gospel and to a deepening of spiritual commitment while living abroad than while in their home country. We consider it a privilege to be involved in the training of these multiple ‘missionaries’ whom we send out to various lands.”

Logos Provides On-Site Training Faculty, and Students Get Acquainted with their Portable Library

DTS is the only seminary to give every student Logos Bible Software loaded with resources including Hebrew and Greek lexicons and top commentaries.

After attending his first training session, student Clement Woo said that although the software is valued at more than $14,000 in resources, he was using “less than $200 worth [which] is like using an iPhone for calling and receiving calls only vs. using all its functions. The training is inspiring. I am thankful that DTS has provided both the software and the training to us.”

Go to dts.edu/logos for answers to frequently asked questions about this new benefit.

Attend DTS in the Springs

Young Life. Navigators. Focus on the Family. DTS. Yes, DTS has joined the ranks of parachurch organizations training Christian leaders in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The seminary’s long-standing relationship with these ministries led to requests to start a Mobile MA in Christian Leadership in their city. The fully accredited program offers courses taught by DTS professors on-site in the Springs, online, and on campus in Dallas for select intensive offerings. Go to dts.edu/colorado for more information.

Dr. Abraham Kuruvilla’s Work Named Book of the Year

Every year Preaching magazine focuses attention on one volume which, in the words of executive editor Michael Duduit, “warrants special attention because of its significant contribution to the field of preaching.” This year’s book of the year is Privilege the Text: A Theological Hermeneutic for Preaching (Moody Press) by DTS Pastoral Ministries professor Abraham Kuruvilla.

Preaching’s announcement quoted DTS alumnus and former faculty member Dr. Donald Sunukjian, who serves on the homiletics faculty at Talbot School of Theology. He affirms the book as “a magnificent work, showing us how to move from the then of the text to the now of the audience. Kuruvilla repeatedly demonstrates how paying attention to the details of the text leads to the underlying truth that spans all generations. His discussion of how all parts of the law—civil, moral, and ceremonial—are applicable today is worth the price of the book.”

Kudos, Dr. K!

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306 Receive Diplomas
DTS’s commencement events kicked off in Dallas on Mother’s Day weekend with a special chapel service held at Scofield Memorial Church on Friday morning. That night, grads and guests gathered under the traditional white big top on campus to party Texas-style. Faculty served up barbeque while Chaplain Bill’s ragtime band led the foot stomping. May 2014 graduates numbered 306—raising the total number of DTS alumni to more than 15,000. Among this year’s grads were fifteen students from China, six online students, and thirty-eight from extension campuses.

Get the Big Picture at The Cove
Too often people think of the Bible as a book of quotes and unrelated stories. But DTS’s Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Dr. Mark Yarbrough teaches the unity of the biblical narrative across all sixty-six books. He will do so this summer for one week, June 23–27, 2014, at The Cove in Asheville, North Carolina. The class is an intensive course available through the Billy Graham Training Center. DTS students who attend can receive elective credit. Financial assistance is available through The Cove, and the training is open to the public for a fee. Go to www.thecove.org for more information and to register.

HOPE Coffee Comes to Campus
Burlap is making a comeback. At DTS’s campus coffee shop, HOPE Coffee, members of the DTS family can enjoy a cup of java and talk theology in the café’s newly decorated-in-burlap and under-new-management digs. When the school’s first president, Lewis Sperry Chafer, was the missions pastor at a Dallas church, the congregation founded CAM (Central American Mission) International. Today CAM is Camino Global, and HOPE Coffee uses high-quality Honduran beans to support its ministry. A fair-trade business, HOPE Coffee seeks to produce and empower followers of Jesus Christ in Spanish-speaking contexts. HOPE does so by creating capital to sustain existing ministries, motivating members of the U.S. church to participate in international outreach, and building relationships within the Honduran church and its communities. The shop on campus is HOPE’s first café.
Jerusalem Meets Vegas: Sexual Choices and the Christian Community
Jerusalem Meets Vegas is a one-day conference that prepares attendees to engage with key issues our culture raises about sexuality. Attendees will hear plenary talks from experts who will also engage in small-group conversations about practical steps for creating a sexually healthier church environment. Don’t miss this outstanding opportunity to think through difficult topics and to work toward Christ’s redemption in the sexuality of our Christian communities.
Monday, September 15, 2014 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on the DTS main campus

All About Influence 2014: A Women’s Leadership Conference
All About Influence is designed to equip women to reach, lead, and have an impact on those in their spheres of influence—whether at home, in the church, in the workplace, or in a parachurch ministry. If you’re a woman who’s ready to invest in the lives of others, find encouragement in your spiritual walk, and be challenged to make a difference, this conference is designed for you.
Featuring Mindy Caliguire, author and founder of Soul Care
Monday, November 17 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. on the DTS main campus

Family Week in California
July 27–August 2, 2014
Bring the family and join DTS for a week of great teaching for all ages at Mount Hermon Family Camp in California’s Santa Cruz Mountains. When you’re not listening to President Mark Bailey, Dr. John Hannah, Dr. Chip Dickens, Chaplain Bill Bryan, or Dr. Ray Pritchard, enjoy barbecues, share an outdoor pancake breakfast, go hiking and kayaking, make s’mores, try your hand at archery, and/or take a train ride. Go to mounthermon.org for more information and to register.

Come with Us to Israel
March 6–18, 2015
Next year in Jerusalem! Plan now to join DTS’s next Israel tour. Sail on the Sea of Galilee. Read your Bible in the setting where its events took place. And walk where Jesus walked. Watch dts.edu/travel for more information.

Make a Long-Term Plan
At dallasseminaryfoundation.org you’ll find forms, newsletters, and testimonies, as well as frequently updated resources for planned giving, charitable giving, and related tax issues. Learn about wills, use the planned gifts calculator, and download forms. The one-stop site has it all.
**Landmarks R Us**
Two buildings on the DTS campus, Davidson and Stearns Halls, are undergoing complete internal renovations. But the facades that students have known since the time of Lewis Sperry Chafer, DTS’s founder and first president, will remain the same. In the 1980s, the American Institute of Architects dubbed these structures as “historically significant,” and DTS acknowledges their landmark status while repurposing them for future use.

**The Compassionate Servant: Developing a Habit of Loving Well**
Due to a Quality Enhancement Plan that has led to assignment changes, more than ever, students at Dallas Theological Seminary are combining classroom knowledge with real-world experiences. In doing so they are seeing and helping to meet the needs of local marginalized people such as the poor, homeless, disabled, suffering, bereaved, and addicted. The “shoe-leather” learning experiences are enhancing biblical and theological understanding, spiritual life and character, as well as ministry skills. Go to dts.edu/compassion to find out more about this new emphasis.

**Only Online**
Read an excerpt from Gloria Furman’s (MA/CE, 2007) latest book, as well as from her work, Glimpses of Grace, winner of a Christianity Today 2014 Award of Merit. And check out her essay, “Kiss the Wave.” Also read Dave Furman’s (ThM, 2007) thoughts on life as a disabled dad, as well as preaching in “The Gospel in a Hostile Culture.”

DTS professor Dr. Abe Kuruvilla is running a blog series profiling homiletics professionals. Check out his interview with DTS’s Dr. Timothy Warren.

Do you ever wonder what to do during a daily quiet time? Crickett Keeth (MA/CE, 2005) shares the post that has brought her blog the most traffic: “How to Spend Time Alone with God.”

DTS professor Dr. Sue Edwards offers insight about how to pray.

Was Peter insulting wives when called them “weaker vessels”? DTS professor Dr. Sandra Glahn explores this question and more in a series for bible.org.

Jason Seville (ThM, 2010) provides “A Vision for Discipleship in the Church.”

Interpretations that miss the author’s intent are the focus of student Lisa Robinson’s post at Theothoughts.

Read an excerpt from Truth Matters, the latest book from DTS professor Dr. Darrell Bock.

Steven Smith (ThM, 2012) contributes to the discussion about spiritual abuse on his blog, libertyforcaptives.com.

Read what DTS professor Dr. Daniel B. Wallace has to say about “Transracial Implications of the Gospel.” Also, view the tongue-in-cheek music video, “All Things Are Better in Koine,” that references Dr. Wallace and his Greek grammar.

Andy Stanley (ThM, 1985) assumes North American Christians are rich, and he helps readers know how to live in light of that reality. We may not feel rich, which is part of why he wrote the book that’s the subject of his interview with KS, “How to Be Rich.”
NEW RESOURCES from the Seminary Family

More resources at dts.edu/books

Reading Religious Affections: A Study Guide to Jonathan Edwards’ Classic on the Nature of True Christianity
Dr. Craig Biehl (ThM, 1993)

The Jesus Story: Everything That Happens in the New Testament in Plain English
Dr. William Marty (STM, 1979; ThD, 1984)

Truth Matters: Confident Faith in a Confusing World**
Dr. Andreas I. Köstenberger, Dr. Darrell Bock (ThM, 1979)*, and Dr. Josh Chatraw

Reforming the Monastery: Protestant Theologies of the Religious Life
Dr. Greg Peters (MA[BS], 1996)

The Gospels and Acts (The Holman Apologetics Commentary on the Bible)
Dr. Michael Wilkins, Dr. Craig A. Evans, Dr. Darrell Bock (ThM, 1979)*, and Andreas Köstenberger

His Word in My Heart: Memorizing Scripture for a Closer Walk with God, 2nd ed
Janet Pope (ThM, 2011)

1 and 2 Samuel (Teach the Text Commentary Series)
Dr. Robert B Chisholm, Jr. (ThD, 1983)*, Mark Strauss and John Walton, series editors

The Imitation of Saint Paul: Examining Our Lives in Light of His Example
James Reapsome (ThM, 1957)

Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full: Gospel Meditations for Busy Moms**
Gloria Furman (MA/CE, 2007)

Conversations with Jehovah’s Witnesses: A Friendly Approach to Sharing the Truth about God and the Bible
Dr. Ron Rhodes (ThM, 1983; ThD, 1986)

Tasty Jesus: Liberating Christ from the Power of Our Predilections
Bryan Hurlbutt (ThM, 2001)

Models for Biblical Preaching: Expository Sermons from the Old Testament
Dr. Haddon Robinson (ThM, 1955)* and Dr. Patricia Batten, eds.

Perfect Ending: Why Your Eternal Future Matters Today
Dr. Robert Jeffress (ThM, 1981)

Dr. Boyd Seevers (ThM, 1987)

As It Was in the Days of Noah: Warnings from Bible Prophecy About the Coming Global Storm
Jeff Kinley (ThM, 1986)

As a Kindred Spirit reader, you may receive copies of Seven Reasons to Trust the Bible by Dr. Erwin Lutzer for a donation of $5, (includes shipping) while supplies last. Readers may order up to three copies per person. Go to dts.edu/ks to order.

* DTS faculty member  **Excerpt online
FROM THE CHANCELLOR
Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

Build on the Rock

Over fifty-five years ago something unexpected happened in a small community in northeastern Pennsylvania. The townspeople built a multi-purpose building to serve as their police department, fire department, and city hall. They were proud of their red-brick building; it stood as the result of sacrificial giving and careful planning. On the day of the ribbon-cutting ceremony, six thousand people turned out to celebrate—nearly all the town's residents.

Less than two months later, however, they noticed ominous signs. Cracks had appeared on one side of the building. Later, they noticed the windows wouldn’t shut all the way. Then the doors failed to close properly. The roof started to leak. And within a few more months, the place had to be evacuated—to the builder’s embarrassment and the taxpayers’ disgust.

A local company did an analysis. They found that blasts from a nearby mining area had slowly but effectively destroyed the structure. Imperceptibly, beneath the building’s foundation, small shifts and changes were taking place that caused the foundation to crack and begin to sink. At first no one could feel the shifts in the ground or see the cracks from the surface, but down deep a weakening had occurred. A city official finally had to write across the front door, “Condemned. Not fit for public use.” Ultimately, the town had to demolish that building.

Something similar to what happened in that town is happening today when it comes to the person and work of Jesus Christ. Eroding voices question whether God’s word about Jesus is true. Some challenge the assertion that Christ came in the flesh. Others claim our Lord walked on earth, but he was only a good man whose followers made him out to be the Son of God. Some even concede he was a great prophet, but they rank him as a mere equal among many. And for a lot of people, such erosion destroys their faith.

Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock” (Matt. 7:24–25). Notice he didn’t say that if we build on the rock, no rains will fall and no winds will blow. He never promised the miners wouldn’t blast. In fact, he taught his followers to expect opposition.

How are you handling the rains and the winds and the blasts? Our house stands, not because we tune out opposing voices and not because we have crafted air-tight arguments against them. Rather, our faith endures because our God and his word are reliable: On Christ the solid rock we stand. All other ground is sinking sand.

Back cover art:
2 Timothy 2:15

The verse art on the back cover is the creation of DTS graphic designer Linda Tomczak, who has a passion to end human trafficking. Read her article at tinyurl.com/dts-traffick for ways to make a difference.
DO YOUR BEST
to present yourself
to GOD
as ONE APPROVED,
A WORKER
who has no need
to be ashamed,
RIGHTLY HANDLING
the WORD of TRUTH.

2 Timothy 2:15 ESV