THE KERUSSO EXPERIENCE

In the summer of 2013, Harding University conducted its first annual Kerusso Experience. Kerusso is a weeklong preacher training camp for ninth to twelfth grade boys. The first camp was a smashing success! Thirty students from twenty congregations in four states and Belize spent the week on Harding’s campus learning Bible study methods and sermon preparation and delivery from faculty, students, and friends. More importantly, perhaps, they learned that they, too, could serve the LORD in a lifetime of ministry.

The second Kerusso Experience is set for July 5-12, 2014. This year’s theme is “The Scandalous Love of God: Preaching from Jonah.” Dr. Kevin Youngblood will be our guest instructor, and his recently published commentary on Jonah in Zondervan’s Hearing the Message of Scripture series will be our gift to the students. In addition to the textual study, both beginning and intermediate classes in preaching will be offered this year. Dr. Phil Thompson, Director of Harding’s Center for Preaching, will lead the more advanced preaching students to the next level of sermon development and delivery. Even if a student attended last year he will find new information and insights this year. Application deadline for Kerusso: Searcy is June 28.

We realize that not every student can make a trip to Searcy for the camp, so we’d like to bring the camp to them. We are pleased to announce that an additional Kerusso Experience will be offered in the summer of 2014. July 20-26, 2014, the Kerusso Experience will come to Camp Ne-O-Tez in DeSoto, Missouri. Students will receive the same quality instruction as on the Searcy campus, just a little closer to home. Application deadline for Kerusso: St. Louis is July 7.

Please prayerfully consider any young men from your congregation whom you feel may benefit from this week of instruction and inspiration, and offer to send them to Kerusso. The cost is $200 per student. Applications, brochures, medical release forms, and contact information are all available the College of Bible and Ministry’s website – www.harding.edu/bible. Also, be sure to look up last year’s Kerusso Experience on Facebook to see pictures and videos from the week. Feel free to call or e-mail any of us with any questions that you might have, and to pass on this information to any who might be interested.

Devin Swindle
Assistant Professor of Bible and Ministry
and Director of the Kerusso Experience
The world today has a very set view on what spring break looks like for college students: thumping speakers, lots of alcohol and very little clothing. Students at Harding University are working hard to change that, and they’re working up a sweat doing it.

In the second week of March 2014, nearly 300 students set out with the purpose of serving God and loving his people. There were 16 trips to various locations, half headed to domestic areas and half international, and all were facilitated by the Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry and lead by student volunteers.

“They commit their own free time, which most don’t have much of, and energy to these trips, which take place during a week that most of their friends are using as a mini-vacation from school,” Spring Break Missions Director Emily Hudkins said. “All of the time, hard work, and commitment is put forth by these students in order to serve others and is fueled by their love for God.”

The process starts early with trip leaders meeting with Hudkins in August to begin planning out things like locations, housing and budgets. After that, mission groups start meeting after Thanksgiving to get everyone excited for the following semester. Then finally, after months of tireless fundraising and organizing, do they leave for this long-anticipated week.

Partnering with churches at their respective destinations, groups did everything from trash cleanup and feeding the homeless to hosting family carnivals and conducting chapel services.

The largest group (at 47 students) spent their seven days at the City of Children children’s home in Ensenada, Mexico. This is a place filled with children who come from nightmare backgrounds of neglect and abuse. The team taught Bible classes, worked with community outreach and, most importantly, spent time with children, letting them know how important and loved they are by God.

“My favorite part of our trip was getting to fly kites with the kids. I never knew how much joy could be found in flying kites,” co-leader Hector Felix said. “God always shows up in greater ways than we could ever imagine.”

Unfortunately, there are naysayers who decry this sort of trip, assuring that only harm can come from something so short lived. Felix disagrees.

"I firmly believe God triumphs over harm regularly,” he said. “God will use the good done on SBM for his eternal purpose."

And students all over campus think the same. They continue to emanate a passion for service and a drive to achieve that passion. Nothing short of impressive, they live with a Kingdom vision and a fire for God that defies constraints.

“It is easy, especially in the culture that we live in today, for us to become increasingly focused on ourselves,” Hudkins said. “Being able to take that focus off of ourselves and place it on building relationships and meeting the needs of others is important, even if it is only for a week.”

Now, that’s how you do spring break.
91st Annual Bible Lectureship
Sunday, September 28 - Wednesday, October 1, 2014

“RETURN! Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther”

For more information, visit our website
www.harding.edu/lectureship

Keynote Speakers:
Alan Robertson, West Monroe, LA
Gary Smith, Houston, TX
Jim Martin, Memphis, TN
William Bower, Rolla, MO
David Young, Murfreesboro, TN
Mike Tune, Falls Church, VA
B. Chris Simpson, Memphis, TN

Alumni of CCP, HSBS, CAMT-BMIN and CAMT-MMIN
Please join us for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of CCP, HSBS and CAMT-BMIN
and
The 10th Anniversary Celebration of our CAMT - Master of Ministry Degree Program

Join us for a complimentary dinner and program as part of the Annual Harding University Lecture-ship on Tuesday, September 30, 2014, at 4:30 P.M., at College Church of Christ. We will recognize the impact of 40 years of training servants to teach and preach the gospel, as well as preparing students for missions. We will also celebrate ten years of our Master of Ministry Degree program.

Former students and faculty are encouraged to join us. Formal email invitations will be sent at a later date. Tickets are free but required. If you believe we may not have your current email address, please email Amy Warren at awarren3@harding.edu with your current information.
FACULTY NOTES

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

Dr. Monte Cox, Dean of the College of Bible and Ministry, spoke seven times at the East Africa Men's Retreat in Rondo, Kenya February 17-21 on the theology of mission, "Six Key Moments in Jesus' Life." Nearly fifty missionaries from seven different East African nations were in attendance.

Dr. Cox also hosted the annual Arkansas Shepherding Conference at Pleasant Valley Church of Christ February 28-March 1. The theme was "Shepherds Building Bridges" as Dr. David Lane of Dallas, TX and Don McLaughlin of Atlanta, GA spoke about mentoring the next generation of leaders and about bridging the racial divide that still characterizes many of our congregations. More than 200 elders, ministers and spouses attended this year.

Gary Gregg and Dr. Dan Williams spoke at the Abundant Living Retreat in Estes Park, Colorado in April.

In connection with HUG, Harding’s campus in Greece, Dr. Dale Manor preached once in Nazareth, Israel and four times for the Elliniko congregation in Athens. In addition, he conducted a two day seminar in Archaeology and the Bible at the Elliniko congregation which drew a number of folks from the area who are not connected with the churches of Christ.

Dr. Dan Oden read a paper entitled "Collective Polities in MBQ-T 73 (Ekalte 2) and Biblical Asylum Traditions: Homicide, Assembly, Town, and Sanctuary" at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Baltimore, MD.

In February, Dr. Phil Thompson taught two classes on "Contemporary Moral Issues" in the Affirming the Faith Lectureship, sponsored by the North MacArthur Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. For this same Lectureship, he also conducted a sermon seminar for area preachers titled, "Help, It's Friday Night and No Sermon in Sight!"