

PIONEER

MARCH 2015

A Fresh Look at the Importance of Christ's Resurrection

By Dr. Brad Arnett, Graduate Dean

If you are like me, the Easter season has a way of making you think deeply about life, death, and the afterlife. As we draw near to the time when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, I want to encourage you to think about it from different angles, guided by the biblical record. Below I offer some devotional thoughts on the resurrection. If you are a pastor or teacher, perhaps these thoughts may assist you in preparing to address your audience in a fresh way this Easter.

The most common way we think about the resurrection is in an apologetic, or factual, way. The resurrection is the lynchpin of Christianity, and as we read the gospels, we encounter the factual, historical details about it. What happened? When? Where? The tomb is—of course—empty! Christ is risen! The fact of the resurrection is important because without it there is no Christianity (1 Cor. 15:14-19).

What does it actually mean when we say, “Christ was raised from the dead?” We turn to the New Testament letters and encounter the meaning of the resurrection. Paul says in Romans 1:4 that the resurrection declared Jesus “the Son of God in Power.” So the resurrection helps us know who Jesus is. By the resurrection, Jesus achieved victory over death and demonstrated that death is not the end (1 Cor. 15:53-55). Romans 4:25 tells us that Jesus was delivered up because of our sins and that he was raised because of our justification. Without his resurrection, we could not be justified.

Finally, we should also contemplate the significance of the resurrection. Meaning is not the same as significance. What is significant about the resurrection? What does it mean for you and me here on earth right now? You might think that this is easily answered: “Because Jesus is the Son of God, because He paid for our sins, and because we are justified, we can live. And we ought to live under His rule.” Very true! But there is more.

In 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Paul speaks of Jesus being the firstfruits of the resurrection, and he relates that to events connected to the coming kingdom and the new creation. By his resurrection, Jesus inaugurated the new age. He started something that looks forward to a time of fulfillment. That fulfillment includes making us alive (2 Cor. 4:7-5:5), renewing the creation (Rom. 8:18-25; Acts 3:21; Rev. 21:1, 5), and bringing justice to this world (Rom. 2:5; Rev. 21:8, 27).

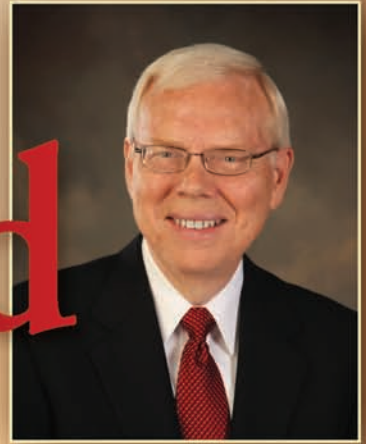
We are a people who, by right of the resurrection, wait for that coming day and work with divine purpose, knowing that our labor is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). The significance of the resurrection shows itself in our daily service as we work for and await the coming King and His kingdom.

May these thoughts help you think more intensely about the meaning of Easter and draw you nearer to our Risen Lord in your daily walk.

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A Personal Word



from DR. FLANAGAN

First, let me express my appreciation to those who sent in gifts during our \$50,000 Matching Scholarship Campaign. I am pleased to say that we met our goal! Through the generosity of the Luther Rice family, we will be able to provide scholarships to students here and around the world—helping them prepare for a life of Christian service to God and man.

Both new and continuing students show a passionate commitment to equipping themselves for their current or future fields of ministry. We receive letters regularly from our students and graduates who are laying their lives on the line for the cause of Christ. So, we must not only prepare them for ministry, but also remember to pray fervently for them as well.

As we look ahead, many people ask me about future plans. The mission of our institution always comes first—to provide biblical education for Christian ministers and leaders around the world. In order to achieve this mission, we are dedicated to these basic principles:

We provide Bible-based education. God's Word forms the basis of all our programs and courses.

Our efforts are Christ-centered. He is the focus of all that we teach and practice.

We are evangelistic. The Great Commission is a vital part of our passion and practice.

We support local churches, always endeavoring to edify them and encourage their servants.

In 2015, we will keep building upon the sure foundation that was laid over 52 years ago. Luther Rice Seminary has been a pioneer in the field of distance education, and we will continue to strive for excellence in the online mode of course delivery, and its the capacity to serve students around the world.

While Luther Rice has been known as Luther Rice Seminary, we have always had a college, and it has shown a steady growth for several years. We plan to emphasize that fact in the future by calling attention to the distinction between college and seminary.

We are grateful for your prayers and support. We promise to pray for you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James H. Flanagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ALUMNI IN MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

DR. ROBERT L. WILLIAMS, D.MIN. '02



Founded in 1990 by Dr. Williams, Miracle Making Ministries, Inc. (MMM) provides practical solutions to clients determined to be at risk for social, academic, and economic failure in society. The ministry partners with other community groups that seek to aid the underserved in the Augusta and Richmond County, Georgia area.

MMM has helped more than 96,595 people since 1990 with rent assistance, utilities assistance, food assistance, primary medical care, literacy training, counseling, housing repairs, auto repairs, tutoring, and multi-focused assistance to single-parent homes and to senior citizens. The organization's fundamental goal is to identify practical needs among the poor and to develop connections between them and those with the time, talent, or finances to meet those needs.

MMM also works to revitalize neglected inner-city neighborhoods through community development



projects, foster unity among diverse Christian communities and peoples, facilitate Bible-teaching groups both locally and internationally to train men and women for the ministry, offer primary medical care through the Druid Park Community Health Center, and assist families with needs and vibrant youth outreach programs. Williams is also the pastor of The Path Worship Center and carries out multiple international mission

trips yearly.

All of the combined efforts of Williams and Miracle Making Ministries, have, at its core, the first objective of seeing people accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. Luther Rice is proud of all of its alumni who meet needs around the world and the efforts of Williams to actively and aggressively fulfill both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Through your gifts to Luther Rice you directly help train ministers and Christian leaders who reach out to others with the compassion and saving knowledge of Christ.



Double Impact

Matching Scholarship Challenge Reaches Goal

We are excited to report that the 2014 Fall Financial Matching Challenge has met its goal of \$50,000! Friends of the institution provided a \$50,000 fund to match gifts, dollar for dollar. Every gift was matched 100%, essentially doubled, for a total of \$100,000. All of the gifts went straight to the student scholarship fund, which is set up to defray tuition costs for eligible students.

Thank you to all of the support partners who sent in gifts for this student scholarship challenge and for your gifts throughout 2014.

Your generosity helps sustain the ongoing ministry training and degree programs of Luther Rice. Many of the scholarship recipients would not be able to afford formal ministry training without the help of the tuition assistance program. These students are already ministers at churches or are training for full-time Christian service. Financial gifts to Luther Rice have a direct effect on people's lives in a positive way by funding sound biblical training that is available online to ministers anywhere in the world.

Luther Rice trains approximately 1,500 students a year, from the United States and multiple foreign countries. Currently, there are students receiving sound biblical training from Luther Rice professors in 48 states and Puerto Rico, as well as 28 different foreign countries.

Each year, over \$260,000 in scholarship money is awarded to students needing financial assistance. These scholarships change lives, both of the student

and those the student will ultimately minister to in a church or other religious setting. Luther Rice would not be what it is today without the generosity of its support partners, including churches, individuals, foundations, and corporations. You—the giver—are reaching the world with the Good News of God's love and salvation for man.



Exploring the Church's Unshakable Doctrinal Heritage

What is the **MOST IMPORTANT** thing

We have designed the Master of Arts in Christian Studies (MACS) degree program to equip students with the biblical and theological tools they need to accurately and clearly answer this crucial question.

The psalmist says, “[The words of God] also are my delight; they are my counselors” (Ps. 119:24).

Building on these foundational convictions, the MACS curriculum focuses on core biblical-theological competencies. According to the degree program coordinator and Associate Professor of New Testament and Greek, Dr. William Wilson, “MACS graduates are prepared to interpret the Bible in light of its historical-grammatical context, develop a coherent evangelical theology, and communicate truth clearly in writing. Course offerings guide the student through biblical history, literature, and interpretation. Extensive studies on the books of the Bible immerse students in the rich details of God’s inspired words, and courses in systematic theology explore the Church’s unshakable doctrinal heritage.”

Wilson earned his bachelor’s degree at Wingate University and his M.Div. and Ph.D. at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a youth



Dr. William Wilson

minister for nine years in Texas and as a visiting professor of Christian Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai, China from 2005 to 2011.

Topics covered in the degree program include: introductions to the Old and New Testaments, systematic theology, the Psalms, Genesis, Acts of the Apostles, Hebrews, Revelation, and more. Students can choose courses on various books from both the Old Testament and New Testament. This

allows students to focus their studies on the books that interest them most.

So, what is the most important thing that the MACS program helps students better understand and articulate? As Paul reminded the Corinthians, “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). This is the simplicity and glory of the believer’s most important stewardship: the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Enroll in the Master of Arts in Christian Studies program and sharpen your stewardship skills so that “all the ends of the earth may fear him” (Ps. 67:7).

Evangelical Theological Society to Meet on Luther Rice Campus



Dr. Darrell Bock

The Evangelical Theological Society's (ETS) Southeast Regional Meeting will be held March 27-28, 2015, on the campus of Luther Rice Seminary. The theme of this year's meeting is "The Kingdom of God as a Metanarrative in Scripture." Dr. Darrell Bock will serve as the guest plenary speaker both days.

Dr. David Mapes, Luther Rice Professor of Theology and ETS Southeast Region chairman, and Dr. Joshua Stewart, Luther Rice Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, will host the conference.

ETS is a professional, academic society of biblical scholars, teachers, pastors, students, and others involved in evangelical scholarship. ETS serves Jesus Christ and His church by fostering conservative, evangelical biblical scholarship. Annual meetings are conducted at the regional and national levels. These gatherings allow biblical scholars and students to interact with one another in a professional exchange of thoughts on relevant theological topics.

This year's guest plenary speaker, Dr. Darrell Bock, is Executive Director of Cultural Engagement and Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Bock has earned international recognition as a Humboldt Scholar at Tübingen University in Germany, for his work in Luke-Acts, historical Jesus study, biblical theology, as well as with messianic Jewish

ministries. He was the president of ETS from 2000 to 2001, serves as editor-at-large for Christianity Today and is on the boards of Chosen People Ministries and Wheaton College. He is a well-known author of over 30 books on biblical topics. He has blogged on culture and Scripture for over seven years and has been a part of the weekly Texas Faith blog at the Dallas Morning News since its inception. Bock is a New York Times best-selling author in nonfiction and is elder emeritus at Trinity Fellowship Church in Dallas.

Meeting Plenary Topics Include:

Lecture 1: "On the Kingdom as Now and Not Yet: The Call to a Sneak Preview of What God Will Do"

Lecture 2: "Cultural Engagement: Lessons From the Book of Acts and the Character of Paul"

Lecture 3: "Application: The Tensions of Engagement for the Church—Model, Challenge, and Invite"

The meeting is open to ETS members, as well as biblical scholars and theology students, for a nominal fee. The Friday night banquet and all refreshment breaks are covered in the entrance fee. There will also be Christian booksellers exhibiting during the event.

Visit
www.LRU.edu/ets2015
for details and registration.

LUTHER RICE CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

30th Annual

NATIONAL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, the 16th of June 2015

12:00 pm ~ 1:00 pm

Greater Columbus Convention Center

Room C213

Columbus, Ohio

Featuring

- A State of the Institution Address by Dr. James Flanagan, President
- A Missions Outreach Update from Dr. Ron Long
- A Superb Meal Presented by Centerplate Catering
- A Time of Fellowship with Alumni and Friends Around the Table
- And a Special Gift for All Attendees

Tickets are only \$10.00 ~ Seating is Limited ~ Reserve Your Spot Today

Everyone is Invited.

For Tickets and Details Visit:

www.LRU.edu/luncheon2015



Why Luther Rice?

By Steve Steinhilber, Vice President for Administration

“**W**hat sets Luther Rice apart from other colleges and seminaries?” or “Why should I attend Luther Rice?”—Great questions we commonly get from prospective students.

We believe God has a specific purpose for Luther Rice and that is to prepare Christian ministers and leaders around the world for practical Christian ministry.

Since 1962, God has consistently led students who wish to attend college or seminary—but are unable to uproot their families or ministries—to Luther Rice. That is why Luther Rice has always been, and continues to be, a leader and an innovator in distance education.

Today, distance education is being delivered 100% online throughout the world.

With that being said, take a quick look at some facts that set Luther Rice apart:

- Flexible, 100% accredited, online degree programs that help you balance life, family, ministry, work, and studies
- We’ve provided online training for over 10 years and will continue to lead the way as innovators
- A beautiful campus in Metro Atlanta for those who wish to study in the classroom

- We have an uncompromising commitment to the mandates and teachings of the Bible
- We believe the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, and that’s what we teach
- Our competitive tuition is ranked in the lowest 10% of all non-profit, private, four-year schools
- We’re ranked a “Top Military Friendly School” by G.I. Jobs Magazine
- Luther Rice has over 7,000 graduates and 1,500 current students
- We have active students from 48 states and Puerto Rico, and 28 foreign countries
- Over 96% of graduates report satisfaction with their academic experience and faculty
- We have credentialed faculty with real ministry experience

Our hope is that if you are a prospective student, you would prayerfully consider Luther Rice. Contact us to find out if we have the right degree program for you. Or, if someone you know is looking to attend college or seminary, please consider recommending him or her to Luther Rice.

Visit our website www.LRU.edu for more information or to apply today!



2015 Recruiting Events

This year Luther Rice is planning to have representatives at the Christian conferences listed below. Participating in these events helps spread the word about Luther Rice to those that may be seeking a Christian college or seminary degree. If you are attending any of these events please stop by the Luther Rice booth to say "Hello"!

January:

College, Yes You Can Day, Atlanta, GA
Conclave Conference, Chattanooga, TN
Jacksonville First Baptist Pastors Conference, Jacksonville, FL
Johnny Hunt's Men's Conference, Woodstock, GA

February:

Georgia Baptist Evangelism Conference, Marietta, GA
Southside Summit Church Revitalization Conference, McDonough, GA

March:

Great Homeschool Convention, Greenville, SC
Elizabeth Baptist Church Missions Conference, Atlanta, GA

April:

Christian Association for Psychological Studies International Conference, Denver, CO
Exponential East Conference 2015, Tampa, FL

May:

Bridge Apologetics Conference, Peachtree City, GA

June:

National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education, Detroit, MI
Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting and Alumni Luncheon, Columbus, OH

July:

WayCross Fest, Waycross, GA

September:

American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference, Nashville, TN
National Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN

October:

Catalyst, Atlanta, GA
NACCAP North Atlanta, Kennesaw, GA
NACCAP South Atlanta, McDonough, GA
Mercer-Macon Graduate School Fair, Macon, GA
Missouri Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Springfield, MO

November:

Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
National Youth Workers Conference, Louisville, KY
Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Millington, TN
Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Marietta, GA
Florida Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Panama City, FL



New Release

Journal of Biblical Ministry

We are delighted to present the Fall 2014 edition of Luther Rice Seminary's Journal of Biblical Ministry.

Dr. Ann Kerlin's article will be of interest to all who have found ministry to involve much more than the out-front work of the pulpit. Professor Timothy Skinner has an outstanding study on the judgment of the nations and Dr. David Mapes clarifies a number of issues regarding the Abrahamic covenant. Luther Rice alumnus and instructor, Tobi England, offers some helpful insight in his article on the Pauline apologetic methodology displayed in Acts 17. In addition, particularly useful for Bible study, Dr. Joshua Stewart has written a step-by-step model for interpreting the stories of the Old Testament.

Finally, this editor has given his critique of a matter that came up recently in his Theological Apologetics classroom: Does the fact that God is immutable make it impossible for Him to do the things that the Bible says He has done? I hope you will see why the answer is a resounding "No!" as you read my article on the logical possibility of an unchanging God.

Once again, professor Thomas Mapes is owed a great debt of gratitude for his tireless proofing of each article and Ms. Sherri Humphrey is to be thanked for her indispensable help in turning diverse articles into a unified journal.

Our mission is to help you become the best leader and follower of



Christ that you can possibly be. We welcome your comments and constructive criticism. The digital journal can be accessed on the Luther Rice website, www.LRU.edu,

by scrolling to the bottom of the homepage, in the middle brown section, and clicking the blue "Online Journal >" link.

Now turn the page, read, learn, and "teach others also" (2 Tim. 2.2).

Dr. James M. Kinnebrew
General Editor



Dr. James M. Kinnebrew

so·cial me·di·a

definition: websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.

Did you know, as of the third quarter for 2014, **Facebook had 1.35 billion active users?** Or how about **Twitter's 284 million active users?** One cannot refute the numbers—social media has changed the way the world communicates and has taken interconnectivity to a whole new level.

Social Media's growth and popularity has also provided another way for **Luther Rice** to better serve its constituents through current, worldwide, and immediate opportunities for discussion. It helps students, alumni, constituents, and their families to remain connected and grow in Christ together. **Remember, Social Media is free, user-friendly, and has something for everyone!**

The Luther Rice Social Networking webpage (located under the "About Us" menu option on our website or at www.LRU.edu/socialnetworks) features the school's official social media profiles. Connect with us to stay informed about the latest news at Luther Rice.

See what Luther Rice alumni and constituents are saying about their experiences.

www.LRU.edu/socialnetworks

Recent Comments Posted on Social Media



Billy D Crow @billydcrow Oct 18

Nothing has challenged my professional life more than my doctoral work at @Luther_Rice. Thankful for the Godly men I learn from.



Allen M Rae @dmbcpastor Oct 10

@Luther_Rice. The sun truly never sets on thee! I find alumni everywhere I go. Brothers in Christ trained at the epitome of Biblical truth.



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LRU admits students of any race, religion, gender, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability, except where required by specific religious tenets held by the institution.

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Additional Comments Posted on Social Media



Joseph L. Marshall — 5★ I completed my D.Min. studies at Luther Rice and graduated on May 14, 2010. Luther Rice has prepared me for ministry, and the professors were top notch. I am a proud alumni and recommend Luther Rice to anyone pursuing higher biblical education.

Like Comment about 10 months ago



Carol Turner Hollingsworth — 4★ Extremely impressed with the men and women of this College. They seem to care about my son and his decision in seminary school.

Like Comment about 10 months ago

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