



GRS 2009 graduates: Marshall Watkins and Lance Collins

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

I've been in academics all my life. Although I have taught some undergraduates over the years whose prospective vocations were diverse and secular, my principal focus has been on training prospective ministers. For years I taught in an institution with both a graduate school in religious studies and a seminary—and there is a difference. Or there should be a difference. I have learned to teach Hebrew differently to “wanna-be” Hebrew teachers than I do to “gonna-be” preachers. But too often that distinction is blurred even in institutions that are uniquely seminaries. The blame for that admittedly falls on us who trained as teachers and consequently attempt to reproduce ourselves for pulpits. Scholarship has its place, and conservative, evangelical, fundamental Christianity needs scholars desperately (it has been the lack of scholars/authors within our ranks that has seduced would-be preachers to other folds—but that's an issue for another time).

My concern now is how we are preparing the next generation of preachers. The stuff of journals, while fascinating, interesting, and on one level important, ultimately contributes little if anything to the evangelism of sinners or the edification of the body. We must be able to refute the gainsayer, but the need of souls is preeminent.

I am more and more convinced that those engaged in the education of ministers should have some ministerial experience. This has been a concern of the presbytery and is one of the strong points of Geneva Reformed Seminary. Everyone on the faculty has pastoral experience in some capacity. Although my chief calling is in the classroom, I have served as associate minister for the entire tenure of my ministry. In addition, for the last several months, I have functioned on an interim basis as a senior minister along with all my seminary duties. During this time I have pondered much about my seminary curriculum as it relates directly to the everyday ministry in the church. I think I need to add a class: Sin Stinks 101.

But having said all this I do not want to be misunderstood. As a Presbyterian, I believe in the importance of an educated **(Continued on page 3)**



GRS online

The online curriculum is up, running, and expanding with each term. Courses are available for either credit or audit. The Certificate of Religious Study is available for laymen and can be earned through online study.

Check out the website or contact the office for information.

FACULTY PROFILE

Inside GRS

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November 2009



Rev. David Mook, B.A., M.A., M.Div. Adjunct Professor of Practical Theology

Rev. David Mook was born in Pennsylvania while his father was in the military. His family spent four years in West Germany and while there visited sites of the Reformation. In 1962 in the cathedral of Speyer, the Mooks witnessed the rededication of bells named for the Reformers. Hitler had melted down the original bells for ammunition during World War II.

Mr. Mook and Mary were married in 1975, and their daughter, Carolyn Ann, was born in 1979. He and Mary both were members of the speech faculty at Bob Jones University. Carolyn graduated from BJU and now lives in San Diego with her husband and their daughters, Emma and Kate.

When Mr. Mook received the call to preach, a colleague challenged him to be absolutely certain of his call. At first, the prospect of venturing into a pioneer ministry was daunting, but the Lord gave the Mooks the assurance they needed. They began Phoenix Free Presbyterian Church in 1986, one year after Mr. Mook became licensed to preach.

A self-confessed baseball fan, Mr. Mook is frequently seen wearing an Atlanta Braves hat. He'd play golf more if he had time. He enjoys traveling and seeing new places but only grudgingly tolerates the hassles of air travel. Mr. Mook's more academic avocations include meteorology, biographies, American history, Puritan life in the early U.S., Calvin's influence on the development of U.S. constitutional government, the Reformation, and early church history. In his sermons he often delineates the historical

handiwork of God and its modern ramifications. Faithfully contending for the faith has brought Mr. Mook to take public stands on controversial issues. He has addressed pro-life rallies and the protest of a visit by the pope. The resulting notoriety precipitated media interviews, appearances on radio talk shows, and other opportunities to herald truth.

Although one's first impression may be that Mr. Mook is a reserved man, he is warm and welcoming to strangers. According to one churchgoer, "He is a regular guy and can truly relate with people." Yet, he does not seek popularity. A co-worker noted that Pastor Mook "is far more concerned with making a connection between God's truth and listeners' hearts." His friends know that he is quick to laugh at a good joke. Offering one example, a colleague said that when Mr. Mook was taking homiletics class, on several occasions just before a particular classmate got up to deliver a sermon, a small bird pecked at the window. Mr. Mook remarked wryly that apparently his classmate's sermons were for the birds.

At GRS Mr. Mook has taught Church History and Practical Ecclesiology. In 2010 he will teach Theory and Practice of Reformed Worship. In the Free Presbyterian Church of North America, Mr. Mook has served as secretary, moderator, and clerk. His thorough knowledge of the *Book of Church Order* and parliamentary procedure has equipped him well to serve as moderator, clerk, and parliamentarian.

Mr. Mook has been described as both deeply analytical and proficient at clearly articulating difficult material—good traits for a pastor and teacher. He and Mary have faithfully served the Lord at the Phoenix church for 23 years. One member of his church said, "We have all been enriched by their devotion to Christ. Rev. Mook's messages always end on a high note. My heart is always directed to Christ." Surely that will continue to be Mr. Mook's goal, to direct men's hearts to Christ and to prepare the next generation to do the same.

—Paul Peters is a deacon at Covenant Free Presbyterian Church in Lexington, South Carolina.

The President's Itinerary

Nov 15	Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Belleville, MI
Jan 8-10	Trinity Free Presbyterian Church, Trinity, AL
Feb 10-11	AACCS Annual Conference, Clearwater, FL
Mar 2-3	Seminary Recruitment Days, Clearwater, FL
May 10-14	Presbytery Meeting & Ministers' Week of Prayer, Faith FPC, Greenville, SC
May 31-June 1	Meeting of Young Conservatives, Minneapolis, MI
June 4	Geneva Reformed Seminary Graduation
June 27-30	Ohio Baptist Fellowship Pastors' Conference, Peniel, OH
July 26-30	Free Presbyterian International Congress, Toronto, Canada

GRADUATE INTERVIEW

From the Inside Out: An interview with GRS graduate Jason Boyle

(Continued from page 1) ministry. It is true that knowledge without zeal is dangerous; but it is equally true and perhaps of greater consequence that zeal without knowledge is destructive. Knowledge and zeal without implementation are useless. In the ministry there must be a happy union of head, heart, and hands. The minister's job is to apply the saving gospel to lost men for their salvation from sin's bondage and to saved men for their deliverance from sin's guilt, corruption, and power.

It is the chief business of the seminary to give ministers the knowledge of the gospel. But it is no simple matter to rightly apply the simple gospel in all the varied relations of life with the diverse emergencies that arise in the tangled business of living. The gospel of Christ is the answer to every issue of life. The gospel works, and it is the job of the minister to be the spiritual guide and advisor to his people to show them how it works. For this to happen, the fundamental need for ministers is the knowledge of the gospel—to know it firsthand and thoroughly. The need of the church is for ministers who know God and the gospel other than by hearsay. I have told my students over the years the sobering reality that we can preach/minister to others only from the overflow of what we ourselves have taken in. Not to practice what we preach makes us hypocrites; to preach what we do not first practice makes us theorists. There is a place for neither in the gospel ministry. I am more than happy to have a brilliant student, and I have been occasionally happy in my career. But my principal concern in the seminary is to train men to have a personal and contagious passion for Christ. GRS exists to prepare preachers with a functional head, warm heart, and working hands.

—Michael P. V. Barrett, President

Matters for Prayer

- Men gifted and called by God to train in the seminary and to go to labor in the harvest
- The 2009 graduates—Marshall Watkins and Lance Collins—as they continue their preparation for ministry
- All the graduates, that the Lord would direct them to a place of ministry, enflame their passion for the ministry, and keep them faithful to their calling
- The next generation of faculty
- Rev. Reggie Kimbro as he continues to work toward his doctorate and Dr. Charles Barrett as he continues some post-doctoral studies
- Success for the new distance-learning program
- Funds for all the ongoing operations of the seminary, including library resources, equipment, salaries, and student aid (the more the seminary can raise to support itself the less it will have to depend on presbytery aid, freeing up funds for other denominational projects and needs)

Inside: When did you graduate from GRS?

JB: I graduated in 2008 with a Master of Divinity degree.



Inside: How did you come to be a student at GRS?

JB: I was led to the Free Presbyterian Church by the preaching, and subsequent correspondence, of Pastor [Stephen] Hamilton. I began attending Faith in the spring of '03, which was right before I was about to start at Bob Jones Seminary. Once I finished there in '05 I had been in the denomination for two years, and the Lord had clearly shown me that this was where He wanted me to serve. Knowing that, it was an easy and natural decision to enroll at GRS.

Inside: What is the most important thing you learned in the seminary?

JB: I'll never forget Dr. Barrett's first rule of hermeneutics: "The text can't mean what it can't mean." Other than that, I think the most important thing I learned was the necessity of always linking spiritual study with spiritual practice. Training the head is important, but it must be linked with the training of the heart.

Inside: Where did you do your internship?

JB: Three months in Madrid, Spain, with John Hanna and three months in Hermosillo, Mexico, with Paco Orozco.

Inside: What was the most valuable lesson you learned during your internship?

JB: That's a tough one. Mr. Hanna took me with him weekly as he did an evangelistic Bible study with an unsaved lady who had come to visit the church. I learned much from that experience. Aside from that, [the internship] reminded me of the importance of living your entire life as an open book to the people

you're ministering to since your testimony and example is being examined every day.

Inside: What are you doing now?

JB: A lot of pulpit supply, which has been a real blessing—being able to travel to some of our other churches, see the ministries there, and get to know the people. I've been doing a lot of wedding planning also, as well as working on a budget, and other details for this coming year.

Inside: Tell us about your call to serve the Lord in Mexico.

JB: The Lord placed a burden on my heart for missions and Mexico at the same time—in my third grade school class—and He's never taken that burden away. When I visited Mexico for the first time in 2000 it was a wonderful experience, but it was when I went to Mexico City for ten weeks in 2002 that the Lord really laid that place on my heart as where He wanted me to serve Him. Mexico City is one of the largest metropolises in the world, and the need there is just incredible.

Inside: Tell us about your upcoming marriage.

JB: I'm getting married this December 19 in Greenville, S.C., to Danielle denHollander. She is originally from the

Vancouver area and is still a member of Mr. Goligher's church there in Cloverdale. She is an amazing, godly woman, and I thank the Lord every day for her. There's not nearly enough room in this space to tell the amazing story of the providential working of the Lord in bringing us together, but let me tell you, the Lord truly does exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think!

Inside: How, specifically do you want people to pray for you and for the work?

JB: First, pray for Danielle and me as we study the language. Pray that the Lord would already be preparing His people in Mexico City. Pray that we would be bright lights of witness to all those we come in contact with. Pray for our safety—Mexico City is not the safest place in the world to live day by day, and pray that the Lord will provide the finances we need to live and minister in the city.

Inside: Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

JB: Danielle and I both love music. We both play the piano, and she has a beautiful voice. I also played soccer most of my life, so I'm hoping to get back into playing shape so that I might be able to use that skill as a point of contact down in Mexico.

Alumni News

Class of 2008

Vicente Alcivar is scheduled to be deployed to Afghanistan January 17.

Class of 2009

Lance Collins is involved in Grace Church of Alexandria, Virginia. He and his wife, Elisabeth, welcomed a daughter, Piper, who was born September 15, 2009.

Marshall Watkins is assistant pastor of the Sanctuary, Greenville, South Carolina.

Alumni News: GRS alumni are invited to send in their news (weddings, births, relocations, etc.) for publication. Send news to genevareformed@freepres.org or GRS, 1207 Haywood Rd., Greenville, SC 29615.



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