Cover Story: On a Mission With Andrew Day

Also inside:
13 Treating Bodies, Spreading the Word
16 Alumni News
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Remember the words from the popular 1980s song, “On the road again — I just can’t wait to get on the road again!” While this song came long after the Apostle Paul’s time, he certainly would have identified with the lyrics. If such a thing existed, Paul would have qualified as a charter member of AAA or even as a platinum frequent flyer.

Paul covered more than 9,000 miles on his missionary journeys. Venues like synagogues, markets, and even Mars Hill provided him with a platform to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not wait for people to come to him — he went to them.

Following Paul’s example, Word of Life is on the verge of increasing our road presence. Our goal is to leverage new opportunities to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not like synagogues, markets, and even Mars Hill provided him with a platform to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not wait for people to come to him — he went to them.

Paul covered more than 9,000 miles on his missionary journeys. Venues like synagogues, markets, and even Mars Hill provided him with a platform to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not wait for people to come to him — he went to them.

This coming December, you will not want to miss meeting our students and staff in the brand-new Christmas production. Following Paul’s example, Word of Life is on the verge of increasing our road presence. Our goal is to leverage new opportunities to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not like synagogues, markets, and even Mars Hill provided him with a platform to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not wait for people to come to him — he went to them.

Following Paul’s example, Word of Life is on the verge of increasing our road presence. Our goal is to leverage new opportunities to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not like synagogues, markets, and even Mars Hill provided him with a platform to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not wait for people to come to him — he went to them.

The name “Victory Journal” comes from Jack Wyrtzen, the Founder of Word of Life, who used to sign his letters with the phrase “on the victory side.”

4400 Glendale Road
Pottersville, NY 12860
1.800.331.9673
wordoflife.edu

Chancellor: Don Lough, Jr. Executive Dean: Mark Strout Alumni Director: Mike Bush

“Holding forth the Word of life.”
Philippians 2:16

The Victory Journal Is Now Online

Visit us at wordoflifejournal.blogspot.com to find everything you see inside the pages of the Victory Journal. We’ll keep the site updated with photos, testimoniess, features, and columns by alumni and for alumni. You can also comment on articles and submit ideas for new pieces.

We want to get as many alumni as possible connected on Facebook. Can you help us reach our goal? Find us at wordoflife.edu/fb, and spread the word among other alumni you know.

Mission Statement

Just as the Bible Institute provided a place for you to learn about God, to grow in your spiritual walk, and to connect with other Christians in true community, we want the Victory Journal to be a place where you can continue that journey. We want to build a community where you can find longtime friends, share testimonies of what God has been doing, encourage others with your stories of change, and learn how you, too, can be involved with the mission of Word of Life.

Be part of the Victory Journal

We want to hear from you! What is God doing in your life? How has He led, helped, or comforted you, even in small ways, since your time at the Bible Institute? If you have a story to share, email us at alumni@wol.org. Whether you have a testimony to give, a story tip to pass on, or would like to hear more about a part of Word of life, we are here to help. We want to see you in the Victory Journal!

What we’re looking for

The Victory Journal features all kinds of stories about Bible Institute alumni, whether you have short pieces of alumni news or ideas for longer articles. Let us know if there’s something or someone you’d like to see. Fill us in on people or opportunities involved with alumni or Word of Life, and finally, tell us about you! If you have a testimony, remember when, ministry update, or feature article ideas, please send it our way.

Are you trying to connect with other alumni?

The Victory Journal will not only tell you stories about other alumni but will also help you connect with them. Periodically, we will let you know about different people you can find old friends or classmates through events at Word of life or perhaps in local church ministries around the country. But there’s also a place where you can always go when looking for fellow Bible Institute graduates. Contact alumni@wol.org or visit our Facebook group to connect with other alumni right now.

Look for:

Word of Life Bible Institute Alumni Ideas? Suggestions? Contributions?
Connect with Victory Journal
We strive for accuracy. Please contact us with any errors or questions.
For reprints, back issues, and other information, contact us at alumni@wol.org or 518.494.6000

© Copyright 2013 — Word of Life Fellowship. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from Word of Life Fellowship, Inc. To obtain permission, email us at marketing@wol.org.
Homecoming

Save a spot on your calendars for Homecoming, which will be held during Founder’s Conference on Memorial Day weekend this spring. A reunion for the Class of 1974 is already being planned, and we’d love to have reunions for any class that has a five- or 10-year anniversary this year. Get in touch with mikebush@wol.org to plan a reunion, or ask any questions you may have.

What: Homecoming
When: May 23-26, 2014, with special events planned for alumni throughout the weekend
Where: The Bible Institute’s New York campus, with accommodations available at a reduced rate at the Word of Life Inn & Family Lodge
Who: All Word of Life Bible Institute alumni and their families
Why: To catch up with former classmates, visit the Word of Life family, and be encouraged by what God has been doing in the lives of alumni.


Special events will be planned for all alumni, including fellowship, activities, family fun, and the presentation of the Alumnus of the Year. Alumni may also enjoy all the Founder’s Conference activities, with Dr. Paul Dixon, the chancellor of Cedarville University, serving as this year’s special guest speaker.

Refresh.

We’d love to hear your memories to share with our readers! Contact alumni@wol.org or Victory Journal editor Jen Slothower at jenslothower@wol.org. For more information about this year’s Magi Tour, visit wol.org/Christmas.

BY JEN SLOTHOVER

Whether you serve in ministry or have a secular job where your everyday work is a form of ministry, we can all become discouraged at some point. It could be a pastorate or mission field where it’s difficult to find anyone open to Christ. It may be a career or project that remains incomplete or just never turns out right.

Many of us, day to day, are waging the battles not only of flesh and blood but also against the pressures of time, the opinions of people, or the limits of human ability in a fallen world. We wonder how much of what we do will last or make any difference. Often, we fight competing desires, and we wonder why we have to deal with circumstances that come up rather than doing what we think will make a difference for God.

I recently heard someone share a story about a moment of doubt for J.R.R. Tolkien as he was writing his famous Lord of the Rings series. Tolkien had undertaken a monumental task, albeit with great intentions — he hoped his tale would tell the story of his God in a way that would reveal truth to many people who wouldn’t otherwise consider the message.

But Tolkien was struggling to get the work done, and as time and the bombings of Britain in World War II closed in, he fell into despair, wondering if he would finish or if all would go to waste.

Tolkien took a break in that darkness and wrote a short story about a character called Niggle. Much like Tolkien, Niggle had embarked on a short story about a character called Niggle.

He ended up dying with the painting only partially finished. Of all his attempts, just one perfect, intricate leaf survived from the tree at the center of what was to be a beautiful work of art.

The worries of Niggle’s life, though, where he spent so much time concerned that his work would not be finished, vanished when he arrived in Heaven. There before him was his painting — his complete tree. The time he had spent pursuing the calls for help that God put before him had turned into eternal reality, where the picture he could only imagine on earth turned into real, forever worth.

“Do not tire in doing good” (Galatians 6:9). No matter what our circumstances that come up rather than doing what we think will make a difference for God, we are working for something greater than ourselves.

“Do not be discouraged, Lord,” Niggle had said. And in response, Tolkien heard the words of the Lord: “There really is a tree.”

With the worries of Niggle’s life, though, where he spent so much time concerned that his work would not be finished, vanished when he arrived in Heaven. There before him was his painting — his complete tree. The time he had spent pursuing the calls for help that God put before him had turned into eternal reality, where the picture he could only imagine on earth turned into real, forever worth.

Tolkien had tried to be diligent, but other people had needed his help. Rather than spending his time devoted to the painting he thought had so much worth and beauty, Niggle was regularly distracted by the everyday needs of people around him. His schedule was not his own, and his days were sidetracked by giving others a hand. He ended up dying with the painting only partially finished. Of all his attempts, just one perfect, intricate leaf survived from the tree at the center of what was to be a beautiful work of art.

The worries of Niggle’s life, though, where he spent so much time concerned that his work would not be finished, vanished when he arrived in Heaven. There before him was his painting — his complete tree. The time he had spent pursuing the calls for help that God put before him had turned into eternal reality, where the picture he could only imagine on earth turned into real, forever worth.

“Do not tire in doing good” (Galatians 6:9).
Catching Up With Dr. Whitcomb

Q: What did you enjoy most about teaching at the Bible Institute?
A: The enthusiastic response of the students to the teaching of the Word of God.

Q: What are some of your favorite memories from the Bible Institute?
A: Young people being illuminated, encouraged, and enlightened to take the message of God’s Word all over the world, and international students coming to the Bible Institute who then took God’s Word to their country.

Q: What makes the Bible Institute different from other schools?
A: It’s very biblical and notcompromised in any area — creation, eschatology, and everything in between! God is Alpha and Omega.

Q: What has been your favorite part about teaching God’s Word throughout your lifetime?
A: The fact I don’t have to prove the Bible. The Holy Spirit does the work.

Q: What do you most enjoy about your current time of life?
A: Staying at home a little more to catch up on my desk work. Being able to do radio and the writing of articles and books from home.

Q: Who are some people who have been an encouragement to you?
A: Tom Davis and Marshall Wicks, who were former students of mine. They are now staff at the Bible Institute, and they encourage me every time I see them. Can I mention one more? Jack Wytsen! (big chuckle) He was bubbly, glowing, and loved sharing the Gospel. He acted like he loved Jesus!

Q: What is one thing you want to leave with the next generation of Bible students and future Bible teachers?
A: My life verse, 2 Timothy 2:2: “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Where Are They Now?

Dr. John Whitcomb

langle academic dean

Tought from 1981-2012 on the New York campus *Also taught in Florida, Owen Sound, Philippines, Brazil, Germany, Argentina

Leaving an impression on the Owen Sound campus

Some memories from Doug Reider, associate academic dean

Dr. Whitcomb taught Genesis 1-11 for eight years.

Even during the SARS breakout, while he was still recovering from chemotherapy, he was willing to come to Ontario.

He greeted students from foreign countries in their own language, showing his amazing ability to remember languages.

At one point, I discussed with him that I had been looking to read Daniel the Whole, which was out of print and very hard to find but was universally referenced when discussing the book of Daniel. He jokingly said it was the worst-selling book that Zondervan ever published. The next year, he brought his last copy for me to read. For as technical a book as it was, it was amazingly good to read.

Dr. Whitcomb’s fantastic ability to remember people and details really set him apart. Many Owen Sound alumni would comment to me that he remembered them when he saw them at second year and many of these guest lecturers students get to learn from each other campus, including where they’re coming from and what they’re teaching. You may be able to make a connection.

New York, First Year

Dr. Wendell Calder, Founder of Local Church Evangelism, Evangelist, Conference Speaker (James)

Bruce Scott, Field Ministries Director for The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry (Matthew)

Dr. Larry Meyer, Founder and CEO of Even Tell, Inc. (Personal Evangelism)

Dr. John Master, Professor Emeritus at Cairn University, Dr. Amy ammonia, Pennsylvania (Sanctification)

Dr. Jimmy De Young, Evangelist and Conference Speaker (Revelation 6-22)

Dr. Doug Bookman, Director of Student Recruitment, Professor of New Testament at Shepherds Theological Seminar (Passion Week)

Rev. Bill Boulter, Senior Pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Lakeland, Florida (Revelation 1-5)

Dr. Chris Gnanakos, Executive Director of Outreach To Asia Nationals in Winchester, Virginia (Acts)

Mr. Don Lough Jr., Executive Director of Word of Life Fellowship (1 Peter)

Mr. Mark Stout, Executive Dean of Word of Life Institute (1 Peter)

(Bible Survey, Daniel)

Mr. David Payne, Associate Pastor at Spring Hill Bible Church in Brooksville, Florida (Hebrews)

Dr. Dan Anderson, President of Appalachian Bible College, Mount Hope, West Virginia (Ezra)

Dr. Roy Pritchard, Author and Conference Speaker, President of Keep Believing Ministries (Catechisms)

Mr. Mike Calhoun, Assistant to the Director for Ministry Development, Word of Life Fellowship (Ecclesiastes)

Rev. Dave James, Conference Speaker, The Alliance for Biblical Integration (Church History 3)

Rev. John Bouquet, Senior Pastor at Bethel Baptist Church, Savannah, Ohio (1 Chronicles)

Rev. Ric Garland, Vice President of Word of Life Local Church Ministries (Proverbs)

Dr. Ken Cleaver, Associate Professor, Church History and Theology at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia (Church History 1)

Dr. Marshall Wicks, Associate Academic Dean at the Bible Institute’s Florida campus (Biblical Studies)

Dr. Terry Mortenson, Lecturer, Researcher with Answers in Genesis (Creationism)

Dr. James Jeffery, President of Baptist Bible College (Ecclesiastical)

Dr. Ben Gutierrez, Professor at Liberty University (Philippians)

Dr. Charles Schied, former Pastor and former Associate Academic Dean at the Bible Institute’s Florida campus (Pastoral Epistles)

Dr. Thomas White, President, Cedarville University (Pneumatology)

Dr. Steve Viers, Senior Pastor and Nouthetic counselor at Faith Baptist Church, Lafayette, Indiana (Counseling)

Mr. Mark Strout, Executive Dean of Word of Life Institute (Passion Week)
Andrew Day's bags are packed. It's a routine the 2008 Bible Institute alumnus has down pat — he's been traveling nonstop for the past year. With everything ready for his big trip tomorrow, he adjusts his hat and sits down to catch up through Skype. Sitting in his temporary bedroom in London, it's the last time he'll have a reliable Internet connection for the next several months. He's leaving tomorrow for Africa, where he'll work to share the Word of God in the northwestern countries of Senegal, Mali, Niger, and Chad. It's the concluding trip of a year spent traveling around the world spreading the Word with the esteemed George Verwer, founder of the Christian missions organization Operation Mobilisation.

Andrew realized he wanted to be a missionary at the age of 5; the same year he trusted Christ as his Savior. More than a decade later, as he sat down to write an admissions essay on what his plans were after graduation, his answer was easy — missions. Young Andrew wrote that he'd love to spend a year learning from a veteran missionary.

Two years later, God dropped that very opportunity in his lap. A Word of Life Bible Institute graduate and student at Moody Bible Institute, Andrew sat awestruck listening to Verwer as he spoke at Moody's annual Missions Conference. The missionary seemed to Andrew to be “the most transparent, real guy I'd ever seen.” He was just the kind of man Andrew had always wanted as a mentor.

Andrew’s intuition that Verwer was a powerful presence in missions was correct. Verwer started the work of Operation Mobilisation (OM) with a goal of inspiring young people around the world to live and share the Gospel of Jesus. The organization today has more than 6,100 people working in more than 110 countries. Each year, Verwer selects one recent graduate to travel country-to-country with him, visiting different OM sites. It’s an assistant role known affectionately as a “gofer.” It’s a competitive role known affectionately as a “gofer.” It’s a competitive
spent as Verwer’s gofer, the Bible Institute alumnus says the when he was selected for the position. Now, after a year George. Then, hopefully, that would shape me into the leader well – you must follow well. I saw this ‘gofer’ role as the position – and one Andrew knew he had to have. The recent graduate felt like he’d been lifted from a crowd “I feel that in order to be successful in ministry – to lead humility, repentance — just so much,” he says. “It’s incredible to see God’s work firsthand.”

Through it all, Andrew says he is so thankful for the solid biblical training he received at the Bible Institute, including lessons that prepared him well for some of the world’s darkest places. The passion for evangelism he developed at the Bible Institute became especially important. He says in his first year, in Florida (he spent one year at each U.S. campus), the focus was mainly on evangelism. He smiles as he remembers the days he and his friends would take out what they called the “evange-van” and witness. Last year, with so much time spent on buses, airplanes, and trains traveling from city to city, Andrew put to use what he’d practiced in Florida. “I try to share Christ with everyone I sit beside,” he says. He remembers the first chance he got to share his testimony on the journey, with a young German woman named Tina. She said she knew the Lord as her Savior but admitted she’d strayed from the Word. Andrew shared one of Verwer’s books with her, and she promised it would keep her company during her three-hour layover. Aside from giving him the opportunity to witness, the gofer program has compounded Andrew’s biblical training. “I’ve definitely gained a bigger perspective of what the Lord is doing around the world. I’ve learned about humility, repentance — just so much,” he says. “It’s incredible to see

George. Then, hopefully, that would shape me into the leader that I want to be,” Andrew says. The recent graduate felt like he’d been lifted from a crowd when he was selected for the position. Now, after a year spent as Verwer’s gofer, the Bible Institute alumnus says the night at the Missions Conference when he first heard Verwer speak feels like ages ago. The past 12 months have been spent reaching others for Christ, in the furthest corners of the world — from England, Ireland, and Africa to India and Thailand — alongside a mentor Andrew calls “incredibly wise.” Drawing a familiar analogy, he says traveling with Verwer is like “walking in the dust of the rabbi.” “There’s definitely no ‘normal schedule’ as a George gofer,” Andrew says. A typical day could include anything from spreading the Word of God with a small village in India to church planting in North Africa. Although each trip has brought new perspective to Andrew’s journey with God, he points to his time in India as the most transformative. “George is like the Billy Graham of India, I like to say,” Andrew says, laughing. “It was really challenging to see the need in India. It’s a paradoxical place because God is working there, and you can see that in the fact that [Christianity] is growing. But there’s still a great need — especially among Muslim groups.”

Andrew emphasizes that Christians need to have love for Muslim people. These are people for whom Christ died, and it’s the responsibility of Christians to spread that good news.

“Through it all, Andrew says he is so thankful for the solid biblical training he received at the Bible Institute, including lessons that prepared him well for some of the world’s darkest places. The passion for evangelism he developed at the Bible Institute became especially important. He says in his first year, in Florida (he spent one year at each U.S. campus), the focus was mainly on evangelism. He smiles as he remembers the days he and his friends would take out what they called the “evange-van” and witness.

Last year, with so much time spent on buses, airplanes, and trains traveling from city to city, Andrew put to use what he’d practiced in Florida. “I try to share Christ with everyone I sit beside,” he says. He remembers the first chance he got to share his testimony on the journey, with a young German woman named Tina. She said she knew the Lord as her Savior but admitted she’d strayed from the Word. Andrew shared one of Verwer’s books with her, and she promised it would keep her company during her three-hour layover. Aside from giving him the opportunity to witness, the gofer program has compounded Andrew’s biblical training. “I’ve definitely gained a bigger perspective of what the Lord is doing around the world. I’ve learned about humility, repentance — just so much,” he says. “It’s incredible to see

position — and one Andrew knew he had to have: “I feel that in order to be successful in ministry — to lead well — you must follow well. I saw this ‘gofer’ role as the perfect opportunity to do that, so I could be a servant for God’s work firsthand.”

“George. Then, hopefully, that would shape me into the leader that I want to be,” Andrew says. The recent graduate felt like he’d been lifted from a crowd when he was selected for the position. Now, after a year spent as Verwer’s gofer, the Bible Institute alumnus says the night at the Missions Conference when he first heard Verwer speak feels like ages ago. The past 12 months have been spent reaching others for Christ, in the furthest corners of the world — from England, Ireland, and Africa to India and Thailand — alongside a mentor Andrew calls “incredibly wise.” Drawing a familiar analogy, he says traveling with Verwer is like “walking in the dust of the rabbi.” “There’s definitely no ‘normal schedule’ as a George gofer,” Andrew says. A typical day could include anything from spreading the Word of God with a small village in India to church planting in North Africa. Although each trip has brought new perspective to Andrew’s journey with God, he points to his time in India as the most transformative.

“George is like the Billy Graham of India, I like to say,” Andrew says, laughing. “It was really challenging to see the need in India. It’s a paradoxical place because God is working there, and you can see that in the fact that [Christianity] is growing. But there’s still a great need — especially among Muslim groups.”

Andrew emphasizes that Christians need to have love for Muslim people. These are people for whom Christ died, and it’s the responsibility of Christians to spread that good news.

“Through it all, Andrew says he is so thankful for the solid biblical training he received at the Bible Institute, including lessons that prepared him well for some of the world’s darkest places. The passion for evangelism he developed at the Bible Institute became especially important. He says in his first year, in Florida (he spent one year at each U.S. campus), the focus was mainly on evangelism. He smiles as he remembers the days he and his friends would take out what they called the “evange-van” and witness.

Last year, with so much time spent on buses, airplanes, and trains traveling from city to city, Andrew put to use what he’d practiced in Florida. “I try to share Christ with everyone I sit beside,” he says. He remembers the first chance he got to share his testimony on the journey, with a young German woman named Tina. She said she knew the Lord as her Savior but admitted she’d strayed from the Word. Andrew shared one of Verwer’s books with her, and she promised it would keep her company during her three-hour layover. Aside from giving him the opportunity to witness, the gofer program has compounded Andrew’s biblical training. “I’ve definitely gained a bigger perspective of what the Lord is doing around the world. I’ve learned about humility, repentance — just so much,” he says. “It’s incredible to see

position — and one Andrew knew he had to have: “I feel that in order to be successful in ministry — to lead well — you must follow well. I saw this ‘gofer’ role as the perfect opportunity to do that, so I could be a servant for God’s work firsthand.”

“George. Then, hopefully, that would shape me into the leader that I want to be,” Andrew says. The recent graduate felt like he’d been lifted from a crowd when he was selected for the position. Now, after a year spent as Verwer’s gofer, the Bible Institute alumnus says the night at the Missions Conference when he first heard Verwer speak feels like ages ago. The past 12 months have been spent reaching others for Christ, in the furthest corners of the world — from England, Ireland, and Africa to India and Thailand — alongside a mentor Andrew calls “incredibly wise.” Drawing a familiar analogy, he says traveling with Verwer is like “walking in the dust of the rabbi.” “There’s definitely no ‘normal schedule’ as a George gofer,” Andrew says. A typical day could include anything from spreading the Word of God with a small village in India to church planting in North Africa. Although each trip has brought new perspective to Andrew’s journey with God, he points to his time in India as the most transformative.

“George is like the Billy Graham of India, I like to say,” Andrew says, laughing. “It was really challenging to see the need in India. It’s a paradoxical place because God is working there, and you can see that in the fact that [Christianity] is growing. But there’s still a great need — especially among Muslim groups.”

Andrew emphasizes that Christians need to have love for Muslim people. These are people for whom Christ died, and it’s the responsibility of Christians to spread that good news.

“Through it all, Andrew says he is so thankful for the solid biblical training he received at the Bible Institute, including lessons that prepared him well for some of the world’s darkest places. The passion for evangelism he developed at the Bible Institute became especially important. He says in his first year, in Florida (he spent one year at each U.S. campus), the focus was mainly on evangelism. He smiles as he remembers the days he and his friends would take out what they called the “evange-van” and witness.

Last year, with so much time spent on buses, airplanes, and trains traveling from city to city, Andrew put to use what he’d practiced in Florida. “I try to share Christ with everyone I sit beside,” he says. He remembers the first chance he got to share his testimony on the journey, with a young German woman named Tina. She said she knew the Lord as her Savior but admitted she’d strayed from the Word. Andrew shared one of Verwer’s books with her, and she promised it would keep her company during her three-hour layover. Aside from giving him the opportunity to witness, the gofer program has compounded Andrew’s biblical training. “I’ve definitely gained a bigger perspective of what the Lord is doing around the world. I’ve learned about humility, repentance — just so much,” he says. “It’s incredible to see
Dr. Randy Faulkner, Senior Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Oklahoma City (Joshua)
Mr. Bob Anderson, Founder/Director of Trail’s End Ranch (Matthew)
Mr. Steve Nicholes, Associate Dean at the Bible Institute’s Jeju campus (Leviticus)
Mr. David James (Hebrews)
Dr. Jeff Billingsley, former Pastor and Teacher for Walk Thru the Bible (Acts)
Mr. Joe Schenke (Biblical Counseling)
Dr. Paul Habitz, Biblical Ministries Worldwide (1&2 Timothy/Titus)
Mr. Mark Hall, Missionary Director for Word of Life Bermuda (1 Peter)

Mr. Mark Street (Ephesians, Bible Geography, Israel Study Trip)
Dr. David Dean, Professor of Bible and Systematic Theology at Yan Fook Bible Institute, Hong Kong (Daniel)
Dr. William Ki, Professor at Yan Fook Bible Institute (Church History)
Dr. Mike Eiras, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dent, Ohio (Philippians)
Dr. Jerry Kroll, Pastor Emeritus, Heritage Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia (2 Peter/1 John)
Dr. Wendell Coldar (Philippines)
Pastor Dave Mark, Missionary, Word of Life Seminary, Alberton, Brazil (Proverbs)
Dr. Charles Savella, Adjunct Professor, Criswell College, Dallas, Texas (Revelation)

When God called Dr. Richard Stagg and his family from their small Midwestern town to the crowded streets of southern Bangladesh, he knew they needed as much spiritual training as he could give. He and his wife prepared their hearts for the journey to the World Bible Institute in New York, graduating with the second-ever class in 1972.

(Continued on page 14)
He came across the Scripture during his quiet time, just two days after finding out he'd have to leave the office where he practiced family medicine. It was the final push he needed to accept God's call to enter the mission field.

Stagg first considered medical missions four years prior when Dr. Viggo Olsen of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) visited his town of Paulding, Ohio. When Dr. Olsen visited again just two months before that life-changing quiet time, Stagg asked him to speak at his church and invited him to stay with his family. The doctor once again challenged Stagg to talk with God about serving overseas.

“He asked me to pray about it, but I knew I was where the Lord wanted me to be then,” Stagg recalls. However, the verse in Acts — on top of a notice to vacate his office and the visit from Dr. Olsen — soon convinced him otherwise. Stagg and his family were headed to Bangladesh.

He was excited to follow the Lord to Bangladesh, but to be a successful teacher, counselor, and missionary, Stagg knew he needed the depth of Scripture immersion that few places can provide. He and his wife, Carol, enrolled in the Bible Institute and moved their family to Schroon Lake, excited to dive into God’s Word.

At the Bible Institute, Stagg could practice Word of Life’s discipleship, ministry, and personal growth approach without distraction. “I had nothing but study God’s Word,” he recalls. “It was very enjoyable and satisfying — something I never thought I’d be able to do.”

The Stagg family also helped with Snow Camp and spent the following summer on staff at the Inn. Then it was time to load a plane to the Middle East. Stagg, his wife, Carol, and daughters Kathy, Karen, and Kristen were thrilled to begin their new lives as missionaries. The girls — ages 11, 10, and 7 at the time of the move — had been included in the prayerful decision-making process of entering the mission field and were excited for the adventure of a new home thousands of miles away.

The country, about the size of Wisconsin, was home to approximately 75 million people when they arrived. “It was one of the poorest countries in the world and the most crowded,” Stagg says.

“Once, six men came in from a machete fight in which they’d crushed one another’s skulls,” he recalls. “I was in surgery from nine that evening until noon the next day. Five of the six lived.” Considering the injuries, he adds, “I thought that was pretty good.”

The country’s turbulent nature challenged Stagg’s evangelistic efforts as well. Many of his patients were antagonistic to the Gospel. But he connected with Bangladeshis through the common Bengali language and, starting with a doctor-patient relationship, was able to open hearts to God’s truth.

“People knew their physical need, and by addressing it in a kind, loving, and competent way, they were then more willing to listen about the spiritual need they hadn’t been aware of,” he says.

Stagg deems this outreach the most satisfying aspect of his time in Bangladesh. The doctors, nurses, and physical therapists he worked with shared this commitment to ministry, and the group helped one another on their goal of shining Christ’s light in the predominantly Muslim area.

“Being so oppressive, it drew us all together,” Stagg says. “We were forced to depend on God and each other, which strengthened our spiritual resolve.”

Realizing the need for biblical training of Bangladeshi Christians, Stagg took a leave of six weeks from his medical responsibilities to help establish an institute for biblical learning. He began by teaching the book of Romans at Memorial Christian Hospital and ABWE’s headquarters in Chittagong. Today, the school is known as the Baptist Bible College of Bangladesh and has campuses in both Chittagong and Malumghat.

Stagg recalls a young student named Provanjan, who came to know the Lord through a nurse who worked at Memorial Christian. Provanjan had grown up in a Hindu family but fervently embraced the hope of the Gospel. He was handpicked to attend the Bible college, and in addition to studying, working full-time, and caring for his family, he traveled to a nearby village at least once each week to witness. He eventually started teaching Bible classes and helped establish a church in the village. Stagg says he’s never met anyone more committed to serving God — and Provanjan was the first person he met who titled his time as well as money.

The Stagg family returned to the U.S. in 1988 when Carol’s failing health became worse, and Stagg began working as an emergency room doctor at a hospital in Ohio. Within five years, ABWE was in his life once again. The international ministry had moved its headquarters from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and its president offered Stagg the part-time, unpaid position of medical director.

“Of course I said yes,” Stagg says, chuckling. He worked at a local hospital and was ABWE’s medical director for 17 years, retiring in 2010 at age 72. He now lives in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, with his second wife, Linda, whom he married four years after Carol passed away.

Upon his retirement, Stagg returned to Bangladesh for the first time in more than 20 years. He and Linda were thrilled to find Bangladeshi Christians further spreading the good news to a community in great need. “It was so satisfying to see nationals running the school and teaching the classes,” Stagg says. “I never thought I’d see spiritual fruit in Bangladesh in my lifetime.”

After such a clear sign to pick up his family, work through intense Bible study, and go to the mission field, Stagg has also seen the obvious proof that God was ready to bring a harvest.

For Stagg, the part-time, unpaid position at ABWE was a way to give back. He was able to serve as a missionary doctor, helping spread the Gospel to a nation in need.

“ABWE’s medical director is not a part of any of these allegations,” the organization’s president said in a statement. “Word of Life is aware of allegations concerning ABWE. Dr. Stagg’s ministry is not a part of any of these allegations.”
Michael Jesse ('71) and his wife, Carrie, have three children: Rachel, Matthew, and Robie. He loves golf, ministers through financial counseling, and is self-employed.

Ann (Mound) Wood ('72) has been a Hudson Falls, New York, school bus attendant for 13 years. She makes wordless books, wordless brochures, cross-stitch bookmarks, and wordless cross pins for missionaries. She is involved with Gideons International.

Ginny Newton ('73) is working in the academics department at the Bible Institute’s Florida campus. She is excited to meet alumni when they come through.

Hal J. Russell ('74) is a pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Sewell, New Jersey. He and his wife, Cheryl, have two children, Shawna (27) and Matthew, and Robin. He is a craftsman in wood, leather, and stone and a weaving instructor at Jesse Epsom, New Hampshire.

Tammy Brown ('80) is a professor at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She has four children: Sarah (28), Heather (24), Erin (21), and Elysabeth (21).

Paul and Kim (Eshelman) Barreca ('80) live in Vineland, New Jersey, where Paul has been the teaching pastor at Faith Bible Church for the past 11 years. They have three married children and four grandchildren. They are thankful for the opportunities God has given them to frequently go to Word of Life Philippines, where Paul is blessed to teach at the Bible Institute.

Bruce Graham ('91) is married to in-law Elvira Epsom, New Hampshire. He is a craftsman in wood, leather, and stone and a weaving instructor at Jesse Remington High School, a small Christian high school in Condo, New Hampshire.

Laurie (Shoemaker) Tifton ('91) and her husband, Bill, have three children: Paul (13), Leah (12), and Hannah (10). Laurie, a homeschool mom, attends Southside Fellowship Abiding in Christ Church and supports those who have Lyme disease with information and the love of Christ.

Daniel ('93) and Sherri (Longnecker) Lethers ('94) are pre-field missionaries to Togo, West Africa, with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. They plan to work with Hope Radio, which broadcasts into four countries and reaches people in their homes in a way that few mediums can.

Brian ('94, '95) and Lynn (Underhill) ('95) Baker serve with Word of Life Local Church Ministries and have three children: Courtney (11), Allison (7), and Corbin (7).

Krista (Abney) Mc Gee ('94, '95) is writing, serving in women’s and music ministries at church, and teaching English and musical theater at a Christian school. She is married to Dave Mc Gee ('93, '95).

Tom Atoma, Jr. ('95) works at Atoma Partners, which provides audiovisual support for corporate events all around the world. He and his wife, Angie, have two daughters.

Joanne (Chamberlain) Carver ('76) and her husband, David, have three children: David, Daniel, and Dabra. Joanne, a retired school nurse and teacher, has been a hospice volunteer for 10 years, sings in a community chorus, and teaches a ladies’ Bible study at Grace Bible Fellowship.

Christian Kendig ('78) graduated from Capital Bible Seminary in 1996 with a Master of Divinity. He is now retired after working 25 years at a retirement community. He is a chaplain for Campsite Evangelism and is a Lancaster County Aquatic Club member.

Jackie (Laub) Osbourn ('80) has seven children. Joy (20), Krist (27), Dano (25), Ben (19), Joel (18), David (15), and Julia (11). Joy went to the Bible Institute in 2002, and Krist in 2004 and 2007.

Ann (Mound) Wood ('81) is a part-time staff member with Missions International, a missions agency that focuses on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. He partners with a church in Nadvirna, Ukraine. He is also an adult Sunday School teacher at his local church. Dave and his wife, Cheryl, have two children: Jennifer Clark (28) and Heather (24), Erin (21), and Molly (17).

Chris and Roxanne (Tibbetts) Young ('83) have three children: Lindsay (25), Bethany (26), and Aaron (22). Chris is involved in youth ministry and enjoys the outdoors and hunting. Roxanne is involved with the eighth-grade girls’ choir at church and works with the elderly. Together they counsel young couples getting married (Marriage Savers).

Three Generations

We highlighted the Second Generation of the Bible Institute a couple of issues ago. But in some cases, we’ve already seen the third generation of some families come through the Bible Institute’s doors. Here are a few families with three generations of Word of Life grads.

The Scurlack Family
- Generation #1: George and Lee Scurluck (Class of 1973)
- Generation #2: Joanne [Scurluck] and Dave Feltz (Class of 1974); George “Nick” Scurluck Jr. (Class of 1975) (died October 15, 2005)
- Generation #3: Jacklyn Feltz (Lain) (Class of 2003), Josh Feltz (Class of 2006 and 2007)

The Frey Family
- Generation #1: Paul and Daris (Deb) Frey (Class of 1981)
- Generation #2: Dave Frey Kaecher (Class of 1984), Dean (Class of 1985) and Teresa (Amick) Frey (Class of 1988); Catherine [Frey] and Matthew L. Smith (Class of 1989)
- Generation #3: Efran (Alvarez) (Class of 2009, Argentina) and Zachary T. Frey, son and daughter-in-law of Dean and Teresa (Class of 2013 and 2014)

The Janho Family
- Generation #1: Lawrence and John Janho Jr. (Class of 1996)
- Generation #2: Kelly [Eutsey] and John Janho III (Class of 1981); Naomi [Janho] Eichison (Class of 1983); Susan (Steiner) (Class of 1984); Joshua Janho (Class of 1985), Stephen Janho (Class of 1992); Timothy Janho (Class of 1995)
- Generation #3: John Janho IV, son of John and Kelly (Class of 2005), Joshua Janho, son of John and Kelly (Class of 2008), Becky [Janho] and David Arthur, daughter and son-in-law of Joshua and Susan (Class of 2008 and 2009), Caleb Janho, son of John and Kelly (Class of 2011), Ruth Eichison, daughter of Naomi (Class of 2012 and 2013), Nicole Janho, daughter of Tim (Class of 2012), and Susan (Decamp) (Class of 2013 and 2014)

The New York campus was in the midst of a mini-makeover this summer. Here’s a look at some of the changes:
- Student lounge: new furnishings, carpet, and fireplace
- Snak Shack: new furnishings, wood flooring, large-screen TVs
- Kitchen and Snak Shack: equipment upgrades
- Jack Wyrtzen Center: parking lot resealing
- Dorm security upgrades
- Emergency electrical backup improvements
VICTORY JOURNAL

ALUMNI NEWS (cont.)

children: John Thomas (7) and Lily (2). He often finds himself quoting someone or something that he learned at the Bible Institute and finds it amazing how God can bring something to his mind that he heard or read just when he needs it most.

Jordan Miller (03, ’04) is married to Stephanie and works at Liberty University as an admissions counselor.

Joseph Pine (’03, ’04) is a youth pastor working toward a master’s in theological studies. He is in the Army Reserves.

Rodrigo (’05) and Annie (Christ) Bender (’99) met at Word of Life. Rodrigo now serves as assistant pastor of Mountain Stream Baptist Church in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. They say that Word of Life was transforming and some of the best years of their lives. They have two children: Domiric (3) and Dylan (18 months).

Sarah Nippert (’06) is the assistant director of enrollment services at Baptist Bible College and Seminary. She would like to remind everyone to not give up, to keep going, and to keep serving.

Jacob Donald Smith (’06, ’08) planned to participate in the World Race in September. The race is a stretching journey into 11 countries in 11 months to serve “the least of these” among real and raw community. Jacob says, “Stepping out in faith for two years and being a missionary was the best thing ever.”

Sarah (Wilcken) Davis (’07) is married to Will Davis. They are pursuing ministry opportunities while serving at Roots Youth with Saptas Evangelical Free Church, which seeks to develop students who actively engage Christ in their world.

Brian Berger (’08, ’09) is a youth pastor. He’s excited that three girls from the youth group were saved at Snow Camp this year.

Adam (’13) and Mana (Koyano) (’09) Yoder just welcomed Shio to their family. Adam is also a sales manager.

Tyler Anderson (’10) is co-director of The King’s Players, a touring repertory theater company that focuses on Christian drama and ministry at Liberty University.

Brianna Ansphach (’10) works at Hershey’s Chocolate World. She is studying online with Liberty University.

Amber Richards (’10) is studying nursing at Pensacola Christian College in Pensacola, Florida. She encourages everyone to remember that in everything, God is good, and what He does is good.

Diego Alvarez (’10) is the pastoral assistant at First Baptist Church and is working full-time at a warehouse. He reminds alumni that they exist to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all the people.

Joshua Salinas (’10) is working a construction job in New Hampshire and preparing financially for future ministry in Argentina.

Adam Young (’10, ’11) works at a meat company in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He also serves with the youth group at Faith Bible Fellowship and got married this year.

Adam Kent (’10, ’11) is studying at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and working security. His wife, Crystal (Knorpp) (’11, ’12), is studying online with Liberty University.

Amanda Bogert (’11) is a student at Penn State University and is working as a nanny.

Jasmine Smith (’12) is a sophomore studying pre-law at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. She teaches Sunday school at her home church.

Jerome Bosman (’10, Owen Sound; ’12 New York) is an intern at the Bible Institute’s Owen Sound campus, where he serves as an audiovisual technician.

Rebecca Clark (’12) is a missionary intern with Word of Life Poland. She encourages alumni to stay in the Word.

The Victory Journal is here to keep you up to date on alumni weddings, births, ministry opportunities, or other life changes. Contact us at alumni@wol.org.

The Creation Museum

CREATION MUSEUM
Prepare to believe.

The Ward of Life Bible Institute alumna association is sponsoring a Ward of Life event April 25-27 at the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, just across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Arrive Friday evening and spend Saturday (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Sunday (12 p.m. to 6 p.m.) at the museum. Ward of Life is planning a special time for alumni on Saturday at 6-15 p.m. Alumni are welcome to enjoy dinner and time with Ward of Life Executive Director Don Laugh, Jr. and Redemption, a music group made up of alumni. A worship time is also being planned for Sunday morning at Calvary Baptist Church in Covington, Kentucky.

Special Feature: Anyone registering as part of the Ward of Life group will be invited to a behind-the-scenes tour of the amazing new Noah’s Ark project.

The cost for a two-day pass (Saturday and Sunday) is $15 for anyone ages 7 and older, and $10 for those 6 and under. Register now at eventbrite.com. Search for “Ward of Life Bible Institute Alumni & Creation Museum.”

We have negotiated special rates for accommodations. Contact them directly to make reservations.

Country Inn and Suites
759 Petersburg Rd.
Hebron, KY 41048
859.689.0700

Daily Rate: $85 — standard room (two queens or a king)

Daily Rate: $100 — suite (one bedroom, two queens or one king, pullout sofa)

http://indianspringscampground.com/contact.

Indian Springs Campground
3306 State Line Rd.
North Bend, OH 45052
888.550.9244 or 513.353.9244

Daily rate (Good Sam Club or AAA member)
30 amp: $36, 50 amp: $41.00
30 amp: $40, 50 amp: $45

http://indianspringscampground.com/contact.html

Plan now to bring the whole family, friends, or your church youth group. Pass the word to others and make this exciting weekend a highlight of your year.

CONTACT US
alumni@wol.org

ALUMNI NEWS (cont.)

00s

Courtney (Bingman) Stephens (’00) is a stay-at-home mom planning a camp/family enrichment ministry for the future. She has a children’s book published and is working on a novel. She and her husband, Mackenzie, are talking about planting a church in central Ohio. They have two children: Bethsaida (3) and Rayah (18 months).

Adam Rushlow (’00, ’02) is working in Texas and serving with Christ Fellowship. He and his wife, Joanna (MacQueen) (’03), have three children: Maja (4), Zoe (2), and Dane (2 months).

Joshua (’02) and Megan (Leffer) (’01, ’02) Bean have two children: Matthew (5) and Malachi (2). Megan is a homemaker, homeschools their children, and is involved in women’s ministry. Joshua is a training coordinator for corrections, court security, and civil process at Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy. He is active in missions and children’s ministry at Forest Baptist Church in Forest, Virginia.

The Creation Museum

Check out the Creation Museum at creationmuseum.org

We have negotiated special rates for accommodations. Contact them directly to make reservations.

ALUMNI NEWS (cont.)

VICTORY JOURNAL

18
Word of Life wants to provide alumni with not only encouragement but also practical advice. This section focuses on stewardship, and specifically, the measures Word of Life has set up to help people make wise choices for themselves, their families, and ministries they choose to support.

Last summer at the Word of Life Inn & Family Lodge, I had the privilege of presenting a financial seminar on avoiding loss. As I write this article, the stock market has regained the losses suffered in the recent recession. It has gone from a low of 6537.56 to a record high of 15545.00 in July 2013 (a 137% increase). The question everyone asks when it comes to the stock market and other financial assets is, “How do I keep what God has provided?”

If you are 20 years away from needing the money you are setting aside now, are you saving every month toward your goal? Let’s stop there for a minute. According to a 2012 study, people 65 years or older have, on average, $56,000 set aside for retirement, and those 56 to 65 have $65,000 put away (in IRAs, 401(k)s, etc.). Because that savings is most people’s only retirement income in addition to Social Security (which gives out an average $14,800 a year), they are planning on living on less than $18,000 a year.

That means most people are depending on other government programs, children, and charity to provide for their needs. That is not God’s plan — He has called us to be good stewards and to put ourselves in a position where we can help others.

Back to avoiding loss: Make sure your savings are diversified and that you know what you have invested in.

There are two other key ways to avoid loss, and they also go hand in hand with preparing for your future. First, the best way to avoid loss is to be debt-free. Every dollar you pay in interest is a 100% loss, and even if you have a 0% rate, you are a servant to the lender. The second most important area is taxes, especially on your 401(k). When you pass the stewardship of these resources to the next generation, up to 50% of their value could be lost to income taxes. This can be avoided or reduced substantially with good planning ahead of time.

We’ll have more on this in upcoming issues, with details on how you can save for your future and make sure that the money you put away today will be available to serve people best down the road.

Contact Howard Leach at 518-494-6214 or howardleach@wol.org