



Salt, Leaven & Light

**HARDING**  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND RELIGION

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*The College of Bible and Religion of Harding University seeks to lead all students to know, live and share God's Word and to understand, love and serve God's world through and beyond their chosen vocation.*

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## Spotlight on Recent Graduates

Assessment is a buzzword in academics these days. Everyone, from the cafeteria to the classroom, is being asked to demonstrate the impact of their work. In the College of Bible & Religion, our primary *outcome* is our students. This month we want to introduce you to two of our young graduates who are serving with churches in the Northeast, Carl Williamson and Matt Fortunato. I think you will be encouraged by their stories.

—Bruce McLarty

### MATT FORTUNATO

A 2007 graduate of Harding's School of Biblical Studies (now CAMT), Matt Fortunato returned to New Jersey to serve as part-time minister at the Collingswood Church of Christ, while he gives attention to his Master of Divinity studies at Westminster Theological University, Glenside, Pennsylvania. Matt and his wife Becky live in Westville, New Jersey. They have two young daughters, Gracie (3 years) and Bella (2 months).



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### CARL WILLIAMSON

Since July of 2004, Carl and Alicia Williamson along with their two children Zoë and Elle have been planting a church in North Brunswick, New Jersey. They, along with three other families who all graduated from Harding University, moved together to start the now established Brunswick Church of Christ. The goal of these ambitious students was to further God's kingdom through church planting in America, especially in Central New Jersey.

The Brunswick team made it their goal to move

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“Ministry is so much more exciting!”

**Matt Fortunato**

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Matt shares the preaching and teaching duties for the congregation and works in community outreach and body-life ministries. His MDiv work focuses on urban ministry. Graduate work, he says, is about spiritual formation. He states that his HSBS experience provided a solid foundation for local ministry as well as for graduate work.



Matt Fortunato (second from left) with the 2007 Theta II class from HSBS (now called CAMT).

Matt holds a bachelor’s degree from Philadelphia University in architecture, and he worked for school systems in procurement before attending Harding. He says he does not miss secular work. “Ministry is so much more exciting!” However, he says that from his previous professions he learned how to deal with people, how to move together toward a common goal, and how to listen to other’s viewpoints. In all these ways, his secular work experience has been helpful to his ministry development.

Matt Fortunato has prepared for effective ministry, is providing needed service in his community and church, and continues to prepare for greater service. He is making a difference in the Kingdom!

**Carl Williamson**

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to a state with very few churches of Christ and to establish a church that reaches out to a community of lost people. Eventually they set out from Harding believing that God had called them to go into New Jersey with the message of Jesus. Carl and Alicia are currently in the process of transitioning out of the Brunswick Church of Christ to lead a second church plant in Marlboro, New Jersey.

At Harding Carl majored in Bible and Religion, and this semester he is finishing up his Masters of Divinity degree from Harding Graduate School of Religion. Alicia majored in Exercise Science and Vocational Ministry and currently works part time as a health teacher in an inner-city school. Marvin Crowson, the director of the OutReach America program at Harding, worked with Carl and Alicia’s domestic mission team as they were developing and deciding where to go., The Williamsons are now fully committed to working and serving God in New Jersey, and call the Garden State “home.”



Carl (third from left, back row) and Alicia (third from left, second row) Williamson with the Brunswick, NJ, domestic missions team.

“...in the process of transitioning... to lead a second church plant in Marlboro, New Jersey.”