



Summer 2015

*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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College of Bible & Ministry

Daniel Stockstill, Assoc. Dean  
College of Bible & Ministry

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and Ministry

Shawn Daggett, Director  
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## SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM

The theme of this fall's Harding Bible lectureship will be "SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM: Unlocking the Treasures of the Parables." Over 90 of the best speakers in our brotherhood will make presentations on a variety of topics, but the parables of Jesus will be our main focus.

There is a popular understanding of the parables as being cleverly constructed stories that simplify complex themes so "you can't miss it" – nifty little narratives that are so simple even the dullest of readers can get the point. That is not at all how Jesus explained them!

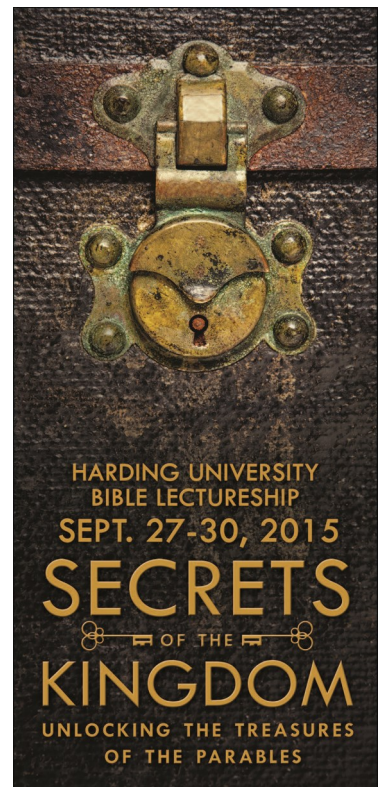
Matthew 13:10-12 tells us, *"The disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?' He replied, 'The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.'"*

Note that the parables will never make sense to people unless the listeners already possess a certain quality. The parables will unlock the secrets of the kingdom only for individuals who already have the proper preparation to receive them.

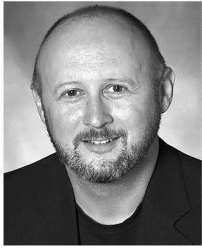
What is that quality? Here's a clue: the phrase *"the secrets of the kingdom of heaven"* in Matthew 13:11 comes in the middle of two connected sections – the parable of the sower and the soils precedes it, and Jesus' explanation of the parable that follows it. What is the "good soil" that responds to the word by bringing forth a crop?

It is the man with the *"good and honest heart"* (Luke 8:15). Without that quality, we will never grasp the meaning of the Word, and it will never produce any fruit in our life. It's not only what the texts say to us, but what we bring to them, that enables us to grasp their meaning!

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# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



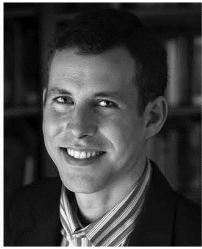
**SUNDAY**  
7 p.m. **The Parable of the Sower: The Secrets of the Kingdom**  
Randy Harris, *Abilene, Texas*



**MONDAY**  
11 a.m. **The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl:  
The Secret of Kingdom Joy**  
H. Clay Smith, *Rose Bud, Arkansas*



4:30 p.m. **Celebration of Ministry Dinner**  
Dale Jenkins, *Spring Hill, Tennessee*  
7 p.m. **The Parable of the Weeds: Secrets of God's Judgment**  
Steve Cloer, *Fort Worth, Texas*



**TUESDAY**  
11 a.m. **The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast:  
Secrets of Kingdom Growth**  
Chris Altrock, *Memphis, Tennessee*



7 p.m. **The Parable of the Shrewd Manager:  
Secrets of Handling Worldly Wealth**  
Monte Cox, *Searcy, Arkansas*



**WEDNESDAY**  
11 a.m. **The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant:  
Secrets of Grace and Forgiveness**  
Orpheus Heyward, *Atlanta, Georgia*  
1:30 p.m. **Special Guest Conley Gibbs, Ferguson, Missouri**  
7 p.m. **The Parable of the Good Samaritan:  
The Secret of Seeing the World With God's Eyes**  
Bruce McLarty, *Searcy, Arkansas*

## LADIES KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Bobbie Solley, *Nashville, Tennessee*  
Lisa Robertson, *"Duck Dynasty," West Monroe, Louisiana*

*Photos top to bottom*

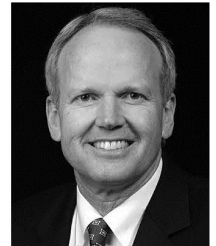
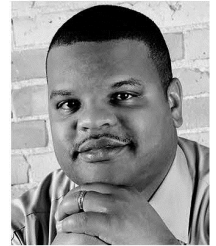
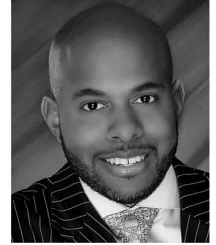
*Left: Harris, Smith, Jenkins, Cloer, Altrock and Cox*

*Right: Heyward, Gibbs, McLarty, Solley and Robertson*

# HARDING UNIVERSITY BIBLE LECTURESHIP

September 27-30 • Searcy, Arkansas

[www.harding.edu/lectureship](http://www.harding.edu/lectureship) • [lectureship@harding.edu](mailto:lectureship@harding.edu) • 501-279-5123



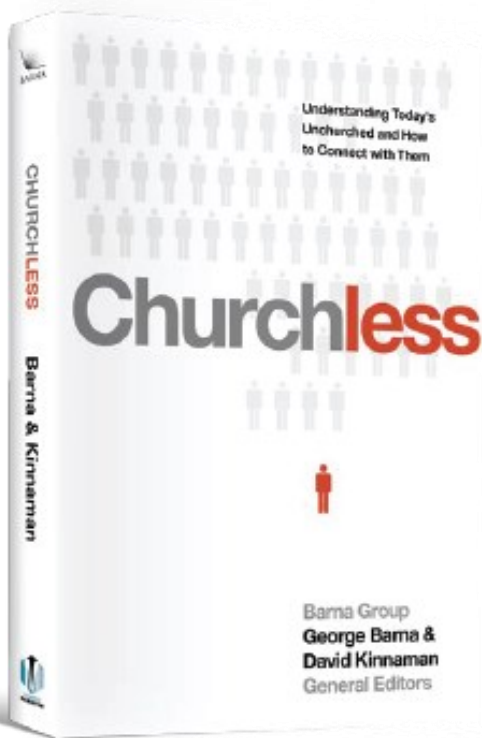
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# “REACHING THE CHURCHLESS”

## Conference

Harding University

Thursday, July 16, 2015



You may have seen the article by Bobby Ross, Jr. in the April 2015 issue of *The Christian Chronicle* documenting the continuing decline in membership in the Churches of Christ. The article went on to ask, “Is U.S. Culture To Blame?” and cited the research found in the book *Churchless* by George Barna and David Kinnaman of The Barna Group.

Here at Harding University we take that question seriously. In fact, we have invited David Kinnaman to come to our campus and make a personal report. In addition, we have asked Joe Brumfield, Donny Lee, and Flavil Yeakley to also make presentations that will help us understand what is going on in our fellowship.

David Kinnaman is the President of the Barna Group, where he has supervised or directed interviews with more than 500,000 individuals and overseen hundreds of nationwide, representative research studies. Barna Group’s research is frequently quoted in major media outlets such as *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *CNN*, and *The New York Times*. David Kinnaman is the best-selling author of *unChristian*, *You Lost Me*, and most recently, of *Churchless*.



We are inviting church leaders and all Christians who are interested in the future of the church to take part in this conference. The registration fee is only \$25 for the first individual from a congregation, and then \$20 for each subsequent individual from that church. To register, contact Teresa Castleman at 501-279-4449 or email her at [tcastleman@harding.edu](mailto:tcastleman@harding.edu)

Out-of-town participants who wish to book lodging in the Heritage Inn may do so by calling 1-888-766-2465. You’ll find a program schedule at [www.harding.edu/churchrelations](http://www.harding.edu/churchrelations). We hope to see you here on July 16!

-Dan Williams, Vice-President for Church Relations

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The parables, therefore, are not just didactic – they are prophetic. They stand in judgment of us by presenting us with truths we will comprehend only if we are spiritually receptive. It reminds me of the prayer of Jesus in Matthew 11:25, where he says, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.” Our goal, therefore, should be more than simply reading the Scriptures: we should also be cultivating the humility it takes to have a teachable, reachable heart.

I invite you to join us on the campus of Harding University this fall on September 27-30 as together we unlock the “Secrets of the Kingdom.” To see a complete schedule, go to [www.harding.edu/lectureship](http://www.harding.edu/lectureship). For the latest updates, visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HULectureship](http://www.facebook.com/HULectureship).

-Dan Williams

Vice-President for Church Relations

## FACULTY NOTES

**Our Bible faculty are serving the kingdom all over the world. Here are some examples:**



Monte Cox traveled to Kenya in May where he and his family planted churches in the 1980's and 90's to attend board meetings of several Christian training centers there. Monte also presented a paper at the Christian Scholars Conference at ACU (June 3-5) entitled, "The Secularization Thesis: Recent Evidence, Different Prognosis." The paper was in response to the book by Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, 3rd edition (2011). Jenkins also attended the Conference and responded to the paper. Later this summer, Dr. Cox will lead forty-two people on another Deans Tour, this time to Egypt July 29-August 9. He leads these tours--usually to Israel--every other summer. The next Israel tour is scheduled for the summer of 2017. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, send your e-mail address to [mcox@harding.edu](mailto:mcox@harding.edu).



Allen Diles published an article entitled "The Confessio Taboritarum of Nicholas Biskupec of Pelhrimov: His Eight Suppositions and His Approach to the Old Testament." *Communio Viatorum* 56/2 (2014): 119-135. *Communio Viatorum* is a theological journal published by the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague.



Jared Looney, adjunct professor in the Center for Advanced Ministry Training, recently published a book entitled "Crossroads of the Nations." It is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



Oneal Tankersley has finished a Swahili language movie "Timothy." This is an evangelistic story about a disadvantaged young man needing a mentor in life and a Christian mentor needing a "Timothy." This is designed to encourage both young and old in East Africa to come together in the Lord. He is also working on a youth series of over 40 short Bible study videos for teens based on I Tim. 4:12 - "Set the believers an example in speech, life, love, faith and purity." These are being produced concurrently in Swahili for East Africa and also in Haitian Creole for Haiti.



Anessa Westbrook completed her D.Min at Fuller Theological Seminary. The focus of her dissertation was "Perceived Need for Spiritual Development among Female Church of Christ Students at a Christian University".



Tim Westbrook completed a Ph.D in Education and Intercultural studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL. His dissertation title is "Breaking the Cycle: A Phenomenological Inquiry into the Perceptions of African American Adult Learners at Faith-Based, Predominantly White, Adult Degree Completion Programs".

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