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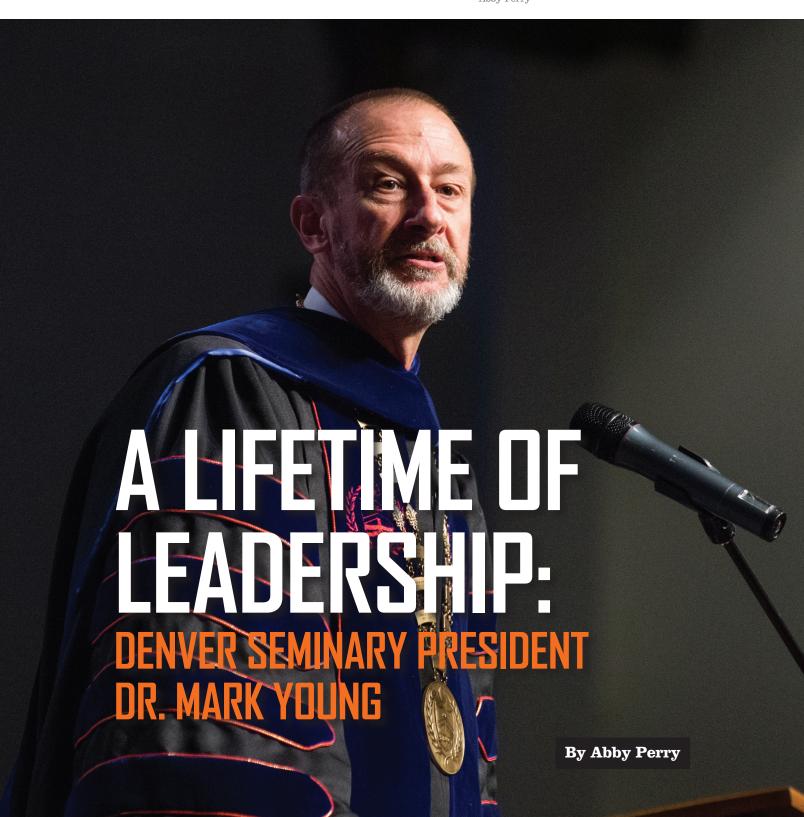
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Several times throughout the past fifteen years I have jokingly referred to myself as "a missionary trapped in a president's office." Well, maybe only half-jokingly. Truth is, Priscilla and I have always seen our calling as theological educators in the framework of the Church's global mission. Whether living and serving outside the United States; pouring ourselves into international students and those preparing to be missionaries while teaching in the United States, or leading Denver Seminary, global mission has remained at the center of our identity.

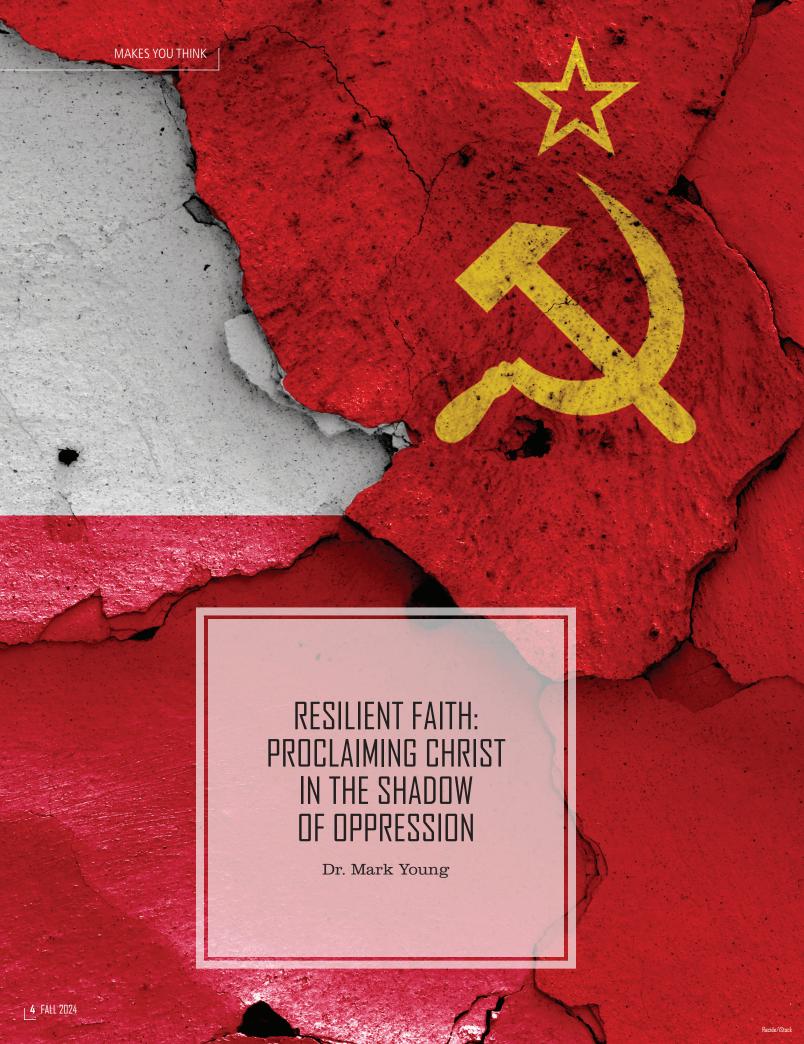
That's why I'm thrilled that this edition of *Engage* magazine, my last as President, focuses on Denver Seminary's long-standing commitment to the global Church. Throughout its almost seventy-five-year history, the Seminary has adapted to the changing dynamics of global engagement. In the early years, we educated dozens of American-born missionaries who served in countries on every continent except Antarctica. Through the years we've accepted hundreds of international students who returned to minister in their homelands. More recently, we've developed programs in Spanish and Korean. Each semester we educate students online in numerous countries around the globe. In addition, we are well underway to making all of our programs completable fully online, an accomplishment that will help us reach even more students who cannot come to Denver to study. Although the Seminary's engagement with the global Church has morphed through the years, adapting to changing circumstances both here and abroad, our commitment to it has never waned. In fact, that commitment has only gotten stronger.

It has been my privilege to serve the global Church as a theological educator for over forty years. To imagine that God is using us in countries we've never been to in the lives of those we've never personally met takes my breath away. What an honor, what a gift of grace from the Lord Jesus.

Grateful,

Mark Co





"ARRIVE AFTER DARK ON THE 9:10 P.M. TRAIN. WHEN YOU GET OFF THE TRAIN, CHECK YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND THEN WALK OUT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE STATION. ACROSS THE SQUARE, YOU WILL SEE A MAN WITH A FOLDED NEWSPAPER UNDER HIS LEFT ARM. WALK INTO THE SQUARE. IF HE DOESN'T MOVE, WALK AWAY FROM HIM AND EVENTUALLY FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO THE STATION TO LEAVE ON THE NEXT TRAIN, NO MATTER WHERE IT'S GOING. IF HE BEGINS WALKING, FOLLOW HIM, KEEPING BACK AT LEAST ONE BLOCK. WHEN HE TURNS LEFT DOWN A SIDE STREET, FOLLOW, AND THEN STEP INTO THE SECOND DOORWAY."



The instructions were clear, and they needed to be followed. The police in that city had aggressively persecuted pastors in the past few years. Any contact with foreigners was strictly forbidden.

All unfolded as planned, and as I stepped into the doorway, Pastor "John" welcomed me with a warm embrace. He held his forefinger up to his lips to make sure I didn't speak, and then quickly guided me up four flights of stairs to the two-room apartment where five other pastors were gathered. We would spend the next three days together studying the book of Romans, keeping our voices low so the neighbors wouldn't hear an English speaker through the paper-thin walls in the shoddily constructed Soviet-era apartment building. No one left the apartment until nightfall on our last day.

WHEN PREACHING MEANS DANGER

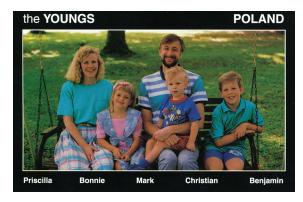
In that room were men whose call to preach the gospel meant danger and hardship. One had been imprisoned because of his preaching. Another was convinced that his father, also a pastor, had been murdered by the authorities while hospitalized. Another's eleven-year-old daughter had been traumatized by the public shaming and threats

she endured at her local school. All were routinely followed, called in for questioning, and threatened by the police in their cities. And all remained defiant in their resolve to faithfully proclaim the gospel, no matter the cost.

These pastors were students in a nonformal theological education program that operated without government permission in the Soviet bloc countries of Eastern Europe. My wife, Priscilla, and I had moved to Vienna, Austria in 1982 to join a small group of missionaries developing and executing this program. Scenarios like the one above occurred regularly as we traveled throughout the region from 1982 to 1986, meeting with small groups of pastors who were willing to risk government backlash, and even imprisonment, to receive the theological training they craved but could get no other way.

In that room were men whose call to preach the gospel meant danger and hardship... All were routinely followed, called in for questioning, and threatened by the police in their cities. And all remained defiant in their resolve to faithfully proclaim the gospel, no matter the cost.

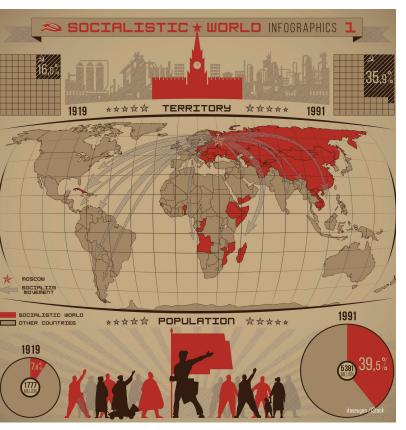




In 1988 we moved our young family into Poland to work with a dear friend and pastor, Zygmunt Karel, in the establishment of a new seminary. At that time, free-church Protestants made up less than one-tenth of one percent of the predominantly Roman Catholic country. Because of the strength of the Church in Poland, Josef Stalin had allegedly quipped that imposing a communist regime there was as "absurd as putting a saddle on a cow." Communism never really fit in Poland, and it served no real purpose but to strengthen the resolve of Polish people to live free again.

HOPE AND UNCERTAINTY

Living in Poland in 1989, while the communist government faced mounting opposition from the trade union "Solidarity" and the essential



economic systems began to collapse, proved both exhilarating and challenging. Hope filled the air, as did uncertainty. Just finding food and fuel became a challenge. But the big question hanging over the region that summer was whether Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union at that time, would mobilize his troops and invade Poland to quell the political unrest, just as his predecessors had done in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Living in that kind of instability and uncertainty tested our faith. Some urged us to return to Vienna until the situation in Poland stabilized. But we sensed no freedom from the Lord to do so. We were there to serve alongside our Polish brothers and sisters who had no options to leave for a safer place. What would our evacuation from Poland communicate to them? So, we stayed. When Gorbachev chose not to invade, and Poland created the first freely elected government in Eastern Europe since the end of WWII, the Soviet bloc began to fall apart, and a fresh wind of optimism blew across the entire region.

We had become part of a small team of likeminded friends who wanted to start something new in Poland: a seminary that would serve the broader Church. We were short on resources, but long on hope. Before we admitted the first group of students, we joked with one another that we had a classroom with no students, library shelves with no books, and a budget with no money! But we had each other, and we shared a vision to train leaders for the Polish Church, and ultimately, for the sake of the gospel.

We had become part of a small team of likeminded friends who wanted to start something new in Poland: a seminary that would serve the broader Church.

I will never forget the day we gathered that first small incoming class in 1990 and officially opened the new school. On that day we saw something come to fruition that we had dreamed about, prayed for, and worked hard to establish for an entire decade.

THREE TRUTHS FOREVER ON OUR HEARTS

Five years later, with the school well-established, we moved back to the United States as different people. Those years in Eastern Europe engraved three truths on our hearts that have shaped our lives and ministry ever since. First, the gospel matters most (1 Cor. 2:2). It frames our identity, our decision-making, and our hope. No matter what roles we have taken in ministry, including the presidency of Denver Seminary, we have fulfilled them for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

At times we walked the knife edge of faith and folly. Meeting with groups of pastors in communist Europe was illegal. The pastors understood the risks better than we did, for many of them had already paid a heavy price for the privilege of preaching the gospel. We convinced ourselves that it probably wouldn't be politically expedient for those countries to take us into



custody should we be discovered. However, being pulled off a train and held for twenty-four hours in a Romanian police station made me question that assumption. We took precautions at every turn. Because our first priority was to protect the identity of the pastors we met with, none of us used our real names in the groups. All of us knew the risks, and we all believed that our common calling to the gospel justified those risks. It's okay to do something audacious for the sake of the gospel.

Second, there are no greater bonds of koinonia than those forged in "the fellowship of the gospel" (Phil. 1:5). A group of brothers and sisters yoked together and committed to one another for the sake of something bigger than themselves creates relationships that cannot be replicated any other way. Our little team in Poland loved one another, fussed with one another, served one another, trusted one another, grieved and rejoiced with one another, and sacrificed whatever was necessary to pursue our common vision. Titles and pedigrees didn't matter. Commitment and sacrifice did. Whatever needed to be done, we joined together to do it, regardless of title or degree. And our commitment to one another went far beyond the roles we had at the seminary. We wept and rejoiced together as we walked together through the joys and sorrows of everyday life.

Priscilla and I have shared a common calling in ministry for over forty years. We have different gifts, different personalities, different family backgrounds, and different training. We have blended these differences together in a blessed alliance that, we pray, the Lord has used to make the good news of the gospel known throughout the earth.

Third, our home was the place where truths spoken in the classroom took root in the hearts and lives of our students. Priscilla and I share a calling to help strengthen God's people to live out a credible and compelling gospel witness in

every sphere of life. We live out that calling in many ways, but the most poignant of these is hospitality. In Poland we lived only a five-minute walk from the seminary. Our home became the de facto student center and a powerful nonformal classroom; more powerful, in fact, than we realized at the time. Our family—two adults, three kids, a dog, and a cat—lived in a 900 square foot row house with one bathroom. We often had a student living with us as well. It was, shall we say, cozy. Just about every afternoon and evening we had students and fellow staff members join us as well. We welcomed them into our home and into our often messy, sometimes hilarious, and periodically chaotic lives. And when the seminary hosted a farewell party for us, student after student commented on how our home had been a place of healing, modeling, and encouragement for them.



Priscilla and I have shared a common calling in ministry for over forty years. We have different gifts, different personalities, different family backgrounds, and different training. We have blended these differences together in a blessed alliance that, we pray, the Lord has used to make the good news of the gospel known throughout the earth. Now in the final months of my time as president of Denver Seminary, I can say without hesitation that we stand amazed at the generous grace of our Lord and possess great gratitude for all that He has allowed us to do for the sake of the gospel.

Dr. Mark Young

PRESIDENT

Dr. Mark Young is the president of Denver Seminary. He holds a PhD in Educational Studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a ThM in New Testament Literature and Exegesis from Dallas Theological Seminary.



ALFERNACY PRESIDENT DR. MARK YOUNG

By Abby Perry

"THAT'S YOU."

THOSE ARE THE WORDS THAT PRISCILLA, DR. MARK YOUNG'S WIFE AND PARTNER IN MINISTRY, SAID TO HIM WHEN SHE READ THE OPPORTUNITY PROFILE FOR THE DENVER SEMINARY PRESIDENCY OVER FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. DR. YOUNG REMEMBERS THE MOMENT CLEARLY—PRISCILLA TURNED TO HIM ON THEIR SHARED SOFA AND CONFIDENTLY SPOKE THAT LIFE-ALTERING PHRASE.

Having spent decades in global ministry, the Youngs found the transition from living overseas to reentering American life difficult. Concerned that seminaries were functioning as institutions primarily focused on "helping Christians learn how to be better Christians," they wondered if serving Denver Seminary could be their chance to "see if theological education could be turned outward. . . if the actual mission of enterprise could be those who don't yet know Christ."

For the past fifteen years, Dr. Young has guided Denver Seminary in developing that external focus and led the school to continually engage the world with the good news of Jesus Christ.

A HISTORY OF HORIZONS

Dr. Young grew up in Appalachia. His father, who had been the first in their family line to attend high school, urged Dr. Young to finish high school and go to college.

Education helped him imagine a life "beyond the rim of the holler." Delightful as his childhood was, attending school helped Dr. Young picture a wider array of possible futures.

During his university years, Dr. Young experienced a calling to follow Jesus and become a theological educator. He met Priscilla, who had grown up as a missionary kid in Ethiopia, while in seminary. The couple married and moved to Eastern Europe, where they provided theological education in the Soviet bloc. This choice is one of many in Dr. Young's life that highlights his "sweet spot," which consists of continually stepping into new environments, gaining new experiences, and asking new questions.

This season taught them that, as Christians, it's okay to do something audacious and step into insecure scenarios.

The Youngs eventually moved to Poland, a decision met with criticism from those who



considered them foolish for moving into a communist country with two children under the age of five. This season taught them that, as Christians, it's okay to do something audacious and step into insecure scenarios. They saw God do incredible work and received opportunities to serve His mission in ways they never could have imagined, including the founding of Biblical Theological Seminary in Wroclaw, Poland.

After reflecting on this chapter of his life, Dr. Young identifies a "willingness to step into whatever God lays before [us] with this keen sense that He is going to provide" as a key aspect of the Christian life. This framework has continued to define the Youngs' trajectory. As new possibilities cross their paths, they ask themselves whether the opportunity is consistent with who they are and their God-given mission. If the answer is "yes," then they faithfully accept the opportunity before them. On the day when Priscilla read Denver Seminary's presidential opportunity profile to Dr. Young, their answer was "yes."

OUR COMMON ENDEAVOR

As Dr. Young began his role as president of the



Seminary, he led the administration in reframing the Seminary's mission statement "to express our desire that theological education address the needs of the world as it helps shape and form those who will lead the Church." That bold revision quickly drew faculty members into a stronger sense of the Seminary's mission.

Dr. Young also challenged the institution's stakeholders to consider what other changes were necessary to meet the needs of a rapidly changing society. He drew heavily upon his experience as a missionary, in which contextualization is imperative for reaching people with the gospel. In the seminary setting, Dr. Young knew that change for change's sake would not be purposeful or successful. Instead, he set out to lead the institution toward change for the sake of those the Seminary is called to serve.

However, these changes don't come without sacrifice. Dr. Young notes that "change always involves loss. . . and it is very much part of the call to seek the good of others above our own good, which mirrors the movement of Christ."

When it comes to the loss associated with change, the decision to sell some of the Seminary's fixed assets stands out as especially acute. Dr. Young and fellow administrators realized that the Seminary was not able to endure a significant downturn in enrollment from a financial perspective. In order to shift the school's fiscal model toward resilience, institutional leadership agreed to sell the Seminary's campus housing to an outside vendor, completely renovating the school's revenue model and empowering its future sustainability. This, Dr. Young notes, was simultaneously a difficult decision and one that will equip Denver Seminary for long-term flourishing.

Another formative shift was leading the institution toward a more flexible posture that would allow for busy students, many of whom already possess ministry jobs and families, to fit seminary education into their current stage of life. Dr. Young initiated a years-long process of shortening the Master of Divinity program

and other degrees. Then came the next step—the Seminary began working toward making these degrees fully accessible online.

Dr. Young has also honed new models of discipleship at the Seminary, spending tremendous amounts of "quiet" time building relationships with trustees and their families. When he gathers with these stakeholders, they don't just talk business. They read Scripture together, pray with one another, and build a strong community capable of coming together to make faithful decisions for the Seminary's future.

This relational emphasis ties to Dr. Young's belief in the importance of possessing the courage to lead and the willingness to pay the price of leadership. For Dr. Young, this looks like an approach that includes "being willing to say, 'I don't know everything I ought to know, but I know enough to know we need to take this direction."

BUILDING TOGETHER TOWARD PROGRESS

One such direction was The Gospel Initiative (TGI), a ministry of Denver Seminary that conducts ongoing research and hosts conferences related to the most difficult issues in American society. The point of the initiative, Dr. Young emphasizes, is not to stake out specific theological positions. Instead, The Gospel Initiative facilitates public discussion with qualified leaders in the pursuit of a more compelling, credible, and compassionate gospel presence. From climate change to gender identity, TGI does not shy away from topics that often produce discord. Instead, the initiative's leaders hold fast to their calling to strengthen the Church, even—perhaps especially—as it strives to navigate divisive yet significant issues.

A topic that often arises in the TGI context—race and racism—has a particular personal connection for Dr. Young. During his tenure as president, Dr. Young and fellow Seminary leaders have sought to rebuild relationships with historically Black churches in the Denver area. Throughout this process, Dr. Young and TGI have greatly benefited from the perspective of friends of color.



Dr. Young notes that interethnic work tends to have a three steps forward, one step back dynamic.

"You're building a bridge over a deep, deep chasm, and there are times when you may step too far, and what you're working together to build begins to collapse," he says. Like many areas of the Church, Denver Seminary has room to continue its journey of racial reconciliation. However, Dr. Young is thankful for the contributions of Black faculty, staff, and community members who have made inroads toward progress possible.

Additionally, the Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative, funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation, has improved the Seminary's programming for students ministering in traditionally Hispanic churches. The initiative began with a year of listening to Hispanic congregations and leaders, asking them how the Seminary could better serve their churches. The responses revealed that the Seminary's traditional programming was not meeting their core needs. Thus, the Seminary's administration is actively working to shift curricular foci, modality, and learning outcomes to better fit these Hispanic contexts.

Several other initiatives designed to cultivate wholeness in individuals and relationships have also flourished under Dr. Young's tenure, including the Korean Global Campus and the School Counseling Mental Health Initiative. Dr. Young refuses to take credit for either, pointing instead to the creativity and persistence of faculty and staff members.

As he and Priscilla step into their next chapter, they are doing so with deep satisfaction. They have seen God work in ways they never could have anticipated. They have watched God change lives. And they have fixed their eyes on the kingdom, ever-stepping toward its horizon.

"Truly," Dr. Young says, "Our only role as the administration is to say, "That sounds great,' and then help create the resourcing that's needed to bring [such initiatives] to bear." Dr. Young takes great joy in the opportunities he has been blessed with to establish structures and provide resources for the ideas of the Seminary's dedicated faculty and staff.

In his words, it's been nothing less than "thrilling."

LED FOR A LIFETIME

Dr. Young often tells incoming Seminary students that he envies them. He'd love to do it all over again—to step into such educational opportunities in an era with such great access to information. He craves the transformation they're embarking upon, not because he hasn't experienced it for himself, but precisely because he has. The joy of following God's leading and "living into the giftedness" that God has given him and Priscilla only makes him more eager to continue listening to God's voice.

As he and Priscilla step into their next chapter, they are doing so with deep satisfaction. They have seen God work in ways they never could have anticipated. They have watched God change lives. And they have fixed their eyes on the kingdom, ever-stepping toward its horizon.



Building on Our History to Shape the Future: Denver Seminary Celebrates 75 Years!



Since its founding in 1950, Denver Seminary has grown from a small institution into a beacon of theological education and spiritual formation. Over the decades, Denver Seminary has equipped thousands of men and women to serve in diverse ministries around the globe, fostering a legacy of faith, scholarship, and community impact.

As we approach this significant anniversary, we reflect on the Seminary's rich history, celebrate who we are today, and look forward to a future brimming with promise and potential. Throughout the year we will share stories of alumni, faculty, and students whose lives have been transformed by Denver Seminary. Additionally, we will host several events celebrating our past and looking toward the future, culminating in a very special event on Friday, September 12, 2025. We invite you to celebrate our history and be a part of shaping the future!

Learn more about Denver Seminary and our 75[™] anniversary celebration at DenverSeminary.edu.





THE KOREAN CHURCH, A DYNAMIC FORCE WITHIN GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY, HAS NAVIGATED CENTURIES OF POLITICAL TURMOIL AND OPPRESSION. TODAY, APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PERCENT OF SOUTH KOREA'S POPULATION AND THIRTY-THREE PERCENT OF THE KOREAN DIASPORA ARE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS. THE KOREAN CHURCH SENDS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MISSIONARIES PER CAPITA TO THE WORLD. THIS ARTICLE DELVES INTO THE RICH HISTORY AND REMARKABLE GROWTH OF THE KOREAN CHURCH, HIGHLIGHTING ITS EMERGENCE AS A SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL FORCE.

EARLY FOUNDATIONS AND STRUGGLES

Evidence suggests that Nestorian Christianity reached the Korean Peninsula in ancient times, laying early foundations for the faith. Centuries later, in the 1700s, Roman Catholicism was introduced, followed by Protestantism in the late 1800s, brought by Western missionaries.

The evangelical Protestant Church contributed significantly to the modernization of the Joseon dynasty (1391-1910), Korea's longest-lived imperial dynasty. During the Japanese colonial period (1910-1945), Korean evangelical Protestant churches became a source of hope for the Korean people. Many martyrs were produced in the process of resisting the Japanese colonial rule that forced them to visit shrines and worship Japanese gods. Additionally, during this same period, Korean evangelical Christianity produced many independence activists. The representative figure among them was Dr. Syngman Rhee (1875-1965), who became the first president of the Republic of Korea in 1948 after Korea was liberated from Japanese colonial oppression.



THE KOREAN WAR AND POST-WAR REVIVAL

At this same time, the South Korean government was recognized by the United Nations as the official government of the Korean Peninsula. The city of Pyongyang in North Korea had been the center of Korean Christianity during the Japanese colonial era and immediately after liberation, earning the nickname "Jerusalem of the East." Before the Korean War, there were approximately 3,000 churches in North Korea, and about onesixth of Pyongyang's population of 300,000 were Christians. However, a separate government, supported by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, was established in North Korea with Kim Il-Sung at the center. Consequently, the North Korean Communist Party persecuted and killed Christians, leading many to migrate to South Korea. As a result, South Korea became the center of Christianity on the Korean Peninsula.

As of 2024, Korean churches have sent approximately 25,000 missionaries globally. There is no doubt that God has continuously blessed the Korean Church in its mission to spread the gospel.

The Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953, devastated the Korean Peninsula. However, during the post-war reconstruction period lasting from the early 1960s to the end of the 1990s, the Korean Church experienced incredible revival and unprecedented expansion in the history of the global church. During this time, Billy Graham famously held a gospel crusade in Yeouido, Seoul in 1973, resulting in hundreds of thousands of people becoming Christians. With the drastic growth of Christianity, Korea became home to the world's largest Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, Pentecostal Church, Baptist Church, Holiness Church, and Independent Church. Since



2000, however, the Korean Church has been in a period of recession, a decline exacerbated by COVID-19. Nevertheless, a large percentage of the population of South Korea and the Korean diaspora are evangelical Christians.

GLOBAL MISSION AND MODERN CHALLENGES

The Korean Church, which owes its knowledge of the gospel to Western missionaries, particularly those from the American Church, has aimed to be a missional church from the beginning and sends the largest number of missionaries per capita to the world. As of 2024, Korean churches have sent approximately 25,000 missionaries globally. There is no doubt that God has continuously blessed the Korean Church in its mission to spread the gospel.

Korean missionaries, widely welcomed and effective in their work, underscore the Church's readiness to bridge the global North and South, fostering deeper and richer connections within the global community of believers.

The Korean Church is playing a significant role in global missions and hosted the Fourth Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Seoul in September 2024. The Lausanne Movement is led by Michael Oh, a Korean-American evangelical leader who serves as the global executive director/CEO. Additionally, Seoul is set to host the World Evangelical Alliance's (WEA) General Assembly in 2025. These events mark a shift in the Korean Church's role, transitioning from a beneficiary to a major contributor of theological and spiritual resources worldwide. Since the early days of missionary engagement, Korea has evolved into both a leader and a servant within the global church community.

The Korean evangelical Church has firmly established itself as a global Church, having

successfully inherited and built upon the theological traditions of the Western Church. This foundation spurred remarkable growth and revival over its 140-year history, during which it maintained a close relationship with the Western Church. Simultaneously, the Korean Church has cultivated rapport with churches in the Global South, characterized by shared spirituality, sensibility, and ethos. Korean missionaries, widely welcomed and effective in their work, underscore the Church's readiness to bridge the global North and South, fostering deeper and richer connections within the global community of believers.

Parallel to these developments, Korean immigrant churches in the United States have mirrored this growth trajectory. Over the past century, and especially from 1960 to 2000, these churches expanded rapidly in parallel with their counterparts in Korea. Today, approximately 4,000 Korean immigrant churches span major denominations, contributing significantly to Presbyterian, Methodist, Pentecostal, Holiness, and Baptist churches. Dozens of these Korean immigrant churches have grown to over 2,000 attendees each. This dynamic growth reflects the central spiritual and cultural role that the Church plays within the Korean immigrant community, serving as a haven for celebrating Korean identity and preserving cultural heritage, much like it did during Korea's occupation.

While the pandemic significantly impacted these churches, many are now in recovery, though challenges persist. Nevertheless, Korean immigrant churches continue to serve as vital centers for worship, evangelism, discipleship training, and global mission engagement.

Clearly, the Church remains a cornerstone of Korean life and history, both in Korea and abroad. From its humble beginnings and throughout numerous challenges, the Church has been blessed and many Koreans have been called to active participation in the global Church community. Once a recipient of spiritual



generosity, the Korean Church is now committed to extending its blessings beyond national and cultural boundaries.

DENVER SEMINARY'S KOREAN GLOBAL CAMPUS

Since its founding in 1950, Denver Seminary has welcomed a significant number of Korean students. It's estimated that around 200-250 of the 6,000 alumni, approximately 3-4 percent, are of Korean descent. In January 2020, the Seminary expanded its reach by establishing the Korean Global Campus, which now offers Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological Studies, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry programs in Korean. The master's programs are delivered in a fully online asynchronous format, while the DMin program is offered synchronously online.

Currently, over twenty Korean immigrant professors, many of whom hold PhDs or equivalent degrees from prestigious institutions such as the University of Oxford, the University of Aberdeen, Boston University, London University, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, teach at the Korean Global Campus. Each semester, an average of 100 students, including both master's and doctoral candidates, are enrolled. These students are split roughly evenly between those located in the United States and those spread across Korea and other parts of the world. Many of them are actively engaged in missionary work in various countries, including India, Thailand, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Vietnam, France, Brazil, Panama, Mexico, Canada, and Japan.

The Korean Global Campus at Denver Seminary is more than just a program for Koreans; it is a vibrant part of the global mission to expand the Kingdom of God through robust biblical and theological education.

In the nearly five years since its inception, the Korean Global Campus has produced numerous graduates who are now serving as pastors, missionaries, and workers in local churches, mission fields, organizations, and Christian colleges and seminaries worldwide.

This success highlights the Korean Global Campus' contribution to Denver Seminary's core commitment to global engagement.

Moreover, the campus upholds the Seminary's dedication to "biblical authority, vigorous scholarship, charitable orthodoxy, and redemptive relationships."

The Korean Global Campus at Denver Seminary is more than just a program for Koreans; it is a vibrant part of the global mission to expand the Kingdom of God through robust biblical and theological education. At the graduation ceremony on May 10, 2024, Pastor Jung-Hyun Oh from Sarang Church in Seoul, a notable contributor to world missions, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity. This honor reflects the ongoing cooperation and productive partnership between Denver Seminary and the Korean Church. We pray that God will continue to bless the Denver Seminary Korean Global Campus and use it to fulfill His magnificent plan for global missions.



Dr. Sung Wook Chung

PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, DIRECTOR OF ASIAN INITIATIVE, AND CHAIR OF KOREAN GLOBAL CAMPUS

Dr. Sung Wook Chung is professor of Christian theology, director of the Asian Initiative, and chair of Korean Studies Program. He holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford and an MDiv from Harvard University.



EXPERTS IN THEIR OWN STORIES

Dr. Teri Elliott-Hart, Assistant Professor of Training and Mentoring

A recent Global Campus graduate serves a church in New England that was established over a hundred years ago, with an average attendance of fifty people who enjoy hymns and the organ. This graduate was pleased that Denver Seminary not only equipped her with sound doctrine, but also



developed her ability to live and minister well to her beloved people.

She was trained in her own context with a local mentor guided by Denver Seminary's Training and Mentoring curriculum. Circumstances like this reveal how the Seminary can support a range of students vocationally, whether they plan to serve as part-time rural pastors, plant multilingual non-denominational churches in Amsterdam, or do counseling work among refugees.

Because professional training and whole-life formation experiences are embedded in our students' everyday environments, being educated in and for diverse contexts is a natural part of Denver Seminary's global reach. In our Training and Mentoring introductory course, we explain to students that their lives are the curricula. They are experts in their own stories.

Another beautiful example of this comes to mind with one of my students, Chadrack. Despite some reservations, he entered a formational mentoring relationship, through which he has experienced encouragement, coaching, and challenge. Little did he know that the partnership he began with someone he had just met would transform into a lifelong friendship and ministry partnership.



Chadrack and his wife, Erica, came to Denver Seminary with a vision of being prepared to open an outreach center that would meet spiritual and physical needs in communities throughout their home country. Love for their people inspired this couple to begin a ministry that would

address the child poverty, high unemployment, and limited access to theological training affecting Burundi.

Last summer, this dream began to come to fruition. Having been equipped through foundational courses on leadership, theology, and ministry, Chadrack and Erica embarked on a trip back home to assess the context, strategy, and logistics behind establishing such programs.

Chadrack was surprised and appreciative when one of his mentors, Dr. Bentley Tate, asked to join them on that vision trip back to his homeland. "Rather than only being a country the World Bank lists as the poorest in the world, Burundi became the home of a dear friend," Dr. Tate said. "Through my relationship with Chadrack, it is now a place I yearn to participate in ongoing spiritual transformation."

Mutually beneficial mentoring is a popular phrase in management coaching, indicating that good mentoring relationships are empowering and growth oriented for both mentee and mentor. How much more can mutual growth be a significant aspect in Christian mentoring relationships, where God is actively present in the process as each person opens themselves to maturing together for the sake of Jesus and others?



Dr. Teri Elliott-Hart is assistant professor of Training and Mentoring. She holds a PhD in Practical Theology from Boston College, a MEd in Teaching and Curriculum from Harvard University, and a BA in Education Studies from Brown University.





A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND LEADERSHIP— THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COHORT









Denver Seminary's Women's Leadership Cohort (WLC) is a transformative program designed for women who aspire to earn their Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological Studies. This cohort brings together speakers, authors, writers, women's ministry leaders, and those involved in church and parachurch ministries, creating a dynamic and supportive learning community.

The WLC offers the perfect blend of formal theological training and a safe, intimate learning environment. Participants benefit from the flexibility of online learning, complemented by opportunities for in-person connections, making it easier to balance the demands of busy schedules. This program is an exceptional opportunity for women to grow as leaders alongside like-minded individuals, gaining both academic knowledge and practical skills within a nurturing community.

"My dream is to build what I wish I had.

And I think that there's something so powerful about women linking arms and being able to understand each other's worlds."

Vivian Mabuni

WLC FOUNDER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

"Having a community that is safe and supportive – as well as being in a degree program with others who understand your life demands – makes seminary as life-giving and accessible for women as possible."

Jess Connolly

AUTHOR, ENTREPRENEUR, INSTAGRAM INFLUENCER, WLC STUDENT

"Studying at Denver Seminary is rigorous, and amazing, and difficult, and very mentally stimulating... and my love for God has grown leaps and bounds."

Jami Nato

AUTHOR, ENTREPRENEUR, INSTAGRAM INFLUENCER, WLC STUDENT

Denver Seminary's third Women's Leadership Cohort started this fall. If you know someone who would be a good fit for this vibrant learning community, please have them visit **DenverSeminary.edu/WLC** for more information.

Listen to episode 127 of Engage360 as WLC Founder Vivian Mabuni and Denver Seminary alumna and chair of the Board of Trustees Elisa Morgan share about the vision of the cohort. **DenverSeminary.edu/Podcasts**

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By Josh Battle

From Music to Missions: Failed Dreams Lead to Great Blessings



AS HER PLANE REACHED CRUISING ALTITUDE, KELLY MINTER FOUND HERSELF SUSPENDED BETWEEN WORLDS. SHE WAS DEPARTING THE BRAZILIAN JUNGLE WHERE SHE HAD JUST EXPERIENCED PROFOUND FELLOWSHIP WITH MANY INDIGENOUS BELIEVERS, AND RETURNING TO NASHVILLE, WHERE HER LIFELONG DREAM OF A MUSICAL CAREER HAD FADED. CAUGHT IN THIS LIMINAL SPACE, TEARS WELLED IN HER EYES.

Images from the preceding days flooded back: navigating the Amazon River by boat, sleeping in a hammock, and immersing herself in the rhythms of village life. So too did the stories of villagers, whose poverty and isolation contrasted sharply with her own comfortable lifestyle. Even so, they radiated joy and hunger for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"It was on the flight home from the Amazon that I sensed my life had changed," Kelly reflected. "I knew Brazil and the people who call it home would be a part of my life forever."

Born and raised outside
Washington, D.C., Kelly grew
up in the church. "My father
was a pastor for nearly fortyseven years. For as long as
I can remember, he had an
unwavering heart for global
missions," Kelly said. "One
of his biggest passions was
traveling the world to bring the
gospel to those who had never
heard it."

Kelly would eventually discover the joy of international ministry work, but at twenty-five, she was

making her way in the world. An aspiring singer-songwriter, she signed her first record deal and moved to Nashville with dreams of multi-platinum record deals, sold-out stadiums, and perhaps some stardom.

"I signed three record deals in all, and each was just successful enough to keep me in the industry but not successful enough to sustain me."

"Those years were very humbling," she added. "I had turned music, success, fame, and money into idols. As my dream unraveled, I saw those things had become false gods."

Ironically, during this season of discouragement, she was approached by LifeWay and asked to write a Bible study. Examining her heart and how her musical aspirations had given way to disappointment, No Other Gods became a candid reflection of how idols can, if they occupy an inordinate place within one's heart, take up the space meant for God alone.

"That particular study caught hold, and before I knew it, I had a new career," Kelly said. "Writing Bible studies and books, which turned into speaking and teaching, set me down a new path."

By releasing these idols and pursuing a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus, Kelly embraced the profound and freeing truth that one's identity is not based on what one does or accomplishes. Kelly was not called to a life

of comfort, fame, or fortune as she had imagined. Instead, she would receive a far more significant invitation—to receive God's goodness and grace and, in turn, pour those gifts out to others



EMBRACING A NEW DREAM

With freedom came newfound clarity as Kelly discerned a new path for her life and ministry. A renewed purpose would be found in the command and a promise of Matthew 28:19-20: to make disciples, knowing that God would be with her always. And though the dream of a lucrative music career had vanished, God would, in His sovereignty, use the industry to bestow upon Kelly a life-altering blessing.

With freedom came newfound clarity as Kelly discerned a new path for her life and ministry. A renewed purpose would be found in the command and a promise of Matthew 28:19-20: to make disciples, knowing that God would be with her always.



She signed her third record deal with a label out of London called Kingsway and traveled to England, where she met John Paculabo, the label's managing director. While in London, John shared with Kelly about a ministry in Brazil he was involved with and asked if she would ever be interested in joining him on a trip to the Amazon as one of his featured artists.

"I took my dad on my first trip in 2009. We kept going back, and the rest is history. I've taken more than thirty trips over the past fifteen years."

"After that third record deal, my career, my dream really, shifted away from music to writing Bible studies. With that change, God was drawing me to this new ministry opportunity in the Amazon."

This clarity would lead to Kelly's fifteen-year relationship with Justice & Mercy International (JMI), a faith-based nonprofit working in Brazil's Amazon region. In these remote

jungles—where approximately 80 percent of the population has never heard the gospel—JMI helps train and equip indigenous pastors to bring redemption to one of the most inaccessible places in the world. Started in 2011, the Jungle Pastors' Conference is now the centerpiece of their work there. This annual event is one of the ministries closest to Kelly's heart—partially because it allows her to serve alongside her dad.

"My father would find himself sitting on the back of a canoe, discussing the Bible with these indigenous pastors, and I would carry on similar discussion with their wives. We realized we should come back and just do this."

JMI now runs three annual conferences with more than 100 attendees at each event. Many travel from the depths of the jungle, including areas without electricity or regular access to clean water. However, these ministry leaders are united in

their call to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in their communities and beyond.

"There are unreached places and people in the Amazon," remarked Mary Katharine Hunt, CEO of JMI. "They simply don't have access to God's Word."

"Many of these pastors lack substantial training and support, but they are willing to give up everything to go to the most remote places to minister to these overlooked indigenous communities," she added.

Annual pastors' conferences serve as crucial platforms for equipping pastors and their spouses with biblical knowledge and practical skills. They receive essential training, tools, and resources to nurture their congregations and enhance their ministries' efficiency.



My job is simply to invite people to come and see God's redemptive work in the Amazon," Kelly said. "Then, I let the Lord do the rest."

"These pastors, by God's grace, are reaching so many people," Kelly shared. "When we connect with these indigenous pastors, we end up connecting with entire villages. As a result, we can serve physical, material, and spiritual needs of those who live there."

"This all started thirteen years ago, and we're seeing the fruit of our investment all these years later," Mary Katharine remarked. "We have a core group that attends year after year. . And it's multiplying as these pastors are mobilizing their church members to help reach tribes in areas where we could not go ourselves."



HER JOURNEY CONTINUES

Today, Kelly cannot conceive of a life where she is not teaching the Word of God, whether in sold-out arenas or under the shade of a tree beside the Amazon River. While Kelly travels to the Amazon each year, she spends much of her time advocating for JMI in the U.S. When she's not

writing, speaking, or pursuing a master's in Biblical and Theological Studies at Denver Seminary, Kelly dedicates herself to spreading awareness about JMI's mission to create sustainable life change for the world's forgotten people.

"Kelly is a natural evangelist, and her love for the people of the Amazon is an overflow of what she's experienced and how God has worked in her life," Mary Katharine shared. "She's helping JMI grow by telling the story of how He is moving in the lives and communities in the Amazon."

"John Paculabo said this, and I say it now. My job is simply to invite people to come and see God's redemptive work in the Amazon," Kelly said. "Then, I let the Lord do the rest."

On that first flight home from the Amazon, with tears streaking down her face, Kelly silently surrendered to an unexpected call that would become a part of her daily life and one of her greatest passions.

"Kelly takes what she's teaching to thousands of women here in the States and teaches it with passion and urgency to just a few dozen women in the jungle," said Mary Katherine.

Reflecting on her life's journey to this point and how she came to teach the Scriptures in the Amazon, Kelly can't help but see some humor in it all.

"Sitting on the riverbank, I had to ask if the Lord had tricked me into coming to the Amazon by first sending me to London so I would meet John Paculabo," she laughed. "As I recount my story, I see that everything I experienced has come out of a dead-end music career and a belief that God would make me rich and famous for His glory. In reality, I signed that record deal so He could bring me to the jungle. I also realized that I wouldn't have it any other way."

"If it had been up to me, I would have never chosen this, and I would have missed one of the Lord's greatest blessings," she added.



"I'm grateful for my educational experience at Denver Seminary. I appreciate that the education I'm getting here enriches my understanding—in a much deeper way from Old Testament to New Testament—of how much we really are called to missions work and proclaiming the Gospel to all people. Denver Seminary has made that a great priority." – **Kelly Minter**

NOTABLE

News from the Denver Seminary community.

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F.Y.I.



Compelling Preaching Initiative

Denver Seminary has received a grant of \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to launch the Compelling Preaching Initiative. The grant will support a range of dynamic educational activities, including peer learning groups, workshops, and webinars, all designed to benefit seminary students, preaching pastors, church staff, and lay leaders.

Contact David Ward, director, at David.Ward@DenverSeminary.edu for more information.



Rev. Dr. Jung-Hyun Oh Awarded Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree

Denver Seminary awarded Rev. Dr. Jung-Hyun Oh an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree during its 2024 Commencement service in May. Dr. Oh, a distinguished leader in the global Christian community, serves as the senior pastor of Sarang Church in Seoul, South Korea, a congregation recognized for its extraordinary membership exceeding 100,000 and weekly attendance of 30,000 to 35,000 people.

Denver Seminary Partnerships

Through Denver Seminary's evolving partnerships, cohorts, and fellowships, we offer a diverse array of pathways for students to pursue their seminary education while actively serving in their current ministries and nonprofit organizations. Tuition discounts make this even more attractive. Collaborators like Youth for Christ, The Navigators, Cru, and Cadence International are just a few examples of organizations supporting their staff in pursuing higher education with us.

 $Learn\ more\ at\ Denver Seminary. edu/Partner ships.$



Doctor of Ministry in New Missional Movements Track

Forge America and Denver Seminary are partnering to bring about a practical conversation and co-learning experience to equip kingdom leaders for their calling into this cultural reality through the Doctor of Ministry's New Missional Movements track.

Learn more at DenverSeminary.edu/Missional.

May 2024 Commencement Ceremonies

Denver Seminary's Littleton campus celebrated commencement on May 10 in Littleton, Colorado, and the Washington DC campus celebrated on May 18 in Landover, Maryland.







Faculty Publications

Dr. Sung Wook Chung (Contributor) PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY; DIRECTOR OF ASIAN INITIATIVE

The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology since 1918 (The Great Theologians)

Dr. Hélène Dallaire (Contributor)

EARL S. KALLAND PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT AND SEMITIC LANGUAGES: CHAIR OF OLD TESTAMENT DEPARTMENT

The Future Restoration of Israel: A Response to Supersessionism

Dr. Joseph Dodson (Co-Author)

DR. CRAIG L. BLOMBERG ENDOWED CHAIR OF NEW

Conquerors Not Captives: Reframing Romans 7 for the Christian Life

Dr. Rick Hess (Editor)

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT AND SEMITIC LANGUAGES

Before There Were Kings: A Literary Analysis of the Book of Judges (Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplement)

Dr. Rick Hess (Contributor)

Dictionary of the New Testament Use of the Old Testament

Dr. David Mathewson (Contributor)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT

Baker Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

The Apocalypse of John Among its Critics: Questions and Controversies (Studies in Scripture and Biblical Theology)

Dr. Liz Norris (Contributor)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COUNSELING Counseling Theories and Case

Conceptualization: A Practice-Based Approach

Ryan Tafilowski (Co-Author)

CHAIR OF THE THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY

Faithful Work: In the Daily Grind with God and for Others

Dr. Angie Ward

DIRECTOR OF THE DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM; ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LEADERSHIP AND

Uncharted Leadership: 20 Case Studies to Help Ministry Leaders Adapt to Uncertainty

The Dr. Vernon C. Grounds Endowed Chair of Christian Counseling



Dr. Michell Temple has been named the Dr. Vernon C. Grounds Endowed Chair of Christian Counseling. She joined Denver Seminary in 2021, and holds an EdD in professional counseling and supervision from the University of West Georgia and a PhD in counselor education and supervision from Regent University.

"Dr. Michell Temple's research exemplifies both academic rigor and deep relevance to Denver Seminary's mission," said Dr. Don Payne, academic dean and vice president of academic affairs. "Her focus on resilience, post-traumatic growth, and the integration of spirituality in counseling practice greatly enriches our academic community, equipping students and faculty to better navigate the complexities of human healing and enhancing their impact in ministry and counseling."

Retirements

Denver Seminary is celebrating the retirement of four long-term faculty members, all of whom will hold emeritus status at Denver Seminary. Denver Seminary is grateful for their faithful service and commitment to our students and mission.



Dr. David Buschart, professor of Theology and Historical Studies, served at Denver Seminary for twenty-six years.



Dr. Janet McCormack, associate professor of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling, director of Denver Seminary's CPE programs, served at Denver Seminary for twenty-four years.



Dr. Scott Wenig, Haddon W. Robinson Chair of Biblical Preaching, served at Denver Seminary for thirty years.



Dr. Bradley Widstrom, director of the Christian Studies Program, chair of the MA Pastoral Care degree, and director of Personal Formation of Counseling Division, served at Denver Seminary for twenty-five years.



Honoring a Legacy: The Mark and Priscilla Young Global Ministry Scholarship

The Mark and Priscilla Young Global Ministry Scholarship honors the service of Dr. Mark and Priscilla Young as global missionaries, theological educators, and ministers of the gospel. Throughout their married life, the Youngs have been committed to serving God in mission together and have impacted the lives of thousands of individuals, students, and church leaders. This scholarship reflects Mark and Priscilla's passion and commitment to preparing men and women to globally engage the needs of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Mark and Priscilla Young Global Ministry Scholarship demonstrates the Seminary's commitment to global missions by providing opportunities for international students and ex-pats committed to missions to be well-equipped for their places of ministry. This award offers financial assistance to full-time and part-time students in any program, whether online or in person, pursuing global ministry post-graduation.

Watch a short video about the Mark and Priscilla Young Global Ministry Scholarship and make a donation at DenverSeminary.edu/YoungScholarship.

"Our commitment to the global Church has framed my presidency at Denver Seminary and it mirrors the Seminary's seventy-five-year commitment to train men and women from around the globe to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture. The Mark and Priscilla Young Global Ministry Scholarship supports students who plan to minister, or are already serving, outside the United States. We are thrilled to imagine how God will use this scholarship to strengthen the Church's testimony of the risen Christ throughout the world."



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