



Summer 2020

The College of Bible and Ministry 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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EQUIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Tim Westbrook, Ph.D.

Director of the Center for Distance Education in Bible and Ministry

The Center for Distance Education in Bible and Ministry (CDE) is pleased to announce "Equip at Harding University." Equip is both a continuation of the long legacy of Harding's on-campus training programs for ministry for adult learners blended with Harding's 15 years of experience of Christian higher education online. The former Center for Advanced Ministry Training, online certificates of completion, and the BA in Bible and Ministry (adult completion) have now merged into the Equip program. We are excited about this new chapter in the College of Bible and Ministry's commitment to providing high quality, collegiate level training for ministry.



Dr. Tim Westbrook

In addition, the 100% ministry scholarship (formerly the CAMT/BMIN Scholarship) has also been renamed the "Directors Scholarship" in honor of the strong legacy established by the directors of the Christian Communications Program, Harding School of Biblical Studies, and the Center for Advanced Ministry Training. Former directors such as Ed Sanders, L.V. Pfeifer, and Bill Richardson have established a community of learners and alumni that have left an irreversible mark on the mission of Harding and the College of Bible and Ministry. We hope that this new name for the scholarship will retain continuity with the community of our past graduates and faculty as we now venture into these coming years. While all students enrolled in the Equip program receive a 50% scholarship granted by the University, whether they study online or on-campus, on-campus degree-seeking students are eligible to apply for the Directors Scholarship, which remains a full-tuition scholarship for non-traditional learners.

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PREACHER STUFF RESPONDS TO THE PANDEMIC

It all started with a simple idea: ministers work hard to craft quality sermons, bulletin articles, and class lessons, only to use it once and then file it away. Why not, thought Dr. Dan Williams, multiply the effectiveness of such “good stuff” by sharing it with your colleagues?



Dan Williams
VP for Church Relations

So, back in 2006 he and a handful of preaching friends began sharing their best material with each other. This ministry resource exchange steadily expanded over the years and, when Williams came to Harding University in 2013, came under the sponsorship of the Office of Church Relations. Today, over 500 ministers participate from Maine to California, and from Florida to Washington State. In addition, there are a number of international subscribers from such far-flung locales as Albania, Australia, and Switzerland.

“Because it developed organically,” says Williams, “I never gave much thought to a name for this service. Since we were asking preachers to share their ‘good stuff,’ the name ‘Preacher Stuff’ (or ‘PS’) just stuck.” That title is appropriate, however, because just about any “stuff” a minister might need is shared in the daily email postings: sermons, sermon ideas and illustrations, bulletin articles, small group discussion guides, book reviews & recommendations, funerals, weddings, Bible class material, church sign messages, even jokes (the popular “Friday Funny,” humorous stories suitable for sermons).

One especially well-received feature of PS is the “Ministry Question” forum, in which participants pose questions to their colleagues. Such questions can involve issues as vexing as “How do I deal with dissension in my church’s leadership?” to financial queries such as “What is the best way for ministers to obtain health insurance?” to practical matters such as “How do I remove mold from our baptistery?” Because the questions are crowd sourced among hundreds of ministers, it is not uncommon for several useful answers to be submitted in a matter of hours.

This program proved to be an invaluable resource when the COVID-19 epidemic struck, because church leaders and congregations suddenly found themselves responding to urgent but unfamiliar challenges, and were scrambling for reliable information. In response, the Office of Church Relations doubled its online services to the churches by offering an additional “Preacher Stuff Extra” daily email message dedicated to supplying material for dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. These postings provided information such as: tips to effectively livestream church services; information on how to set up online giving; guidance from Christian physicians on dealing with infectious diseases; methods of keeping church members connected and spiritually fed in spite of the need to practice social distancing; sermon and bulletin

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IMPORTANT NOTICE – LECTURESHIP RESCHEDULED FOR 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many uncertainties in our world and forced countless changes in our lives. As a result, after careful and prayerful consideration we have decided it would be prudent to postpone this fall's Harding Bible Lectureship until next year. Mark your calendars for September 26-29 2021 and plan to join us then as we turn to the book of Daniel and learn how to have "Courageous Faith in Troubled Times."

PREACHER STUFF RESPONDS TO THE PANDEMIC

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material addressing Christian perspectives on pandemics; free discussion guides for congregations that suspended their large assemblies and shifted to a small group format; and materials for in-home family devotionals.

More recent Preacher Stuff Extra postings have included preparations for ensuring a safe resumption of worship assemblies, detailed reports from congregations that have returned to their Sunday services, and even a suggested sermon entitled "Return From Exile" for that first Sunday back.

This initiative received a strong positive response from our constituents. Brian Lewis (Ada, Oklahoma) writes "Thank you for your Preacher Stuff emails. They have been a great point of connection during this pandemic." Jeff Jenkins (Lewisville, Texas) adds "I continue to be thankful for your daily emails. You are blessing so many of us who are preachers." And Nick Hamilton (Little Rock, Arkansas) says "Preacher Stuff is a wonderful service you give! May you be blessed for doing so."

If you are a church leader and you wish to be added to the PS mailing list, simply e-mail Sherrie McAleese, Assistant To The Vice-President, Office of Church Relations, at smcaleese1@harding.edu and put "Subscribe To Preacher Stuff" in the message line.

DR. DALE MANOR APPOINTED PROFESSOR EMERITUS



Dr. Dale Manor has been named Professor Emeritus of the College of Bible and Ministry. The decision, approved by the President, is based on a record of distinguished service over a minimum of 20 years of teaching at Harding University, with at least 5 years at the rank of Professor. Manor thus joins the ranks of other distinguished Professors Emeriti that includes Doctors Tom Alexander, Eddie Cloer, Alan Isom, Joe Jones, Paul Pollard, and Don Shackelford.

Manor retired from Harding University at the end of the spring semester after 24 years of teaching. It is difficult to summarize all the contributions he has made as a teacher and scholar. He has published many articles in prestigious reference works including the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*, *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, and many, many more. He is held in high regard as a frequent presenter at professional associations including the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) and the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) and at local congregations everywhere.

It was Dale's dream to create the hands-on laboratory for archaeological excavations that became Tel Achzib in 2008 and to establish a museum on campus to house biblically significant artifacts (mostly ones he donated). That is now the Linda Byrd Smith Museum of Biblical Archaeology, which has been visited by hundreds of guests since it opened in 2017. Those of us who have been privileged to see Dale in action at Tel Beth-Shemesh can attest to what great rapport he establishes with the students who dig with him every season, students from very different faith backgrounds than our students.



Dr. Manor has twice received the Distinguished Teacher Award/Teacher Achievement Award which is a good indication of how we, his peers, feel about him. Students dedicated the *Petit Jean* (the yearbook) to Dale in 2006. He has served on many University and COBAM committees including the Faculty Development Committee (FDC) which he has chaired since 2012. Among other things, the FDC is responsible for bringing special speakers to campus to address biblical topics. Dale has accomplished all of this and much more while also preaching every week in Melbourne, Arkansas for most of his years here (1998-2014).

Dr. Manor intends to keep his office on campus, curate the museum, lead tours to the Holy Land, and adjunct courses for us on occasion. So while we will miss him, we expect to see him typing away in his office—filled floor to ceiling with artifacts—and contributing to the life and work of the College of Bible and Ministry.

Monte Cox, Dean

Equip Program Announced

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With a fully online BA in Bible as well as on-campus options for non-traditional learners, the Equip program provides solutions for adult learners who need training in Bible. Equip offers a high quality degree experience with the affordability and flexibility for which adult learners are looking. To date, Harding has about 20 degree-seeking students online from New York to California, 12 Directors Scholars, and students earning certificates (for-credit) from all over the world. Countries currently represented in Equip include India, Albania, Trinidad & Tobago, Mozambique, Brazil, and China. In addition to the Bible majors and certificate students, the CDE offers online about 30 Bible courses annually and fills between 350-400 seats for students who are earning the Bible credits for their various degrees within the University system.

Bible major Bonnie Scroggins says, “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the online Bible program at Harding. The classwork is meaningful and the professors truly care about what and how we are learning. Distance learning has been easy and flexible to fit my ever-changing schedule. I’ve been able to move across the globe and still continue my education through Harding!” Scroggins graduates in August 2020 and is the first graduate of this online degree program.

Richard Gould, a minister in upstate New York, reports, “The program strives to create a tight-knit community experience while receiving a quality education. You do not feel like you are disconnected from the Harding community, but you feel as if you have been received into a family that cares deeply for one another.” Gould has recently been accepted to Harding School of Theology where he will begin his work on the Master of Divinity degree in the fall.

The goal in the Center for Distance Education is to connect students with an enriching and meaningful learning experience. Christian education is too precious to limit it to the few who can move to a particular location. Not only are we striving to help students learn ideas, principles, and skills for ministry; but we are also intentional about creating a community of learning and Christ-like care in spite of the physical distance.

Some of the ways Harding attempts to foster community with students who are located states apart include live online chapels, small group exercises within courses, and a combination of online and hybrid courses that give students an opportunity to take classes online or on-campus if they are able to be on campus. Nothing can fully replace a crowded room full of people who are engaged in conversation, but online and digital technologies are readily available and affordable to bring students together in real-time to interact, to get to know each other, and to develop friendships.

Through Equip at Harding University, the College of Bible and Ministry continues the school’s commitment to preparing students for ministry. For more information about Harding’s online in Bible options, email onlinebible@harding.edu or call the Center for Distance Education in Bible and Ministry at 501-279-5260.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Uplift I, II and III
Canceled

Harding Lectureship 2020
Postponed

Abundant Living Retreat
Branson, Missouri
Oct. 6-9 , 2020

Virtual Homecoming
October 29 - 31, 2020

3rd Annual Harding Preaching Conference
“Preaching the Book of Job”
Feb. 16, 2021

BLOOM Conference
(formerly W.I.N.G.S.)
Feb. 19-20, 2021

Spring Sing
TBA

Harding’s 97th Annual Bible Lectureship
“INVINCIBLE! Courageous Faith in Troubled Times”
A Study of the book of Daniel
Sept. 26-29, 2021

Website: www.harding.edu/lectureship
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