No-Pendulum Zone

Of every three students on our Dallas campus, one is single. Single people comprise a growing group in our world, and consequently in our churches. By some counts, those who are widowed, divorced, and never married actually outnumber the married among us as we gather for worship.

Yet today’s church can feel like an unfriendly place for these brothers and sisters in Christ. Our laser-like focus on the ideal family unit can shape the perception of others into feeling “they have no need of me”—or perhaps “they want me—but only if I get a spouse.” Not everyone wants to marry; some believe God would have them not to marry; but many do wish to marry—as evidenced by the fact that online dating is the third highest income-generator on the Internet. While marriage may be hurting or waning in the census numbers, romance is still certainly popular.

Longings to be married, when added to external pressure to “tie the knot,” can make for a miserable existence. And the church should address this stress, not inadvertently increase it. The church needs God’s wisdom!

God’s ideal is not for every person to be married. Consider Hosea, whom God told to wed a prostitute, Gomer—whom he knew would later leave Hosea—for other men—to illustrate God’s one-sided love for Israel. Or Ezekiel, whom God told not to mourn when his wife died, which pictured Israel’s hardness of heart (Ezek. 24:17). Or especially Jesus Christ. The description of him in Isaiah evoked the curiosity of an Ethiopian eunuch when he read, “Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth” (Acts 8:33, citing Isaiah 53:8). Perhaps the eunuch identified with this One who left no biological legacy. Add to the list Miriam; Anna; John the Baptist; Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; and Paul. All of these were single or single again, as far as we know. And all are presented to us in the pages of Scripture as believers desiring to walk with God.

Marriage is not superior; nor is singleness. And Christian truth and love beckon us to remember this. There’s a danger in putting forth the idea that singleness is the sole ideal, just as there is danger in saying the same of marriage. Whether single or married, we are one family and equally valued members of one body in Christ. Parallel to the differing spiritual gifts God has given us for the good of the Body (1 Cor. 12:21–27), each person is also a gift God gives to every other person. We all belong. And we need each other.
A Singular Focus: Choosing to Be Celibate for Christ
Profile of DTS professor Dr. Abraham Kuruvilla
By Kelley Mathews

DTS professor Dr. Abraham Kuruvilla, who is also a practicing dermatologist, describes himself as single by choice, single for life, single unto Christ, and single in community. Kuruvilla, whose book, Privilege the Text, was named Preaching magazine’s book of the year in 2013, writes, “I probably have an advantage of more time and undistracted focus to concentrate on ministry—whether thinking, reflecting, writing, teaching, researching, or preaching.”

How the Church Can Encourage Singles
By Carly Isaac Graham

Having experienced church from the perspective of a single person, DTS graduate Carly Graham recalls, “I spent my twenties wishing to be married. And during that time, I struggled to find my place at church with its sometimes overwhelming focus on marriage and family.” She offers suggestions for integrating single people into the community.

The Covenant of Singleness: The Bible and Church History
By Dr. J. Scott Horrell

Theology professor Dr. J. Scott Horrell takes a look at what the Bible and church history say about singleness. He writes, “A believer’s singleness in service to the triune God can be every bit as covenantal as the oath between a Christian husband and wife. The importance of both single and marital covenants before God begs reiteration in our world today.”

Also in this issue:
The Church and Singles: Some Advice
They Were Single Too: A Sampling of 8 Bible Characters
Singled Out: 5 Things Single People Need from the Church

Kindred Spirit Online  www.dts.edu/ks

Article: Compelling Love: The Christian and Same-Sex Attraction, by counseling professor Dr. Gary Barnes

Article: Joseph or Judah? Waiting on God for Satisfaction, by alumnus Dr. Wayne Stiles

Excerpt: Chapter one of God With Us, by theology professor Dr. Glenn Kreider

Article: Lifting Up Christ While Lifting Weights: A Profile of Weightlifter Spencer Arnold, by media intern Ashley Scarbrough with Dr. Sandra Glahn

Excerpt: From How to Read the Bible Like a Seminary Professor, by academic dean Dr. Mark Yarbrough
A Singular Focus: Choosing to Be Celibate
Profile of DTS professor Dr. Abraham Kuruvilla

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.” At first glance, DTS’s well-read professor Abe Kuruvilla, MD, PhD, seems to fit this opening line to Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*. But all is not as it seems, for while Dr. Kuruvilla may embody the first part of the description, he is most definitely not “in want of a wife.” The homiletics professor, instead, practices what he calls *ecclesiological singleness*—

singleness for the sake of Christ and his church.

After earning his MD and while pursuing a medical PhD about twenty years ago in Houston, Kuruvilla embarked on a serious study of Scripture, under the influence of his DTS-trained pastor and the radio ministries of DTS alumni. Along the way he enrolled at DTS. His growing number of opportunities to preach factored in to his thoughts on remaining unmarried. “I pursued singleness because of my passion for studying and teaching Scripture without distraction, as well as a recognition that I had the gift of celibacy. My decision to remain single,” he said, “came as a progressive, gradual process, made with much prayer and consulting with friends.”

**A Spiritual Discipline**
Ecclesiological singleness, as Kuruvilla defines it, involves four pillars that define and describe Kuruvilla’s vocation to serve the Lord as a single man:

1. **Single by choice.** Remaining single has been a conscious choice, originally made while in his mid–twenties. Unlike others who may be seeking a spouse and/or are single only due to divorce or the death of a spouse, Kuruvilla remains unmarried on purpose, in line with his spiritual gifting of celibacy, considering it his calling.

2. **Single for life.** Just as marriage is meant to be a lifelong union, so Kuruvilla considers his singleness “for life,” opting to close the “door” in order to maintain a singular focus upon ministry.

3. **Single unto Christ.** Purposeful singleness has given Kuruvilla the freedom to expand his scholarly training, to accept a variety of preaching and teaching offers, and to explore the theology of celibacy from personal experience. Dr. Victor Anderson, his Pastoral Ministries department chairman, illustrates this reality: “Abe uses his singleness to focus more of his energies on scholarship and ministry. He holds three doctoral degrees, has a clinical practice...”

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**Profile of DTS professor Dr. Abraham Kuruvilla**

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<td>Single</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
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for Christ
Kuruvilla
in dermatology, and teaches preaching at DTS. He's a voracious reader. It is not unusual to see him carrying an armload of books to his car. When he exercises at the local fitness center, it is normally on a stationary bike so he can keep reading while he pedals."

4. Single in community.
Kuruvilla purposefully seeks community among friends, colleagues, and fellow church members. While he admits to being careful with his interactions with women, maintaining "strict accountability with a trusted few," he consistently lives his life with people. "He has never voiced a word of frustration or disappointment about being single," Anderson said. "He has embraced—not tolerated—singleness fully, never muttering about feelings of loneliness or lack of companionship. I have seen his great contentment in his singleness, even when he is the only single at an event, like dinner at my house." Kuruvilla enjoys a close relationship with his only sibling, the brother who led him to the Lord forty years ago, and spends most holidays with him and his family.

Abstinence or Celibacy?
When speaking on the subject of celibacy, Kuruvilla cites Matthew 19, in which Jesus acknowledges that there are "those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven" (19:12). "Celibacy is a gift—it is not for everyone. There is a 'givenness' to it. And, of course, if it is your gift, there is a vibrancy to this choice that energizes you. I would not want to give up my gift of celibacy for anything."

Kuruvilla carves a fine distinction between abstinence and celibacy. He writes, "Abstinence is a response to outside circumstances, whereas celibacy is inner-driven, a response to a calling." Celibacy, Kuruvilla added, could be described as "purpose-driven abstinence." He feels such sacrifice should not be understood as all negative. A person makes such sacrifices for the body of Christ in order to engage all his or her time, abilities, and resources for the church.

When a radio interviewer asked Kuruvilla to explain the reasoning behind his status, the professor pointed to the words of the apostle Paul: "An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—and his interests are divided" (1 Cor. 7:32–34).

Celibate in Ministry Leadership
Kuruvilla believes that his singleness has enhanced his ministry. "I probably have an
Dr. Kuruvilla discussed the issue of singleness with Dr. Darrell Bock during a taping of The Table podcast. Go to www.dts.edu/thetable to listen.

advantage of more time and undistracted focus to concentrate on ministry, whether thinking, reflecting, writing, teaching, researching, or preaching,” he said. In addition to serving his Houston church in the past as a teaching elder and more recently leading several Dallas churches as an interim preacher, Kuruvilla has also steered the Evangelical Homiletics Society as president, vice president, and board member; and he currently serves as book review editor for The Journal of the Evangelical Homiletics Society. Kuruvilla does hope to educate seminary students—future church leaders—to better recognize and value the single people within their ministries. “While I have noted a naiveté in churches regarding singles, it has not directly affected me,” he said. “But churches can do more to showcase celibates, whether in sermons or in extending pastoral opportunities to them. Both singleness and marriage are equally valid platforms for ministry and leadership.”

Celibacy as a Spiritual Discipline
“Like any spiritual discipline, celibacy takes work,” Kuruvilla said. He likens it to fasting, solitude, silence, and other active disciplines. “Over a period of time I’ve learned my own weaknesses, and I’ve made my own buffers against those. I don’t do anything in ministry that is not in some way connected with my primary focus on preaching.”

To those who are single, he says, “Let your life speak. Let it shine and be an example of what single people can do. Don’t whine, and don’t settle for marginalization. You are no less a disciple of Christ than your married colleagues.”

To both the married and the single, he says, “Marriage is not an eternal state, not the best thing or greatest good in eternity. Marriage and celibacy are both gifts. Which is yours? Pursue it.”

Kindred Spirit, Spring/Summer 2015

Average age at first marriage
Men: 28.9 years
Women: 26.9 years

For every 89 unmarried men ages 18+, there are 100 unmarried women.

Men are more likely than women to have never been married.

Kelley Mathews (ThM, 2000), whose concentration was Media Arts and Ministry, has more than fifteen years’ publishing experience as an editor, writer, and book reviewer. She has coauthored several resources for women in ministry with DTS professor Dr. Sue Edwards.
I grew up in the church and married at thirty-one. During my twenties I spent time in and out of relationships and wishing to be married. When the wedding didn’t happen, I felt frustrated.

Equally challenging was the fact that I felt out of place at church. I fielded questions such as “Are you married?” or “Have you tried (fill in the blank) to meet that special someone?” An added challenge of integrating single people into the church is the sometimes overwhelming focus on marriages and families.

God took me through a growth process before I met my husband. And that path has proved essential to the health of my marriage.

Along the way I have gathered a few ideas about how the church can encourage single people and integrate them into the community of faith.

1. **Remember that worth is determined by something other than relationship status.** It’s important to treat single people as the individuals that God created them to be, and remember that they can be whole without mates.

   Studying Psalm 139 helped me see that God created me uniquely, and he thoroughly understands me. The third verse of this chapter, “You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways,” helped me accept that my worth comes from knowing and believing in Christ, not in being chosen by a spouse. Bible studies and retreats that focus on becoming a man or woman of God must include more than information about being a wife/mother or husband/father. Something as simple as offering Bible studies for women in the evening can help single women, because not all women are stay-at-home wives and mothers who can attend daytime studies.

2. **Invite single people to gatherings at your home and/or with your family.** When I was studying at DTS, I joined the choir at my church. That group provided a wonderful community, as the members invited me to spend holidays and enjoy summer barbecues with them and their families. I felt included and welcomed into their lives. And I never felt that I needed to explain why I lacked a spouse.

   God constantly reminded me that I needed to trust him, even though I didn’t understand why he kept me single during that time. God’s guidance helped me understand Proverbs 3:5–6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

3. **Understand that there is no formula for getting married.** Ultimately, God is the one who orchestrates marriage. When I served as the maid of honor for one of my friends, I expressed my frustration about being perpetually single in an

![Attending church on a typical Sunday](chart)

**Chart:**

- **Attend church**: 48%
- **Dont attend church**: 31%
- **Married**: 29%
- **Divorced**: 15%
- **Never married**: 15%

**Pie Chart:**

- **Attend church**
  - Singles: 33%
  - Other: 67%
- **Don’t attend church**
  - Singles: 67%
  - Other: 33%

How the Church Can

Studying Psalm 139 helped me see that God created me uniquely, and he thoroughly understands me. The third verse of this chapter, “You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways,” helped me accept that my worth comes from knowing and believing in Christ, not in being chosen by a spouse. Bible studies and retreats that focus on becoming a man or woman of God must include more than information about being a wife/mother or husband/father. Something as simple as offering Bible studies for women in the evening can help single women, because not all women are stay-at-home wives and mothers who can attend daytime studies.

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environment in which it felt like everyone around me was marrying—or at least meeting someone they liked. I said, “I guess you are getting married before me because you are more ready for marriage.” She laughed and said, “That’s not how it works. There is no formula or way to explain how God orchestrates marriage.” That encouraged me.

4. **Instead of quoting verses, encourage single people by getting to know them.** Those who told me to “focus completely on the Lord,” quoting 1 Corinthians 7:32–35, only magnified my frustration. Another favorite verse was “Take delight in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart” (i.e., a husband, Ps. 37:4). The best encouragement came from those who acknowledged that singleness can be painful and lonely, followed by prayers for God to meet my emotional needs. This was a great help once I got married, because these friends helped me develop a habit of looking to God to meet all my emotional needs rather than expecting only my husband to do so.

5. **Avoid “encouragements” like “Your prince/princess is out there somewhere.”** Or “You’ll get married someday.” While such assurances may seem encouraging, they can actually discourage the hearers. God never promised to bring spouses to all who follow him. Making such promises can give the recipients false hope, making the hearers feel as if something is wrong with them if marriage has not happened. Instead, engage in conversations about dreams that are not dependent on a spouse. Be sensitive to how difficult it may be for single people to be alone, and encourage them to explore their interests or try something new.

6. **Move away from traditional Sunday school classes geared toward grouping by age and marital status.** Instead, move toward a community-group model. Many people now marry later than post-college. Incorporating the unmarried into intergenerational fellowships will help your church stay relevant to a growing number of single people. A thirty- or forty-year-old single person has little in common with the life stage of freshman college students, so lumping them all together in one college-and-career group can hinder the fostering of meaningful relationships. Community groups enable members to relate to each other like a family with multiple ages and stages of life. Such a model can embody what Paul describes in Acts 2:46: “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” It’s easy for this kind of fellowship to flourish when we are all in different stages of life. There is benefit in spending time with members of God’s family who live in differing seasons.

Carly Isaac Graham, who holds an MA in Biblical Counseling from DTS (2011), has worked as a psychiatric counselor for the past two years. She resides in New Jersey.
“Greet me and sit with me in church. Or invite me to sit with you.” “Often the worship service is the loneliest hour of the week for me.”

Believe that everyone belongs. The church, not the home, is the true family of God. “Jesus lived as a single person in a culture in which marriage and children were viewed as favor from God—even much more than in our culture. I would imagine he may have been scorned and judged, even though he related well to women. It’s a comfort to think that family boundaries won’t be an issue in heaven, that we will be one family, and people won’t be classified by who they belong to, because we will all belong to Christ.”

Consider hiring single ministers for pastoral positions, and honor their choices. “Once at a meeting, an elder asked me, a pastor, ‘When are you going to hurry up and get married?’ Before I could stop stammering long enough to answer, the senior pastor intervened with assurance that marriage is not for everyone and that it was certainly not a qualification for ministry.”

“Refer to us as ‘single,’ not as ‘unmarried.’ The former emphasizes what we are instead of what we are not.”

Single people don’t necessarily have someone in their lives who will ask about their day. “Make random contact to ask how my day is going.”

Remember our birthdays and celebrate them. If you don’t, perhaps no one will. “Typically I don’t do anything for my birthday. But it’s nice when someone gathers some friends for me.”

Being alone on special days can be difficult, especially if we have no family living nearby. “Text me on the holidays and ask how I am.” “One family had me over for a fancy dinner on Valentine’s Day. That meant a lot.”

Expect our focus to differ from that of married people. “While my friends—both male and female—with children focus a lot on their family’s development, I focus more on my career growth. Work is what consumes most of my time.”

Some DTS grads told KS what their congregations have done right and offered some suggestions for better integrating single people into church life.

24% of never-married young adults ages 25 to 34 today live with a partner.

Never-married adults who say...

- would like to eventually marry someone
  - YES 53%
  - NOT SURE 32%
- do not ever want to marry
  - NO 13%
  - not sure they want to marry
Help single congregants connect with résumé resources, jobs, and roommates. “Work is often a bigger percentage of our lives than for married people.”

When speaking publicly about work, include both women and men in your examples and images.

“Don’t ask if we’re married, seeing anyone, have tried eHarmony, or are interested in anyone. Never ask a question that is more personal or intimate than what you would ask a married person” (e.g., “Do you want more kids?”).

Recognize that not all men and women desire to marry and/or reproduce. “When people ask, ‘Are you married?’ and I say, ‘no,’ they often follow my answer with, ‘Oh, I’m so sorry.’ Even if I longed to be married, I wouldn’t want pity.”

“Bring me food and pick up my medicine for me when I’m sick.” “I was once down for three days with a stomach bug, and I had no one whom I could call to get me basic supplies.”

Give single parents a break, both from childcare and from cooking. When you cook, make extra helpings. “It’s rare to get gifts of food unexpectedly. I have no one I can call to ask, ‘Can you grab me some dinner on the way home?’”

Let single parents know you’re available to pick up their kids if they get caught in traffic or stuck at work, and offer to take their children with you to church events such as AWANA.

Don’t speculate about same-sex attraction. “My own mom asked if I was gay!”

Avoid asking, “Don’t you want to get married?” or saying, “You know, your biological clock is ticking. Better hurry up.”

Plan social events that are not hookup opportunities. “Consider organizing dinners and movie nights—not just singles events. Make sure all are invited.”

Parents, instead of saying to your kids, “When you get married…” say, “If you get married…”

Married couples with children under 18

| In 1970: | 40% |
| In 2012: | 20% |

Widows in America in 2013

- 14 million
- 57 Average age
- 14 Number of years spent alone after widowed
The Hebrew understanding of man and woman forcefully urged marriage and offspring as essential to Israel’s future heritage and inheritance. An Old Testament couple without children suffered deep embarrassment, especially the wife. But the New Testament—with the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, and the apostle Paul—seems to turn from a Jewish perspective of marriage to valuing celibacy for the kingdom of God.

This is not a forced celibacy, but a deliberate one. When Jesus responded to the Pharisees’ question about the legitimacy of divorce, his disciples commented that it would be better, then, to remain single. Jesus responded, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it” (Matt. 19:11–12).

Celibacy is a free choice before God and not a requirement for higher Christian service, as some believe. But its elevation is, by all accounts, a radical turn from Old Testament Judaism. It is also a nod toward the future. Recall our Lord’s statement that in the resurrection, none will be married (Matt. 22:30).

The monastic movement and Roman Catholicism have long valued the sexually abstinent life—ordered for higher clergy at the Council of Elvira (AD 306) and officially repeated as recently as 2001. Less rigidly, Eastern Orthodoxy from the earliest councils asserted the right of clergy to marry before ordination but not after ordination (Council of Nicaea in AD 325; and Council in Trullo in AD 692). In both Eastern and Western Christianity, religious males and females separated into communities in order to worship and serve God more fully. Most Protestants, and evangelicals in particular, have given little attention to the covenantal nature of singleness—despite remarkable examples of singleness such as...
Dr. Helen Roseveare, a medical missionary, and John R. W. Stott, an influential pastor and Christian leader. Luther’s performing marriages of nuns to priests served as a healthy protest against Catholicism’s abnormal emphasis on virginity. But it may have implied that marriage is better than singleness in Protestant circles.

A believer’s singleness in service to the triune God can be every bit as covenantal as the oath between a Christian husband and wife. Life is streamlined without the preoccupations of spouse and family. In the early church, as Peter Brown noted in *The Body and Society*, “to reject sexuality . . . meant the assertion of a basic freedom so intense, a sense of identity so deeply rooted, as to cause to evaporate the normal social and physical constraints that tied the Christian to his or her gender.” The importance of both single and marital covenants before God begs reiteration in our world today.

The author of *From the Ground Up: New Testament Foundations for the 21st-Century Church*, Dr. J. Scott Horrell is professor of Theological Studies at DTS. He has been a theologian in various world cultures including years spent as a missionary in Brazil. Along with cofounding and editing a leading Latin American theological journal, he has written several books in Portuguese and English. He especially loves to introduce students to a global understanding of Christian faith, often taking teams of them with him as he travels.

They Were Single Too

A Sampling of 8 Bible Characters

Single adults in the Bible demonstrate that the single life is both a viable option and one that affords people the opportunity to live uniquely for the Lord—undistracted by particular concerns of the world. The following eight individuals were unconcerned with spouses, education, or lucrative jobs. Rather, their primary focus was to live faithful to his calling as they followed the Lord, despite the costs.

1. **Paul: The ‘Gift’ of Singleness.** The apostle described the value of living contentedly where God placed him—whether or not he had been “gifted” with singleness or marriage (1 Cor. 7:7).

2. **Anna: Left at the Altar.** With seemingly little to contribute to society, the widow Anna was willing to rest in the Lord as she actively served him in the temple and marked her life with praise (Luke 2:36–38).

3. **Martha: Living Life in the Fast Lane.** Martha illustrates that single adults, and even married adults for that matter, can easily allow the busyness of life to distract from their worship of the Lord (Luke 10:38–42).

4. **Jeremiah: All Alone in a Couple’s World.** Jeremiah was able to serve productively and face loneliness because he recognized the Lord called him (Jer. 1:1–9), trusted in God’s control (17:7), possessed God’s perspective (1:12), prayed continually (21:2; 29:7,12; 37:3; 42:2,4,20), and benefitted from the help of others (38:7–13).

5. **Ruth: Encountering Shattered Dreams.** In the midst of hurts, Ruth’s life was marked by an expression of sacrificial love, a faithful adherence to a commitment, and a hope rooted in faith (Book of Ruth).

6. **Joseph: Purity in the Midst of Temptation.** Joseph understood the various traits of temptation, recognized the destruction of sin, and grew in his affection for the Lord (Gen. 37–50).

7. **Nehemiah. Not Going “A-Wall” (i.e., AWOL).** Despite immense adversity, Nehemiah remained faithful to the Lord and his people (Book of Nehemiah).


By David Hoffeditz

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RESOURCES from the seminary family  Go to www.dts.edu/books for more.

Brothers, Stand Firm: 7 Things Every Man Should Know, Practice, and Invest in the Next Generation
Steve W. Bateman (ThM, 1991)

The People, the Land, and the Future of Israel: Israel and the Jewish People in the Plan of God
Dr. Darrell L. Bock (ThM, 1979)* and Mitch Glaser, eds.

The Bible Reader's Joke Book: A collection of over 2,000 jokes, puns, humorous stories, and funny sayings related to the Bible; arranged from Genesis to Revelation
Dr. Stephen J. Bramer (PhD, 1997)*

A Woman's Joy: Loving the Life God Gave You
Contributors: Michelle Calvert (MA/CE, 1991); Dr. Sandra Glahn (ThM, 2001)*; JoAnn Hummel (MA/CE, 1989); Vickie Kraft (MA|BS|, 1985); Barb Peil (MA/CE, 1987).

A Proposal to Reform the Wedding Service in Bible-Believing Churches: Responding to the Government's Declaration that “Marriage” Is Merely a Social Construct
Charles Clough (ThM, 1968)

The Relational Soul: Moving from False Self to Deep Connection
Dr. Richard Plass and James Cofield (ThM, 1982)

Control? A Couple's Guide to Contraception
Dr. Sandra Glahn (ThM, 2001)* and Dr. William R. Cutrer (MA|BS|, 1993)***

A Neglected Grace: Family Worship in the Christian Home
Jason Helopoulos (ThM, 2004)

Culture Shock: A Biblical Response to Today's Most Divisive Issues
Chip Ingram (ThM, 1984)

Salvation and Discipleship Continuum in Johannine Literature: Toward an Evaluation of the Faith Alone Doctrine
Dr. Sujaya T. James (STM, 1992; PhD, 2003)

40 Questions about Creation and Evolution
Dr. Kenneth Keathley and Dr. Mark Rooker (ThM, 1978)

God with Us: Exploring God's Personal Interactions with His People throughout the Bible
Dr. Glenn R. Kreider (ThM, 1990; PhD, 2000)* **

Ecclesiology: Biblical, Historical, and Practical Approaches: Festschrift for Dr. Craig Blaising
Dr. D. Jeffrey Bingham (ThM, 1986; PhD, 1995) and Dr. Glenn R. Kreider (ThM, 1990; PhD, 2000),* eds.

Re-Vision: The Key to Transforming Your Church
Dr. Aubrey Malphurs (ThM, 1978; PhD, 1980)* and Gordon E. Penfold (ThM, 1981)

The Evangelism Study Bible
Dr. R. Larry Moyer (ThM, 1973), general editor; David Souther (ThM, 2005) and Sarah Bowler (ThM, 2014), assoc. eds.

Recent Research on the Historical Jesus
Dr. Benjamin J. Simpson (ThM, 2003; PhD, 2011)*

Studies in the Pauline Epistles: Essays in Honor of Douglas J. Moo
Dr. Jay E. Smith (ThM, 1989)* and Dr. Matthew S. Harmon, eds.

Abraham: One Nomad’s Amazing Journey of Faith
Dr. Charles R. Swindoll (chancellor)*

The Prayer Bible: A Modern Translation
Dr. Elmer L. Towns (ThM, 1958) and Dr. Roy B. Zuck (ThM, 1957; ThD, 1961)***

Imagination Redeemed: Glorifying God with a Neglected Part of Your Mind
Dr. Gene Edward Veith Jr. and Dr. Matthew P. Ristuccia (DMin, 1991)

How to Read the Bible Like a Seminary Professor: A Practical and Entertaining Exploration of the World's Most Famous Book
Dr. Mark M. Yarbrough (ThM, 1996; PhD, 2008)** **

Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Senior Professor Emeritus of Bible Exposition, Adjunct Professor in Bible Exposition, has long made his Bible study notes available online for free. Now they are available for the first time in print:

Faith Footnotes on the New Testament series (also in Spanish)
The Shepherd: Commentary on 1st and 2nd Timothy
Intimacy: Commentary on John's Letters
Made Complete: Commentary on Colossians
The Return: Commentary on 1st & 2nd Thessalonians
Profound Mystery: Commentary on Ephesians (also in the Marathi language)

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3.1

1. See us.
- If you’re a speaker, talk about marriage, but also about the possibility of celibacy and prolonged singleness. Revere all options—like the apostle Paul did.
- Broaden views of male and female roles beyond breadwinning and childrearing.

2. Validate us.
- Celebrate how God is using us by admiring our contributions at work or how we met that single parent for lunch.
- Convince us of our significance—help us understand how we can use our schedules, our relationships, and our aloneness to bless the church and fulfill the missio Dei.

3. Include us.
- Mention us in pastoral prayers. And when thinking up applications for messages, include a single man or a dating woman in your examples. When you do so, challenge us toward more than just sexual purity.
- Invite us to small groups and dinner parties, even when all the other guests are married. We need close relationships with people from all walks of life.

- Offer to change our windshield wipers or join us as we look at houses for sale.
- Tell us we may call you at any time—if our car stalls on the highway or if we return home to find the front door vandalized.
- Send us home from church with healthful leftovers.

5. Welcome us into your family.
- Offer to have dinner waiting for us before small group. Eating at your house, even leftover spaghetti, fills us up better than a Big Mac.
- Invite us to Junior’s soccer match or to go bowling with your family. Many of us would love to spend time with our friends’ kids.

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Sources for statistics in this issue:
The Census Bureau; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bloomberg.com; NPD group; American FactFinder, America’s Families and Living Arrangements 2011; Widows Bridge; Pew Research; Association of Religion Data Archives; Barna Group; Religion and Ethics Newsweekly; census.gov

More than half of all meals in restaurants are consumed at a table for one.

Single people, especially younger ones, are unlikely to have children and prefer to rent instead of buy homes.

Average number of people per household

1970 3.1
2012 2.6

Percentage of one-person households

1970 17%
2012 27%
Two Faculty Retirements Announced

At the end of the 2014–15 academic year, the seminary family will bid goodbye to two prominent and beloved men who are retiring: “Chaplain Bill” Bryan at the Dallas campus and Dr. Kenneth G. Hanna, senior professor of Bible Exposition and director emeritus of the DTS–Houston campus.

“Chaplain Bill” has served in his position for thirty years. When most members of the DTS family think of Chaplain Bill, they call to mind at least one image of him standing at the podium in chapel, face full of fire, horn pressed to lips, cheeks puffed, eyes twinkling, and a smile emitting from the corner of his mouth.

Dr. Hanna, together with the team he assembled and directed, has led the DTS–Houston campus from its early days as an extension site to a full campus that offers ThM, MA/CE, and MA(BS) degrees.

At www.dts.edu/ks you can read profiles and share anecdotes about these men and their outstanding contributions to the Lord’s work. We are profoundly grateful for their service.

Ebola Survivor Visits DTS

Nancy Writebol, one of the first Americans diagnosed with the Ebola virus, visited Dallas Theological Seminary with her husband, David, to share their incredible story of God’s faithfulness and healing throughout Nancy’s illness.

Nancy contracted the virus while serving with David through Serving in Mission (SIM) in Liberia. After being evacuated to the U.S. and treated in an isolation unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, she was released on August 19, 2014. She was among the group of Ebola fighters named Time Magazine’s People of the Year for 2014.

Speaking to a packed house at the DTS chapel, the Writebols made it clear that God is the hero of Nancy’s story. Their chapel message focused on God’s provision during the most overwhelming trials of ministry. David described how he had to break the news to his wife that Dr. Kent Brantly, a fellow missionary, had Ebola—and that she did, too.

Nancy challenged those in attendance to memorize Scripture, because we never know when we will be unable to access it. She told of how Ebola affected her vision, making it nearly impossible for her to read. Being in isolation meant lying alone at night, crying out to God and wondering if she would survive. She was unable even to hold the hand of her husband. In those moments, she said, the verses she had memorized ministered to her—phrases such as “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death . . . you are with me” (Psa. 23:4, ESV).

Join Us for Chapel

DTS chapel services are open to the public. You are invited to attend Tuesday through Friday mornings during school semesters on the Dallas campus in Lamb Auditorium from 10:40 to 11:15 a.m. During summer school, chapel is held on Wednesdays from 10:10 to 10:30 a.m. Video and audio recordings are available online (www.dts.edu/chapel) or on iTunes unless restrictions apply to the speakers or content. Among the most popular videos of DTS chapels are “Israel in Scripture and the Promises of God,” and the 2014 Arts Week speaker Dr. Robert K. Johnston.

Go to www.dts.edu/construction to keep up with the progress of campus renovation efforts in Dallas.
Dallas Theological Seminary received the precious gift of a centuries-old Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy) scroll in a special chapel ceremony in December 2014.

Dr. Scott Carroll, director and senior research scholar for the Manuscript Research Group, presented the scroll on behalf of the donors, Ken and Barbara Larson, and shared some of its long history. Originally produced in North Africa in the late seventeenth century, the scroll would have taken a scribe a full year to write onto animal skins. When damage occurred to parts of Exodus, sections of a twelfth-century Spanish scroll were pieced into the original.

Despite the scroll’s eventful journey from Africa to DTS, Dr. Carroll noted that it is one of the best-preserved Torahs his group has worked with; for instance, sections of the original Genesis are still remarkably legible. Dr. Carroll explained to DTS students the process of transmission that preserved the Torah writings: “Your community is known for celebrating the authenticity and trustworthiness of God’s Word. When you look at the scroll, you can see what the scribes did to make sure that this scroll was right and guarded and trustworthy. God’s revelation was protected by an ongoing, living tradition that comes all the way to Dallas Theological Seminary and is here for you to keep alive.”

The presentation included portions of Jewish liturgy, led by Vladamir Pikman, a messianic rabbi and current PhD student at DTS. Students and faculty were invited to welcome the scroll to campus by circling it while accompanied by traditional Hebrew songs.

“I always knew DTS as one of the friendliest, if not the friendliest, school regarding Israel, Jewish people, and messianic Jewish believers,” Pikman said. “For me, today is like a crown of that friendship. There is barely anything more sacred and important for the Jewish people than the Torah. The Torah represents the foundation of the entire Word of God, the entire revelation. Jesus is the Torah becoming flesh.”
Join DTS in the Santa Cruz Mountains
July 26–August 1, 2015

Bring the whole family and join DTS for a week of great teaching for all ages at Mount Hermon Family Camp in California. When you’re not listening to our president Dr. Mark L. Bailey; Bible Exposition professor Dr. Stephen Bramer; Dale Burke, lead pastor of Seacoast Community Church in Encinitas, California; or pastor Tom Nelson of Denton Bible Church in Denton, Texas, you can enjoy fun for the whole family. Savor maple syrup on outdoor hotcakes, hike beneath mighty redwoods, bask in sunlight, inhale the fragrance of evergreen, photograph surfers, toast s’mores, or ride the train. Go to www.dts.edu/mounthermon for more information and to register.

Upcoming Events sponsored by the Hendricks Center for Christian Leadership and Cultural Engagement

More Than a Paycheck: LA
Speakers: John Townsend, Darrell Bock, Scott Rae, Bill Pollard, and many more
June 26–27, 2015
Talbot School of Theology, La Mirada, California
DTS is offering a two-day conference in L.A. More Than a Paycheck: LA celebrates that God made humanity to be creative and to manage our world. Embracing work as a sacred call from God himself, men and women will discover how to be agents of worship and ministry in the workplace.

Prone to Wander Event
Speaker: Gabe Lyons, founder of Q Ideas and author of The Next Christians
September 14, 2015
DTS main campus, Lamb Auditorium
Prone to Wander is a one-day conference experience probing whether the way the church ministers to the next generation is in touch with the spiritual needs of those in the 13–34 age range. How can current church leadership minister to and partner with young adults? How can we build the kingdom of Christ together rather than isolate ourselves with walls of miscommunication, culture, and/or preference? Don’t miss this opportunity to engage with other leaders from across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

All About Influence 2015: A Women’s Conference
Speaker: Jennie Allen, author of books such as Restless, Stuck, Chase and Anything, and the founder of IF:gathering
November 16, 2015
DTS main campus, Lamb Auditorium
All About Influence exists 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 others’ lives, find encouragement in your spiritual walk, and be challenged to make a difference, this conference is for you. Go to www.dts.edu/jennie to view Jennie Allen talking about engaging hearts for Christ.

NEXT ISSUE:
Kindred Spirit to Become DTS Magazine
We’re expanding! Starting with the Fall 2015 issue of Kindred Spirit, we’re getting a new name, a new look, and more pages. Watch for the September arrival of DTS Magazine: The Connection for Kindred Spirits of Dallas Theological Seminary.
“A day is wasted if you don’t fall over in a heap laughing.”

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

Wide Her World, Narrow Her Bed

Allow me to introduce you to one of my favorite people in the whole world. A former corporate executive with Mobil Oil, she spent thirty years as a cartographer—yes, drawing maps.

She’s also been a professional singer with the Dallas Opera, having cut her vocal chops in early childhood. Back then, when she, her two brothers, and her parents were all tucked in for the night, one of them would start to sing. The others would soon join in, and from the three bedrooms, in four-part harmony, hymns would fill the house.

This amazing woman has also been a public relations VP for Insight for Living Ministries and the author of numerous books. Her name is Luci. And she’s the kind of person who will ride around in a 4x4 looking for lions and conclude, “Safari is the greatest adventure—whether it’s in Africa or in the deepest part of your heart.”

In recent years Luci has been a speaker with Women of Faith. She has encouraged hundreds of thousands of women to lead truly adventurous lives for the sake of Christ.

Some of Luci’s spunk comes from our grandmother, whom she often quotes as saying, “A day is wasted if you don’t fall over in a heap laughing.”

Our grandmother? Yes. Luci is my sister. Something unique about Luci is that the photos of children in her art-filled home are those of my own kids and our older brother’s—not hers. She has been quite public about the fact that she has never married and has no children. I think it’s fitting that her mission statement comes from Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar:

There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat;
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.

Luci has turned her “current” of living single into an adventurous voyage. Back in 1982, she wrote Wide My World; Narrow My Bed. Ten years ago, she wrote I Married Adventure. About her singleness Luci writes, “From Christians I got pressure for not marrying, especially when I was younger. . . . But a seemingly unbreakable fiber grew inside me that assured me it was okay to be me. . . . What mattered was that I was happy in my own skin.”

Luci has now passed the eighty-year mark. As she reflects on her life as a single woman, she says, “When I’m with the Lord face to face, it is my own life that I lay down and not the prefabrication of one who always tried to be somebody else.”

The apostle Paul has a message for the unmarried—whether never married, widowed, or currently unmarried. He tells them he wishes all could be like him, not bound to a spouse, in order to devote themselves fully to Christ (1 Cor. 7:8–9). Many who take a high view of Scripture debate whether his instruction applied only to his time (v. 26) or serves a general principle for all time. Regardless of which he meant, today the family-focused church can benefit from the reminder that God’s best does not always include being married.

Are you a Luci? Or is there a Luci in your life whom the great Cartographer is directing on a seemingly uncharted voyage of singleness? Or perhaps both? Whatever your lot, devote yourself wholeheartedly to Christ, and encourage others to do the same. In the words of Katharina von Schlegel, “The waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.”