

LUTHER RICE SEMINARY, INC.

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Serving the church by providing biblically-based education to Christian men and women for ministry.

Luther Rice is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).

Luther Rice is an Equal Opportunity higher education institution open to any qualified individual without regard to race, religion, sex, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability, except where required by specific religious tenets held by the institution.



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PIONEER

Luther Rice College & Seminary

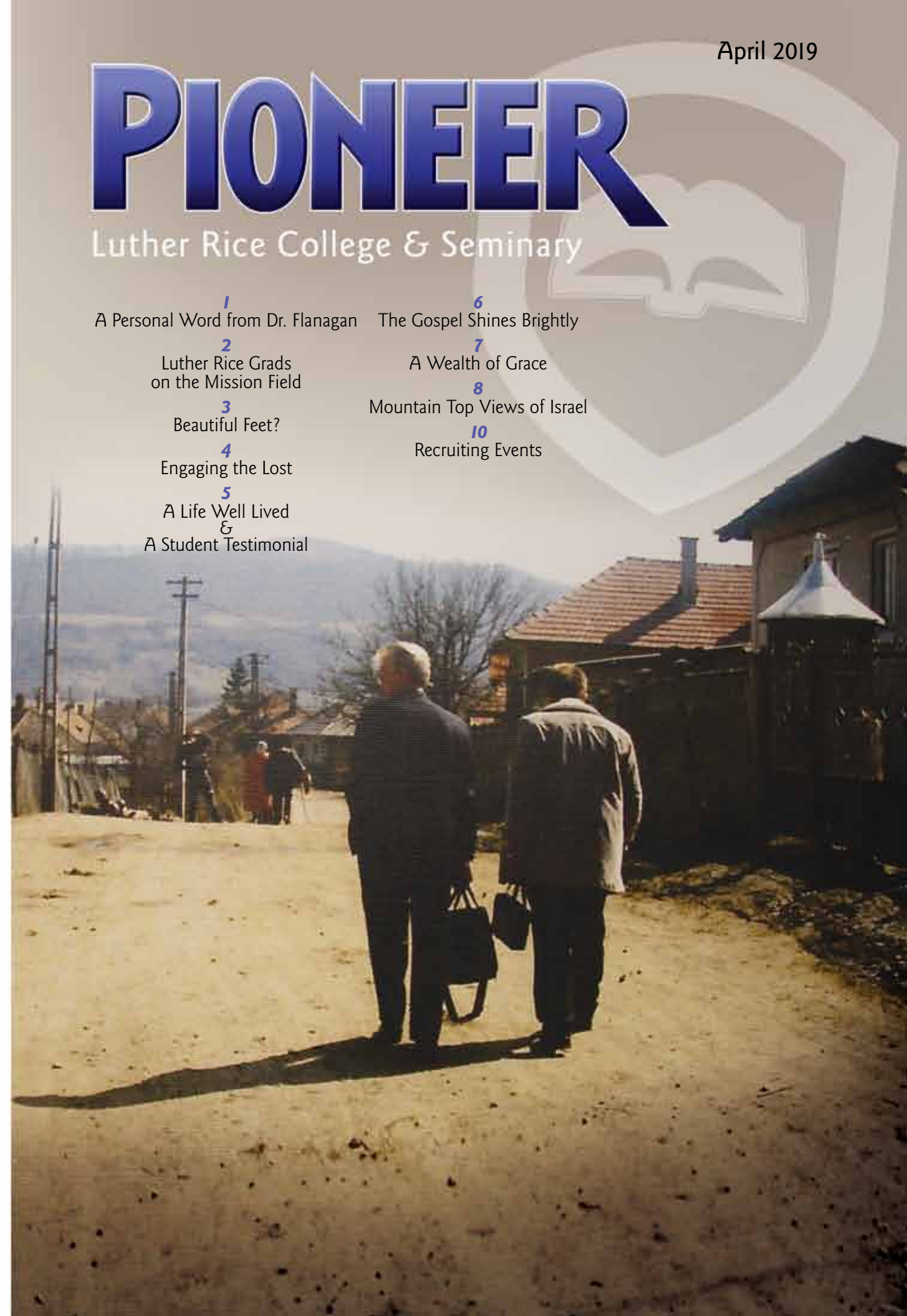
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If you know someone who is looking for a college or seminary degree, tell them about Luther Rice! Over 50% of our new students come from personal referrals. If you need materials to give to someone or to share with your church, please email us at **Enroll@LutherRice.edu**.



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A Personal Word



from **DR. FLANAGAN**

Did you notice the two men pictured on the front of this issue of the Pioneer? Their names are Dr. Jim Waddle and Dr. Dan Yaw. This picture was taken as they walked down a road in Romania while on a mission trip sharing the gospel and preaching in various churches. I'm proud to say both men are Luther Rice graduates and live out the heritage of our founder.

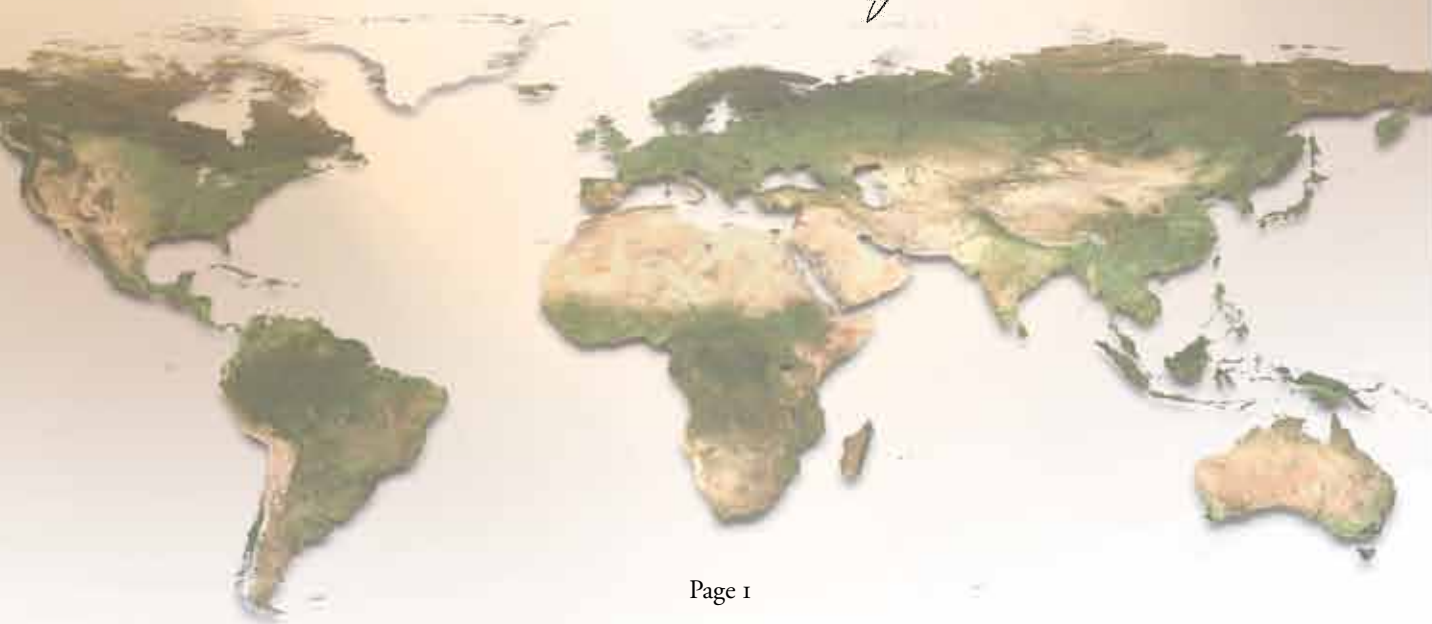
Dr. Waddle and Dr. Yaw represent the fulfillment of our mission, which is to serve the church by providing biblically-based on-campus and distance education to Christian men and women for ministry. Our goal is to produce graduates who are actively engaged in proclaiming the gospel. As our namesake, the preacher Luther Rice, stated, "How can we remain indifferent when immortal souls hang in the balance?"

This past year, we have served 1,367 students from 45 states and 19 foreign countries. We praise God for using our students and graduates around the world for the cause of Christ.

The global impact of Luther Rice is seen in this year's graduates, with students from across the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia. In fact, the sun never sets on the ministry of our students and graduates. I am amazed at how God continues to use Luther Rice to transform lives around the world.

None of this would be possible without the support of churches and individuals like you to offset the cost of providing a biblical education. Thank you so much for your prayers and gifts on behalf of the ministry God has given to us.

James Flanagan
President



Luther Rice Grads on the Mission Field

Two graduates of Luther Rice, Dr. Daniel E. Lewis, Executive Director of International Association of Grace Ministries (IAGM) and Dr. Daniel B. Yaw, Pastor of the Northside Baptist Church in Lakeland, Florida, and former pioneering missionary to Romania—recently had the opportunity to travel to Rome, Italy and then on to Vienna, Austria to visit Luther Rice graduate missionaries supported by the International Association of Grace Ministries (IAGM).

IAGM is the mission sending organization through which Dr. Yaw supports Todd and Christie Kincaid. Both graduates of Luther Rice, Todd has a Master of Divinity and Christie has a Master's in Biblical Counseling. Over the past three years, they have successfully planted a ministry in the center of Rome for migrants from North Africa, Bangladesh, India, and other Middle Eastern countries for a total of 42 countries, as well as local Romans. The Agape Center, located in the heart of Rome, is an outreach to those migrants seeking asylum from their home countries due to persecution and great distress. Through the Kincaid's work with a local Italian Baptist Church in cooperation with the Agape Center, God has used the Kincaids to minister to Muslims from these countries.

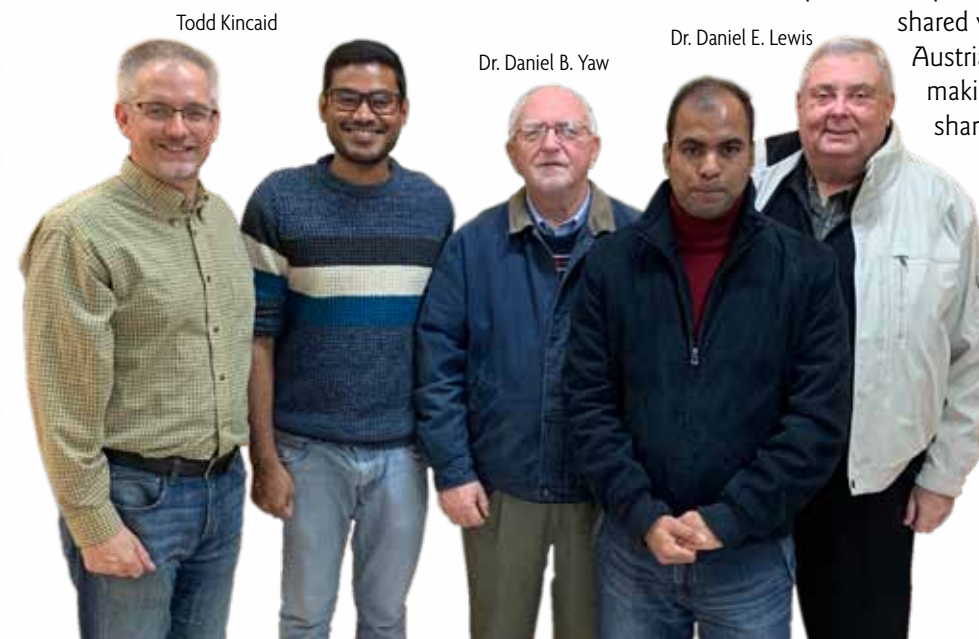
Dr. Lewis and Dr. Yaw were able to witness the Kincaids and their team of workers teaching English to at least 50 individuals. There have been many salvations through soul-winning efforts with migrants who have arrived through the Italian port of Sicily, a major entry point into Europe. The evening meetings in the center not only teach children and adults how to better understand

English, but also cleverly present the gospel of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Italian Baptist Church had the privilege of hosting the baptism of a Bangladeshi believer whose conversion places him in danger as a former Muslim.

Todd Kincaid also teaches for the Istituto Biblico Evangelico Italiano (IBEI), an evangelical seminary in Rome. Dr. Lewis, Dr. Yaw, and the Kincaids, along with the Kincaids' daughter, traveled from Rome to Austria for a two-day visit. There, they met up with three more missionary couples laboring in Vienna, Austria, and Bratislava, Slovakia. Pastor Brian Williams and his wife Pearl are both Luther Rice graduates (Brian, MDiv.; Pearl, MABC) and are part of Dr. Tim Mann's Living the Mission agency stationed in Ormand Beach, Florida. Brian is the pastor of two Baptist churches in Vienna and is supported by Dr. Yaw's church in Lakeland, Florida. Also in attendance were Pastor Rob and Mary Prokop (Pearl's sister and brother-in-law). Pastor Prokop leads a 400-member church, one of the largest bilingual churches in Vienna, Austria.

A new missionary couple to IAGM, Trevor Robinson and his wife Veronika, traveled 1.5 hours from Bratislava to Vienna to join the group. Trevor is a wounded army veteran. He was injured while on maneuvers in Washington State. He has his Master of Divinity from the former Northwest Baptist Seminary in Tacoma, Washington. He married Veronika, a Slovak, and they have three children. While stationed in Tacoma, he had a vision for Slovakia and decided to return there with his wife to plant a Christian church in Bratislava.

The purpose of this trip was to introduce each couple and to spend time communicating their shared vision for the lost between Italy, Austria, and Slovakia. It was a time of making friends, encouragement, and sharing resources for migrants and people groups from each country. Dr. Lewis and Dr. Yaw helped connect these couples and encouraged them in the cooperative effort to win the lost.





Beautiful Feet?

By Dr. Joshua E. Stewart

Who do you know that has beautiful feet? My answer would be Dr. Ron Long. I am sure many of you are familiar with Dr. Long.

He has been a member of the Luther Rice community for nearly 30 years. He has served for several years as Assistant to the President for Missions and Church Relations. During my early days as a student at Luther Rice, both Dr. Long and Mark Oliver decided that I should take my first mission trip, alone, to Southern India (a subject to which I will return shortly).

But first, let's consider how a messenger of good news could have beautiful feet. It is one that comes up two times in the Bible (Isa. 52:7 and Rom. 10:15). In Isaiah, the context is more than likely a message about the return of exiles from Babylonian captivity. The announcement of the return from exile is one of salvation, and the result of this return will be the knowledge of the power and presence of the Lord. This message should instill hope and comfort for the people. Paul's usage of Isaiah 52 in Romans 10 reflects on another message of hope and comfort. However, Paul's main point in using Isaiah 52:7 is not necessarily about the content of the message (although that is his larger point in the chapter). Rather, his point focuses on the mission of sharing the good news about the Messiah. In either case, the biblical writers are pointing the readers to reflect on the goodness of the good news brought by the messenger. Yet, is this the only possible idea conveyed by these two texts?

In both of these texts, there is a subtle nuance in the original languages, which could point to another or

additional idea. In both the Hebrew text of Isaiah 52:7 the Hebrew verb *na'wu* and the Greek text of Romans 10:15 the adjective *horaios* have the basic sense of something being timely or seasonal. Of course, being beautiful would be a natural derivative idea in that something coming at the right time is beautiful.

Considering the idea of good news coming at the right time or in the right season, we should likewise see the intentionality of God's timing. And here is where my trip to India comes in. In hindsight, I realize that this trip could not have come at a more perfect time in my life. Before I embarked, I had become very myopic about what Christianity entailed. My perspectives were overly Western, that is, only meant to answer questions specific to my context and putting God in a box shaped by that context. My experience in a different place began to reshape my ideas about Christianity and God into a more global perspective. I began to see that God is the great iconoclast, and when one thinks they have God figured out, he will oftentimes shatter those concepts.

I am thankful that when I thought I was merely going somewhere and that my feet would be beautiful, I actually found that my going and proclaiming was actually the right time for me to learn a valuable lesson. I suspect Dr. Long would agree that his hundreds of excursions to proclaim the good news around the world were just as much about their timeliness as they were about his beautiful feet. I know for me, my adventures of being a bearer of the good news were in God's good and right timing as well.

Engaging the Lost

By Ms. Vanessa Nealey

I felt called to missions when I was a teenager, and the Lord has opened many doors for me to serve on mission trips. Last summer, I went to England. It has always been a dream of mine to go there, so I was very excited. Our team worked with Upper Stratton Baptist Church, a small church in Swindon, England, about 1.5 hours west of London. The church was started in 1861, and the current pastor, Simon Govier, has been there for about two years. He is a young man with a young family. Most of the church attendees, however, are older, and so they made a request for a team from the U.S. to come help them with their vacation Bible school.

We had approximately 40-50 children attend each day. The majority of the kids came from families in the community that were unchurched. They were divided into four groups by age and went to four classes each day: music, games, crafts, and Bible. I had the privilege of teaching the Bible class. On the last day, all of the parents and family members were invited to attend a picnic.

After the picnic, there was a program held so that the parents could see

what their children had been doing all week. They got to hear them sing songs and say the Bible verses they had learned. This was also a special time to allow Pastor Simon to reach out to the families and let them know what was going on at the church.

While we were there, Pastor Simon talked with us about the mission field in England. He mentioned that in the United States, the current generation is not involved in church like previous ones were. For a lot of people and families, church is not a priority, and a lack of church attendance is becoming an accepted norm. In England, however, they are already two generations out from that. It is a very difficult mission field, which is disheartening, considering all of the great preachers and revivals that started in Great Britain.

All of the familiar "mission" verses we read in the Bible tell us to go, make disciples, preach the gospel, and be witnesses at home and around the world. As a woman who has been raised in the church and was saved at a young age, I have to examine my life and ask myself if I am doing those things.

It is wonderful to do Bible study after Bible study, have perfect attendance at church and Sunday school, and do all the "Christian things" we are supposed to do, but unless I am using all of that to help me go, witness, and make disciples, am I really fulfilling the Great Commission to which God has called all Christians?

Going on an international mission trip is great, but we must also be willing to walk across the street to our neighbor. We must be willing to engage the lost wherever they are and show them the love of Jesus. Then, we have to disciple new believers so that they can grow and make disciples too. It seems overwhelming to think of trying to win a generation to Christ, but we must start, one person at a time.



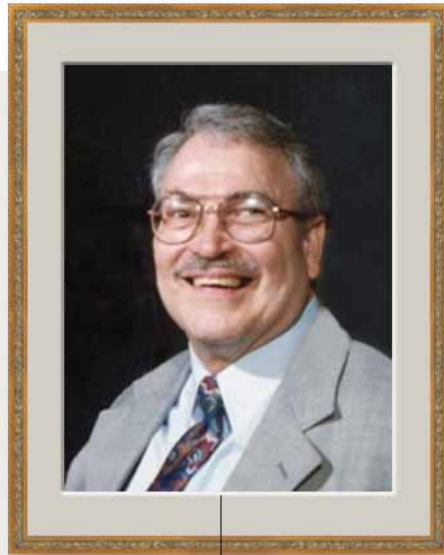
Vanessa Nealey,
Executive Assistant
to the President



A Life Well Lived

Dr. David T. Rhew, Jr., 77, passed away Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at his home in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. Dr. Rhew faithfully served as Director of Library Services and Associate Professor of Bible and Church History at Luther Rice from 1982 to 2000. Although Luther Rice was his home for nearly 20 years, his career spanned to several other seminaries as well. A native of Corpus Christi, Texas, Dr. Rhew received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Corpus Christi, a Master of Library Science from North Texas State University, a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and finally a Doctor of Ministry from Luther Rice College and Seminary.

He retired in 2000 and moved to the mountains of Maggie Valley, North Carolina. He stated one time after visiting Maggie Valley that he thought it was the most beautiful little town he had ever seen and knew he wanted to retire there. After his retirement, he continued to preach and be active with the pastors and



Baptist Associations in Western North Carolina.

Dr. Rhew was born with a physical disability, but he never allowed that to slow him down. He completed several higher degrees, served as a librarian, preached the gospel, went on mission trips, and served the Lord in many ways. He was a kind man with a great sense of humor.

In May 2018, Luther Rice dedicated a bench in his honor on the campus, which sits outside the library. Little did we know that three months after dedicating the bench he would be in heaven with Jesus after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. In his last days, he said that he was ready to go because he wanted to see Jesus and get that new body because his earthly body had always been crippled.

We are so thankful that the Lord allowed Dr. Rhew to be a part of the ministry at Luther Rice, and the school was very blessed to be remembered in his will.

The Gospel Shines Brightly

By Dr. David Casas



Cuba is the land of my heritage. Even though I was born in Spain, my immediate, as well as extended family, are all Cuban-born. Forty-eight years ago, with the Lord's help, my parents and sister escaped the Castro regime. Forty-eight years later, I stepped foot into the very airport that served as my family's gateway to freedom. I was now entering the country they were so desperate to escape. These are the things that the Lord does in His time.

I was privileged to join a visiting team from Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Georgia, who so kindly invited me to be the teacher on their third trip to Cuba. Their destination was a vibrant church in the heart of Matanzas, which is about a two-hour drive from Havana. The team found a way to love on the church by repairing bicycles, which for many Cubans is their only form of transportation and livelihood. I really did not know what was in store for me, but upon arrival, I had the blessing of preaching from Romans 8:30 to the church's youth. The next morning, I preached in the Sunday morning service out of Joshua 1, and from there I had the privilege of preaching at two evangelistic outreaches: a community group gathering, a mini-apologetics conference (again with the youth and at their request), and the Wednesday night

farewell service. Whew! We certainly came to work! The church in Cuba is encouraging. I was challenged by how there are church activities each night. Whether an evangelistic outing, or area Bible studies (community groups), or visits to the homes of church members for prayer, the church members are doing life with one another and living out the command to be salt and light in a very dark place. I was challenged that a people under a totalitarian regime, where God was eradicated from national rhetoric, textbooks, and daily conversations 60 years ago, the light of the Gospel shines brightly in them! In the midst of their dire poverty, they are rich in their love for Jesus!

The second part of my journey was also special. For the first time in my life, I met my uncles, aunts, and cousins on my mother's side. It was a sweet time of reuniting, telling stories, sharing a meal, and laughing and crying together. One of my uncles, my mother's older brother, with tears in his eyes, hugged me tightly and whispered, "I never thought this day would ever come." I never thought the day would come either. But as Ecclesiastes 3:11 reminds us, "He has made everything beautiful in its time." I pray that the Lord will open the door again so I can return. I left the home of my heritage with a full heart, and I am sure that a piece of my heart still remains there.

STUDENT TESTIMONY

In May 2019, Luther Rice College and Seminary will host its 57th graduation commencement ceremony. The graduating class consists of 226 students residing around the world, representing 32 states and seven countries. Congratulations to all of our graduates and their families. You've finished!

We enjoy receiving many words of encouragement and gratitude from students and alumni throughout the year. One of our international students sent the following testimony about Dr. Ron Cobb, Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Biblical Counseling and Doctor of Ministry Program Coordinator:

“

I would like to thank you personally for being my professor at Luther Rice. You are everything a student in ministry could expect from a professor. Your wisdom and your knowledge, your experience and your understanding of ministers and ministries are outstanding. You taught us humility, integrity, and to always rely on the Holy Spirit. You are such a spiritual father to your students. I pray that the Lord confirms to you how significant you have been to me and my ministry. May the Lord richly bless you Dr. Cobb.

”

“Together with my brothers in Christ and countrymen at the church in Matanzas.”



A Wealth of Grace

Dr. William Coleman

It was the end of the week of teaching and time for a question and answer session. As a Russian-speaking student raised his hand, I could feel my stomach tighten. I was bracing myself because this student had sat there all week scowling at me as I taught biblical exposition. His Russian comments, unintelligible to me, seemed harsh, disrespectful, and unwarranted. I was already steadying myself to respond with grace to this barrage when my translator relayed what he said.

To my surprise, among other complimentary words, he stated, "What Dr. Coleman has spoken this week is absolutely true and we must follow this teaching so that we preach the Bible accurately." My look of confusion must have been noticeable as my eyes went from the translator to the student, who nodded to me in affirmation.

I was teaching in Moldova, the poorest nation in Europe, which has two predominant languages: Romanian and Russian. In the heart of the capital city of Chisinau lies Divitia Gratia University. I met Mihai Malancea, the dean of this university, in 2004 and was inspired by his story. Mihai, a native Moldovan, got his doctorate in Arabic studies with the express intent of taking the gospel of Jesus Christ into predominantly Muslim cultures. At the fall of the Soviet Union, the failed soviet states gained their independence. Many of them had freedom of religion and there was a flood of Christian missionaries. However, many of these churches did not make it due to a lack of unity and theological training. Muslim missionaries seized the opportunity and gained a great influence over culture and government in these countries.

Knowing that it is very difficult to enter these countries with the gospel as foreigners, Mihai created a strategic plan. Mihai would travel into these countries and look for churches and gatherings of believers. He would offer them the opportunity to study and learn at the university. Their only cost would be a commitment to return to their countries to start more churches.

Dr. William Wilson and I have received invitations to teach at Divitia Gratia University. The students consisted of both Moldovans, primarily speaking Romanian, and foreigners speaking Russian, most notably Tajikistan. Therefore, the lectures had to be translated into both languages.

In the spread of the early church, without correct theological understanding, infant churches could easily become breeding grounds for heretical doctrine. As I have had the opportunity to train pastors in many countries and cultures, I have found that it is a lack of knowledge, not passion, that often derails pastors.

The incredible impact cannot be overstated. As Dr. Wilson and I were investing in these students, we were mentoring disciples who would make other disciples. When they went back to their own countries, they would not carry with them the names of these professors—they would carry with them the precious name of Jesus.

I learned a valuable lesson that week: be very careful in making assumptions, especially when dealing with other cultures! The God of the nations is at work even when we feel like the truth is falling on deaf ears.



Mountain Top Views of Israel

Dr. Scott Henderson

Every trip is an adventure full of new discoveries and fresh memories, and my recent visit to Israel was no exception. It was my fifth time traveling to the country and my fourth as a tour host. From day one, our 19 pilgrims ascended to new heights, both geographically and spiritually, as we toured the mountain tops in the Holy Land.

From Mount Carmel, we could view the entire country from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan Valley. Stretched out before us to the East was the Jezreel Valley, the setting for many events in both the New and Old Testaments, including the slaying of the prophets of Baal in the Kishon pass just below. Traveling inland, we got to stand on the cliffs of Mount Arbel, where we could view the entire Sea of Galilee, the heart of Jesus's ministry. Just below the cliffs, along the northwestern shore, we glimpsed the ancient ruins of Magdala (Migdal), the home of Mary Magdalene. In Magdala, we visited the oldest known synagogue, which dated back to the time of Jesus. I reminded our folks of the significance of the archeological find. Until then, skeptics had doubted the existence of synagogues in the first century.

Other highlights included visits to Caesarea-Philippi,

where Jesus declared his victory over death, and to Mount Hermon, where Jesus was transfigured. From the heights, we descended to the lowest point on earth—the Dead Sea. While there, we visited the ruins of Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered. After a float on the Dead Sea, we passed through Jericho on our ascent into the Holy City of Jerusalem, where we overlooked the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives. We were reminded of how Jesus predicted the destruction of the Temple and warned his followers of impending judgment upon the nation of Israel. Our last time together in Jerusalem was spent in communion in the Garden Tomb area, a possible site of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.

I have only highlighted some of the places we visited while on tour, and I wish I could share them all. But perhaps the most rewarding experience for me as a teaching host was watching the expressions on the faces of our folks as they saw, for the first time, the places where Jesus walked and taught. It is exciting to be a part of the learning experience of others and to see them walk away with a greater zeal and appreciation for understanding the Bible. Even now, we are planning our next study-abroad trip to the Holy Land—and we would love for you to join us!



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STATE OF THE INSTITUTION ADDRESS BY DR. JAMES FLANAGAN

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Review the available courses and register at: www.ProjectFocus.education



Luther Rice Recruiting Events Schedule for 2019

Will you be at any of the following events?
 Be sure to stop by our table and learn about the degrees Luther Rice has to offer.
We'd love the chance to get to meet you!

- January 25-26:** Johnny Hunt's Men's Conference – Woodstock, GA
- January 24-27:** First Baptist Church Jacksonville Pastor's Conference – Jacksonville, FL
- February 25:** Southside Summit – McDonough, GA
- March 22:** Luther Rice On-Campus Preview Day – Lithonia, GA
- June 10-12:** Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference and Annual Meeting – Birmingham, AL
- June 11:** Annual Alumni & Friends Luncheon – Birmingham, AL
- June 17-21:** National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education – Baltimore, MD
- July 8-11:** E.K. Bailey Conference – Dallas, TX
- August 16-17:** Georgia Baptist Mission Board GO Georgia Conference – Jonesboro, GA
- August 24:** New Student Welcome & Orientation on Luther Rice's campus – Lithonia, GA
- September 2-6:** National Baptist Convention Annual Meeting – New Orleans, LA
- October 9-12:** American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference – Nashville, TN
- October 28-29:** Annual Meeting of Missouri Baptists – Branson, MO
- November 11-12:** Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Annual Meeting – Greensboro, NC
- November 11-12:** Florida Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting – Orlando, FL
- November 10-12:** Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting – Fayetteville, GA
- November 17-20:** Summit: The Gathering of Tennessee Baptists – Knoxville, TN