



From The President



Just a few days from now we will begin our remembrance and celebration of what Andreas J. Köstenberger and Justin Taylor call “the most important week of the most important person who ever lived.” (*The Final Days of Jesus*, Crossway, 2014) Having grown up in a tradition that did not follow the liturgical calendar, Easter, unlike Christmas, seemed to come without much warning. As far as I can remember, Good Friday was a work day just like any other work day. I suspect there have been Good Fridays when I didn’t even realize what day it was. How tragic!

If this really is the “the most important week of the most important person who ever lived,” shouldn’t it demand more of our attention? And if we really believe that the most important event in all of human history, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, occurred during this most

important week, shouldn’t we be more focused on Him this week than we usually are?

That’s why this year we are providing a daily devotional to guide us in our reflections from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Visit our [website](#) starting Sunday, March 29 to begin reading.

No one has summed up better than the apostle Paul why Passion Week is the most important week of the most important person who ever lived. *“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve.”* Amen! And amen!

Events & Resources

Alumni Scholarship Fund

The Alumni Scholarship Fund was created with you in mind. All of the donations go to scholarships for current students. You can [give online here](#).

Denver Seminary is on [Amazon Smile](#).

Select us as your charity and .5% of your purchases will be donated to the Seminary Fund.

Upcoming Events:

[Network for Alumni](#)

Thursday, March 19
5:30 p.m.

Irish Snug, Denver



Counseling Scholarships are now available at Denver Seminary.

Did you know that scholarships specifically for counseling students haven't been available until this past year? Now we have an even more exciting opportunity to support these students (aka, future alumni).

Here's the bottom line: **for every dollar given, it will be matched, up to \$100,000** by a generous foundation that believes in a faith integrated approach to counseling, just like our alumni learned at Denver Seminary. Every bit of it will be given to new counseling licensure students through scholarships.

Would you, our alumni, consider making a gift at this time when it can be doubled by the match? You can designate your gift [online](#) to "Windgate Counseling Scholarships." Thanks for your prayerful consideration to support the next generation of Denver Seminary Counseling alumni bring God's hope and healing to a very needy world.



NEW Denver Metro Network for Alumni

Alumni Relations has listened and wants to support you in professional development and career networking. One way we are starting this is by providing a space and time for professional and ministry partners to spark new connections and offer support to one another. Whether you are looking for professional or personal growth, service opportunities, creative ideas, or ways to grow your contacts, you will benefit from this one hour a month spent with like-minded Denver Seminary alumni.

If you are around Denver, join other Denver Seminary Alumni who are in the area for the newly introduced Network for Alumni! Come to the first one and give your voice to how this group will organize and what goals we will pursue together. We will meet at **Irish Snug, Downtown Denver at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19**. Send us an [email](#) and let us know you are coming!

The Preaching Initiative (PI) hosted Denver Seminary alumnus David Daniels Feb 16-17, as part of this year's Shannon Lectureship. David is the Sr. Pastor of Pantego Bible Church in the Ft. Worth area, and is an exceptional communicator and leader. He preached in the student chapel services, and shared his expertise at special events for students and PI members.

The PI exists to help sharpen the skills of preachers and students through peer-based learning groups that are facilitated by expert preachers. Currently, there are five groups that meet on average of once per month. If you are interested in learning more about the program, contact Perry Marshall, the PI Director, at perry.marshall@denverseminary.edu.

Alumni Resources

- [Job Board](#)
- [Denver Journal](#)
- [Other Resources](#)

Alumni Updates



Elizabeth Staples, MA Counseling, 2013: I have been with an organization called [Bridge2Rwanda](#) (B2R) since April 2014. It was a great transition for me as it is doing therapy with young adults, which is the age group with whom I am most passionate about doing therapy! I am working as a counselor and teacher in Kigali, Rwanda to provide therapy and teach psycho-education to young adults from South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda.

This program is an intensive university prep program that helps students become competitive for scholarships to study at international universities in the US, Canada and Europe. I'm creating the counseling aspect of the program to further aid in B2R's holistic approach to helping the students grow in their self-awareness and become emotionally healthy individuals upon entering university.

Beth Bates, MA Counseling, 1997: I attended Denver Seminary in the early nineties and graduated with an M.A. in Counseling, after which I worked in Colorado as a counselor in a church setting until 2001. After moving to Indiana and learning that the state licensing board would require me more coursework, I pursued a career in writing, editing, and marketing communications. In 2014, I earned my MFA in Creative Writing from Butler University, was editor for their literary journal, *Booth*, and now work on a consulting basis as a developmental editor, helping other writers refine their own work, from essays to book manuscripts.

I have worked in content marketing for Wiley Publishing, and in mid-February joined Fishhook

as a communications strategist. Fishhook helps churches and faith-based nonprofits refresh and improve their communications efforts, from simple branding projects (like a new logo) to a comprehensive audit and total overhaul of all communications, from bulletins to pew cards, websites to social media engagement. It's a privilege to work with churches, pastoral leadership and staff—full-circle. See more on our [website](#) and [blog](#).

Gary Preston, MDiv Church Education, 1977: Gary, with his wife Suzanne, currently serves as pastor at Frontline Community Church in Stenwenden, Germany, near Ramstein Air Base.

[More Alumni Updates](#)

Faculty Updates:



Dr. Douglas Groothuis, Professor of Philosophy and author of [Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith](#), has finished a manuscript for InterVarsity Press called, *Philosophy in Seven Sentences*, which should be published later this year.

"Examining Contemplative Prayer," an article he co-authored with a Denver Seminary colleague, Sarah Geis, was published in the January-March, 2015, issue of *Bibliotheca Sacra*.

Dr. Groothuis appeared each Thursday afternoon for one hour on the Denver radio program, "Kelly and Company," on what they called "Thinker's Thursday." The Gordon Lewis Center for Christian Thought and Culture sponsored his recent talk, "Logic: Divine or Human."



Dr. Don Payne, Associate Professor of Theology and Christian Formation, will be speaking at a Men's Retreat March 27-29 for Menomonie Alliance Church, Menomonie, WI.



Dr. Dave Buschart, Associate Dean and Professor of Theology and Historical Studies, will be participating in a panel discussion of "Architecture for Human Flourishing," convened at the College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado—Denver, on March 19.

The panel will be interacting with a presentation by a prominent Christian architect, David Greusel. This event is co-hosted by the Denver Institute for Faith and Work, under the leadership of Denver Seminary MDiv alumnus, Jeff Haanen.



Dr. Bill Klein, Professor of New Testament and Director of MA Christian Studies, will travel and speak April 12, at the English worship service of the Disciple Mission Church of Denver.



Dr. Helene Dallaire, Associate Professor of Old Testament, is on sabbatical this semester, so here is all that is keeping her busy!

Speaking engagements: March 22, 29, April 12 – Aurora, CO, Colorado Community Church Adult Sunday School, April 1, 8 – Highlands Ranch, CO, Cherry Hills Community Church Ladies' Bible Study, April 2 – Littleton, CO, South Suburban Church – Passover Seder presentation, April 17-18 – Monument, CO, St-James Presbyterian – Speaking at Ladies' Retreat, May 30-June 1 – Ottawa, ON, Canada, Presenting at the Canadian Society of Biblical

Studies (2 papers)

Recent publications:

-*The Syntax of Volitives in Biblical Hebrew and Amarna Canaanite Prose*. LSAWS. Edited by Cynthia Miller-Naudé and Jacobus Naudé. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2014.

-"Taking the Land By Force: Violence in the book of Joshua" in *Wrestling with the Violence of God: Soundings in the Old Testament*. Edited by M. D. Carroll R. & Blair Wilgus. BBR Supplement. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, forthcoming.

-Editor and contributor of "The Biblical Hebrew yaqtula Volitive" in *Where Shall Wisdom Be Found: A Grammatical Tribute to Professor Stephen A. Kaufman on the Occasion of His Retirement from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion*. Edited by Hélène Dallaire, Benjamin Noonan and Jennifer Noonan. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, forthcoming.



Dr. Rick Hess, Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, has recently published the following: Bill T. Arnold and Richard S. Hess, editors, *Ancient Israel's History: An Introduction to Issues and Sources* (Baker Academic, 2014). Dr. Hess also wrote the Introduction, "Foundations for a History of Israel," pp. 1-22. This substantive history of Israel textbook values the Bible's historical contribution without overlooking critical issues and challenges. Featuring the latest scholarship, the book introduces students to the current state of research on issues relevant to the study of ancient Israel. The editors and contributors, all top biblical scholars and historians, discuss historical evidence in

a readable manner, using both canonical and chronological lenses to explore Israelite history. Dr. Hess also recently wrote on the site, www.mosaicmagazine.com, "Response to Joshua Berman, 'Was There an Exodus?'".



Howard Baker, Spiritual Formation Instructor, published "The Spirit of Spiritual Formation," in *The Holy Spirit: Unfinished Agenda*. Edited by Johnson T. K. Lim. Singapore: Genesis Books, 2014.



Dr. Danny Carroll, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, co-edited *Wrestling with the Violence of God: Soundings in Old Testament Texts*, with J. Blair Wilgus. Dr. Carroll will also be the commencement speaker at Multnomah University on May 8, 2015

More Alumni Updates



Keith Becker, MDiv Leadership, 2007:

I wanted to share a picture of Denver Seminary alums around the '06-'08 era who all serve Evangelical Covenant Churches. We gathered at the ECC annual pastors' meeting in Denver.

Included in the picture are: Karl Helvig of Littleton, CO; Keith Becker of Grand Forks, ND; Greg Oppenhuizen of Turlock, CA; Craig Hancock of Bozeman, MT.

Todd Scheurman, MA Christian Studies, 2008: I graduated from Denver Seminary in 2008 and I am now a pastor in Broomfield, CO. I'd like to share about a documentary that we made about how the Jewish background helps one understand so much more about the life and ministry of Jesus (I think I read that Denver Seminary added a Jewish Christian Studies course several years ago, and think that's a phenomenal idea). We are talking with possible producers about filming a "full version," and are also considering self-producing it through investors.

There is a growing popularity of Judeo-Christian themed shows on TV and on the big screen. The problem is that most present a small percentage of the truth, and the majority is rewritten to make it "more attractive" to the masses. I believe the truth of Scripture would be the most attractive and can be packaged in a way that both believers and nonbelievers would check it out. You can check out all of the videos [online](#).

John Cornish, MDiv, 1986: After 28 years, I resigned from WorldVenture. Now I am an independent missionary under Missionary Companion Ministries doing much of the same thing that I did with

WorldVenture for the past 12 years: ministry to lost people in NYC and a ministry in Kolkata, India and other places. I thank Denver Seminary very much for its ongoing ministry to lost people and the nations.

Michel Hendricks, MDiv, 2007: I have been attending Flatirons Community Church near Boulder Colorado for over 12 years. I have served as an elder for around 8 years. Recently I have taken a position at the church as the Pastor of Spiritual Formation.

How do you take people who are all over the spectrum in their growth, faith and knowledge of Jesus and help take them to the next level? What hindrances to growth are we facing and how do we overcome them? That is where I will put my focus. Whether you bumped into Jesus yesterday or have been walking with him for 50 years, where is God directing you to change, grow, and serve? For example, we have an unusually large number of new believers at Flatirons, so one of my first tasks is to write a book that takes a person through the essential truths and practices of walking with Jesus. It will be called Flatirons Basic Training and will come out at the end of January. I will also be coordinating spiritual retreats for men in conjunction with [The Crucible Project](#). It is a fast and constantly changing ride at Flatirons, but I love it.

Lars Nielsen, MDiv Leadership, 2009: I am married to Dr. Beth Nielsen (USC), and we have two children Emma (3) and Anna (1). I have been teaching for the last six years at Valor Christian High School in Highlands Ranch, CO. I developed Old Testament, Epistles, spiritual formation and historic theology classes. Ministry has slowed down at Red Rocks Church and I am acting as a mentor to church planters in the Denver Metro area.

What's New with You? We want to know your ministry and family updates and anything else you would like to share! Send your update along with a photo, degree and year graduated to alumni@denverseminary.edu to be included in the next Alumni Connection.

Come Back to Campus!



We would love to see you and hear your story. In fact, we have a gift for every alumnus that comes to the Advancement office! You are a part of the Denver Seminary family, we care for you, and we invite you to stay in touch.

Also, remember that all chapel services are open to alumni. It is held from 11am-12pm every Monday and Tuesday in the chapel on campus. You can also watch the latest chapel services [here](#).

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