

# Alumni Connection



It feels like we're beginning to emerge from a fourteen-month-long winter. It's been a long, dark, hard winter. We've spent a long time waiting for some sense that it's okay to be optimistic again. And it is okay. We can feel it at Denver Seminary as we finish out this spring semester and look toward the summer. We're coming out of this long winter with a renewed sense of opportunity and possibility. Our enrollment has remained strong throughout the year and this summer's numbers are ahead of last year's record enrollment. That's good news! We believe there's an opportunity to build on what we've learned this past year and make our courses both more accessible and more transformative.

We also believe there's an opportunity for us as Jesus' followers to set ourselves apart and live as a sign pointing people to the risen Christ. In a world more polarized, even tribalized, than I can ever remember, we have an opportunity to be peacemakers, those who embody the life-giving grace of reconciliation in a world of hostilities. Jesus blesses peacemakers and reminds us that they will be called children of God (Matt. 5:9). Using the rich metaphor of family heirs, Jesus notes that peacemakers will carry on the family name of their Heavenly Father. It's no small matter that the only other time this Greek root is used in the New Testament, Paul uses it to describe how the crucified Jesus "reconciled to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by *making peace* through his blood, shed on the cross" (Col 1:20). Peacemaking, it seems, demonstrates the work of Jesus on the cross in profound and powerful ways.

So let's be about peacemaking. Let's be about being that sign pointing people to the one in whom they can find peace with God.

**Did you know that each week the Alumni Relations team prays for Denver Seminary alumni? Click the button below to share a prayer request.**

**ALUMNI PRAYER REQUESTS**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### "Constructing a Mediating Theology: Affirming the Impassibility and Passibility of the Triune God"



**THURSDAY**  
**MAY 6, 2021**  
**7-8 PM**

**HOSTED BY**  
**J.D. Kim**  
**MINISTRIES**  
&  
**DENVER SEMINARY**  
**ASIAN INITIATIVE**

**PRESENTED BY**  
**Dr. J.D. Kim**  
President of J.D. Kim Ministries  
Adjunct Professor, Denver Seminary

**CONSTRUCTING A  
MEDIATING THEOLOGY:**  
Affirming the Impassibility  
and the Passibility of the  
Triune God

**JOIN ON ZOOM**  
Meeting ID: 958 8751 4854  
Password: 1234

Alumnus and adjunct professor J.D. Kim ('16) recently completed his doctorate at the University of Aberdeen. Dr. Kim will be sharing his thesis via Zoom in conjunction with Denver Seminary's Asian Initiative. Dr. Kim, who was paralyzed at age 22 in a skiing accident, explores the issue of suffering, particularly whether God cares about human suffering, his response to our suffering, how it affects him, and whether God can feel pain. Join us [here](#) on May 7 at 7PM MT (password: 1234).

*"Though I am disabled, God almighty who is more than able is with me; though I am in a wheelchair, the one who rides on the chariots of fire carries me; though the world defines me by my disability, the Father identifies me by what the Son did for me on the cross, through the Spirit. My hope in the sovereign love of God moves me to share his unconditional love and to bear the brokenness. It is all about wheeling with and wheeling after our Maker. I love Jesus!"*

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## **The Gospel Initiative Issues Forum**

The Gospel Initiative will be hosting two more Issues Forums this early summer. May's forum is entitled *Systemic Racism by Design*. It will explore how racism continues to influence health disparities among families in our communities. June's forum is entitled *Immigrants or Neighbors* and it will examine the paralyzing effects of xenophobia on the economic well-being of American immigrants. These events are intended to empower ministry leaders to engage difficult issues with the redemptive power of the gospel. Issue experts will answer guided questions based on recent research. Each forum will be moderated by Dr. Mark Harden, The Gospel Initiative Executive Director.



### ***Systemic Racism by Design***

**May 13**

**11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. MT**

**via Zoom**

**REGISTER HERE**



### ***Immigrants or Neighbors***

**June 10**

**11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. MT**

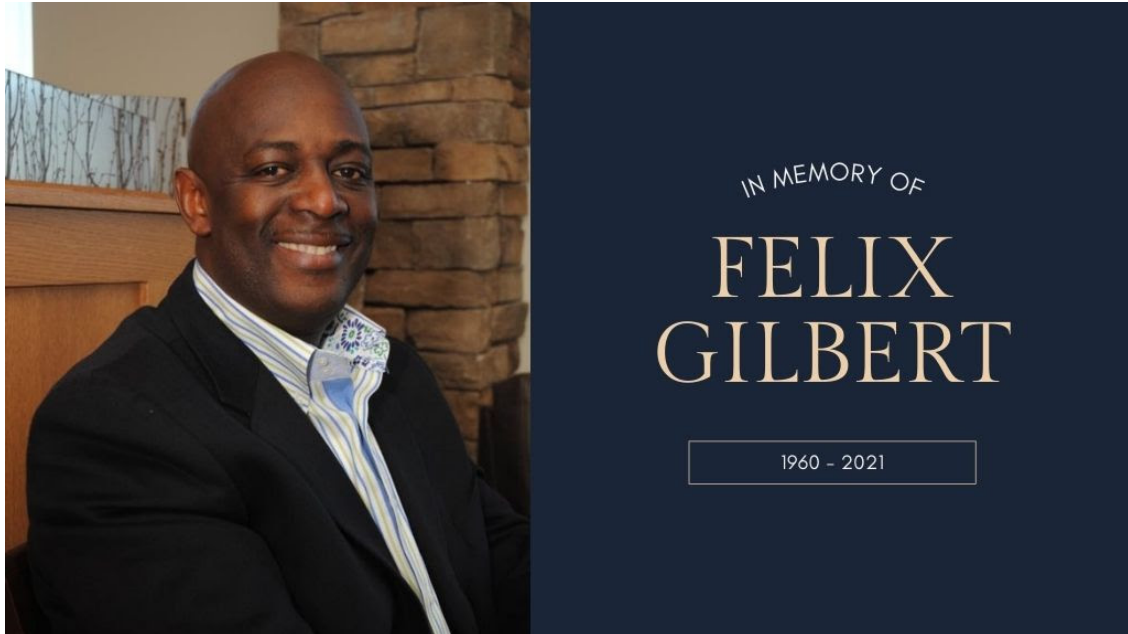
**via Zoom**

**REGISTER HERE**



## DENVER SEMINARY NEWS

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On Tuesday morning, April 27, our dear friend and colleague, Rev. Dr. Felix Gilbert, passed into the presence of the Lord. Felix has been a part of the Denver Seminary community for some time, completing his Master of Divinity in the Fall of 2008 and his Doctor of Ministry degree in May 2017. He joined the faculty in 2013 and served as assistant professor of Pastoral Leadership and Ministry and director of the Urban Initiative and was the founder of the Black Student Fellowship. He and his wife, Kotane, served as co-pastors of Restoration Christian Fellowship. Felix is survived by Kotane and their three adult children, Veronica, Gerald, and Eddie.

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## **New Certificate Program to be Managed by Alumna**



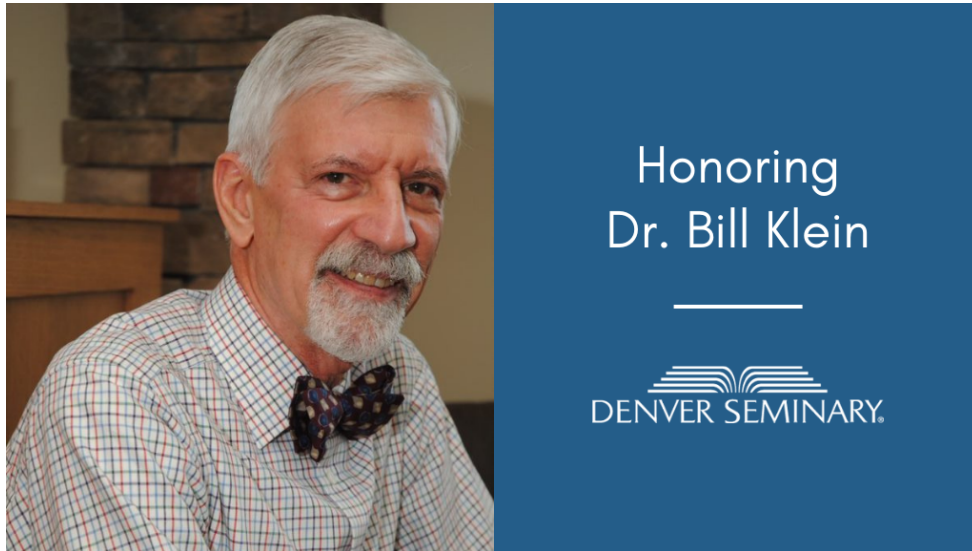
Exciting things are happening on the DC campus this fall! DC alumna Rev. Iantha Brown, MDiv, will serve as a recruiter and Urban Initiatives community liaison for the extension site. In this role, she will network with local community leaders and churches to solicit students for the Lay Ministry Certificate Program as part of the Institute of Ministerial Studies and Urban Initiatives.

Denver Seminary continues to create innovative pathways to advance in ministry even for those who don't currently hold an undergraduate degree. The Lay Ministry Certificate program, launching in Fall 2021, is a one-year program that includes six core courses and four seminars. This program is designed to train, equip, and support men and women to serve more confidently in their positions of leadership in their church, Christian organizations, or the workplace, and can be a bridge to graduate level training. As a result of this training our students will grow spiritually, intellectually, and professionally to lead God's people in the fulfillment of His mission in the world.

For students who are not ready to complete a master's level degree, the Lay Ministry Certificate program provides an affordable, accessible, and applicable opportunity in the course of one year. We are accepting applications now until August 15th. If you want to know more. contact Iantha Brown.

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## Retiring Professor Dr. Bill Klein Reflects on His Journey with Christ



Since 1978, Professor of New Testament Dr. Bill Klein has been an esteemed member of the Denver Seminary faculty, revered not only for his scholarly work, biblical and theological knowledge, and excellence in the classroom, but also for his iconic handlebar mustache. He's an MDiv graduate from Denver Seminary, and holds a BS from Wheaton College and a PhD in New Testament from the University of Aberdeen. He has served in pastoral ministry and has been an elder in various local churches during his years in Denver.

Dr. Don Payne, VP of Academic Affairs, Academic Dean, and Associate Professor of Theology, spent some time with Dr. Klein as he shared about his life and career.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



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## Denver Seminary is Hiring!



Denver Seminary is always looking for highly qualified and gifted individuals that God has called to assist us in our mission of preparing men and women to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture. Collectively, students, staff, and faculty at Denver Seminary work hard and play hard. Both Faculty and Staff positions are available.

**JOB OPENINGS**

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## Is Our Ministry Residency Program a Fit for Your Church or Nonprofit?

Our [Ministry Residency Program](#) is a partnership between Denver Seminary and local churches/non-profits in which students from the Seminary work as interns in return for tuition compensation.

This is a win-win-win situation! Students receive practical, hands-on experience and a reduction in tuition. Churches/nonprofits hire ministry-minded individuals for a lower cost than a permanent employee. And Denver Seminary graduates are more well-rounded individuals, leaving school with less debt. If you work for a church or nonprofit near one of our campuses and are interested in learning more about offering a Ministry Residency, contact [Brian Gehr](#), alumni relations specialist.



## RESOURCES AND MEDIA

Stay up-to-date on Denver Seminary panel discussions and podcasts by regularly checking out our [Newsroom](#) on the Denver Seminary website. New podcasts are released regularly. Our next In Perspective panel is scheduled for May 20.



### Sharing a Meal and the Gospel

Meet Isaac Olivarez, husband, father, pastor, MA New Testament student, and founder of Urban Outreach Denver, a hybrid dinner church and nonprofit that serves crowds of Denver's most marginalized residents. Joined by professors Dr. Joey Dodson and Dr. Don Payne, Isaac shares his powerful testimony and the courageous ways God has called him to serve the homeless. Through Thursday community dinners, Isaac and his team are able to share meals and the gospel in tandem. In this way, they remove barriers to Christ and provide full inclusion to people as they work to meet both their physical and spiritual needs.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



### Preparing the World for a Simple and Lasting Awakening

Andy Byrd, Denver Seminary student and missionary, joins us to discuss his own spiritual journey, the need for and significance of another "Great Awakening," and how a return to the simplicity of Scripture can create global change. In his work, Andy helps to guide young adults as they bring gospel awareness to the nations. With Don Payne, he explores the significance of the next gospel-guided cultural movement and digs into how his education is working to prepare him even more both personally and professionally.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



## ***In Perspective Panel Discussion: Intergenerational Investment***



**Thursday, May 20  
11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. MT**

**REGISTER HERE**

God's purposes for his people do not change at the age of retirement, and yet our western culture tends to undervalue those in their third season of life. How do we empower our churches and organizations to utilize, embrace, and serve our older generations? What does it look like to make intergenerational investments, mobilizing seniors to finish well by impacting others through their giftings, experience, wisdom, and encouragement in what could be one of their most fruitful season of life?

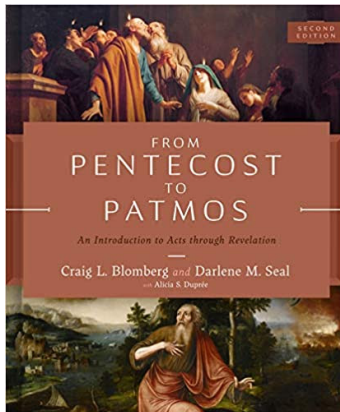


**Stay connected to other alumni. [Click here](#) to join the Denver Seminary Alumni Facebook Group! Share updates, ask questions, and find resources, while receiving details about news and events from Denver Seminary.**

# FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

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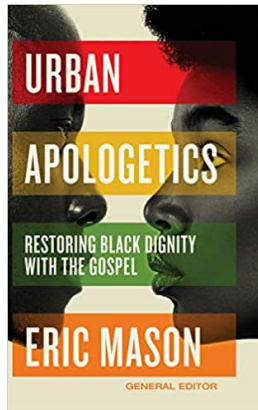
Check out recent publications from Denver Seminary faculty, staff, and alumni. If you have a publication you'd like us to consider sharing, email Alumni Relations Specialist [Brian Gehr](#).



## From Pentecost to Patmos (2nd Ed.)

Dr. Craig Blomberg  
*Distinguished Professor of NT and Darlene Seal alumna ('15), with Alicia Dupree alumna ('18)*

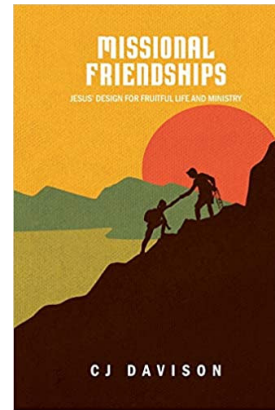
This unique introductory New Testament textbook provides the context and clarity that readers need to better understand Acts through Revelation. The second edition includes expanded footnotes and a lengthier, up-to-date introduction to Paul. Newly added review questions, maps, and diagrams enhance the scholarship and make the resource truly user-friendly.



## Urban Apologetics: Restoring Black Dignity with the Gospel

Brandon Washington  
*alumnus ('14) (contributor)*

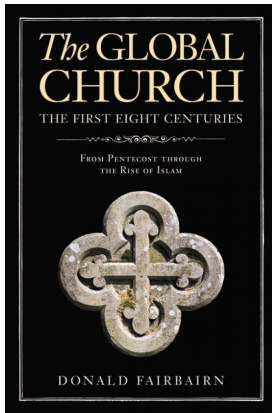
*Urban Apologetics* is the first book focused entirely on cults, religious groups, and ethnocentric ideologies prevalent in the black community. It brings the church up to speed on the legitimate issues that blacks have with Western Christianity as well as the questions alternative religious groups pose about historic Christianity, and it applies the gospel to black identity to show that Jesus is the only one who can restore our identity.



## Missional Friendships: Jesus' Design for Fruitful Life and Ministry

CJ Davison  
*alumnus ('18)*

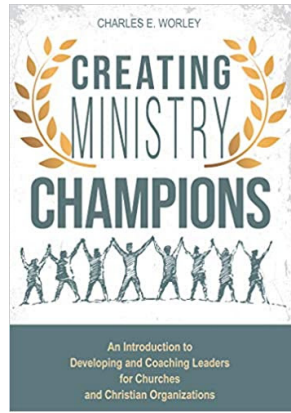
*Missional Friendships* will help you discover God's heart for life, friendship and ministry by exploring Jesus' mission and model in John 14-17. The author demonstrates through stories from hands-on ministry experience and thoughtful, practically-oriented Scripture exposition how friendship that bears fruit is intrinsic to the heart of God. A great resource for ministry leaders across a broad variety of cultural contexts.



### **The Global Church: The First Eight Centuries**

Dr. Donald Fairbairn  
*alumnus ('89)*

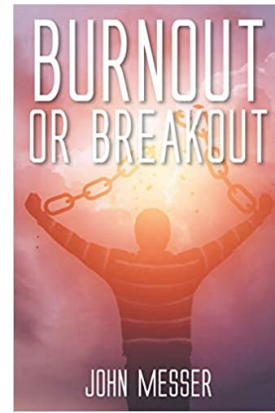
This book is an ideal introduction to the patristic era that broadens the narrative often recounted and places it more firmly in its various cultural contexts. Students of the early church, formal and informal alike, will appreciate the fresh approach and depth of insight it provides.



### **Creating Ministry Champions**

Charles Worley  
*alumnus ('90)*

Coaching is one of the best ways to help make disciples of Jesus and create ministry champions. Providing you with the basic knowledge and skills, this text will equip you to coach others in their service for the Lord. You will learn skillsets and best practices, including the who, what, where, and how of partnering with God in creating ministry champions.



### **Burnout or Breakout**

John Messer  
*alumnus ('95)*

This book brings hope to stifled leaders on the verge of burnout. Building on biblical and experiential evidence, the author presents burnout as a systemic problem. Adopting a systems perspective enables leaders to discover how their church really works and provides tools and strategies to help them realign their church system for health and efficacy.

*Please note that the views expressed in alumni publications do not necessarily reflect the views of Denver Seminary.*

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## Additional Publications



**Dr. Douglas Groothuis**

### **God and Our Ignorance**

Contrary to popular thinking, Christianity is a “knowledge tradition” and calls people to knowledge of God, themselves, and the gospel. This also means, paradoxically, that we ought to know what it is that we cannot possibly know and how we should orient ourselves to our not-knowing under God. This essay can be found in The Christian Research Journal, Vol. 43.

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