



# Western



**Missions in a  
Rapidly  
Changing World**

**San Jose  
Celebrates  
New Campus**

**Creating a  
Multicultural Ethos  
in the Local Church**

# Letter from the President



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## Gospel-Centered Transformation Goes Global

In the famous words of the Lausanne Covenant, “Evangelization requires the whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world.” This charge sets the theme for our second issue of Western Magazine, which provides examples of the Western community contributing to the world mission mandate.

Our first issue focused on the message entrusted to us by affirming and illustrating the unique power of the gospel to change lives. This second issue is a natural complement, exploring representative case studies of the who, how and where dimensions of gospel proclamation.

We want this magazine to be more an instrument of reader edification than of institutional promotion. So it is our prayer that you receive from it both encouragement and equipping related to your own role in the Great Commission. We hope that you will learn how to be an even more faithful and fruitful global Christian, both individually and congregationally. You will see how our great God uses people in an amazing variety of roles and settings to further His redemptive purposes. You will be introduced to some resources that can refine and deepen your thinking about some issues of current controversy (e.g., “missions” vs. “mission,” evangelism vs. social activism, contextualization vs. accommodation, etc.), discovering in many cases that what God intends to be a both/and has sadly been reduced to an either/or.

As we put together this issue, we empathized with the Apostle John who struggled with sufficient space to capture adequately all the wonderful things that Jesus did (cf. Jn. 21:25). It didn't take much research to unearth many more stories of how the Lord is using members of Western's community to bless others around the world than even a greatly expanded magazine could hold. So we created an “overflow” section on our website where you can find additional illustrations; just go to [www.westernseminary.edu/News/WSNews/WS\\_Alumni\\_Magazine\\_Fall2010.htm](http://www.westernseminary.edu/News/WSNews/WS_Alumni_Magazine_Fall2010.htm) to find them. While we hope that our website provides you with further sources of information and inspiration, we also trust that within the pages of this issue you will be both surprised and pleased at the breadth and depth of the global impact being made by Western personnel. The prayer and financial support of key friends is used by God to help all this ministry happen, so I would be remiss if I did not once again thank all of you who invest in His work here.

Your co-laborer in the gospel,

*Randal Roberts*

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President

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# A FRESH APPROACH TO MISSIONS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

**It would have been easy for Captain Gary Weeden to overlook the Nepalese barber quietly sitting and reading a Bible between haircuts at a U.S. military base in the Middle East.**

**Weeden (who later would be appointed chaplain over the entire U.S. Coast Guard) had been sent to the Middle East to minister to American soldiers on the front lines and participate in strategic military discussions with top-tier leaders.**

**The barber was just one of many men from developing nations such as Nepal and Sri Lanka who had accepted a contract at the base to cut hair, rebuild roads or prepare meals in the galley. It was menial work and a sacrifice to spend months at a time so far from home. But these contract workers earned more in two months on the base than they could during an entire year in their home countries.**



As Weeden was soon to discover, however, much more than just earning money was on the mind of that particular barber. Intrigued by his Bible reading, Weeden began a conversation with him and learned that this humble man was a Christian who had established a vibrant church among the migrant contract workers on the base. The barber was sharing the gospel among men who had little or no opportunity to learn about Christ in their countries of origin. During the next several weeks, Weeden and his newfound ministry partner struck up a friendship – praying together, obtaining Bibles, and collecting other spiritual resources that would not be available in Nepal.

When Weeden's orders eventually brought him back to the States, the two men exchanged contact information and continue to keep in touch to this day.

## REDEEMING NEW REALITIES: DIASPORA MISSIOLOGY

The world has changed significantly since Weeden earned his Master of Divinity degree from Western Seminary in 1987. While we may not think of a Nepalese barber serving on an American base in the Middle East as a typical cross-cultural church planter, or of a military chaplain serving as his supportive coach, strategic leaders like these men have helped to expand missional outreach by using cultural shifts to kingdom advantage.

As Western faculty seek to lead the way in preparing leaders in gospel-centered transformation for a changing world, they too are considering a number of key questions: What cultural climates and patterns are evolving? What are the various forces at work behind those changes? How might these dynamics provide new opportunities for the spread of the gospel?

Dr. Enoch Wan has spent his adult life wrestling with these questions as a student of culture and a voice for innovative global ministry. He is the director of Western's Doctor of Missiology program and serves in multiple leadership roles around the world: president of the Evangelical Missiological Society, director of the Institute of Diaspora Studies, vice president of Great Commission International, a member of the Lausanne Diaspora Leadership Team, advisor for the Filipino International Network, founder and editor of the multilingual ejournal GlobalMissiology.org, and author of numerous books and articles regarding missions research and practice.

While Wan's experience and research are extensive, his focus can be captured in two main concepts: relational realism and diaspora missiology. Both have much to teach us about the state of the world today and the way that Christians can redeem new opportunities for the gospel.

Relational realism considers how humans seek to define reality primarily in terms of our vertical relationship with God and the created order and secondarily in horizontal relationship with each other. Diaspora missiology acknowledges the dramatic shifts in the ways that ethnic groups live and move in the world and considers the most effective means for reaching specific people groups living outside their country of origin. Together, these shape an approach to missiology that is highly relational and culturally contextualized.

## REACHING PEOPLE "FROM EVERYWHERE MOVING TO EVERYWHERE WITH HOPE AND DESPAIR"

In seeking to understand how and why the world is changing, Wan points to immigration and globalization as the two most powerful forces at work. In an article for the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation, he wrote, "There is a global trend that the migrant population is moving 'from south to north, and from east to west' toward seven of the world's wealthiest countries – with less than 16% of the total world population, yet 60% of the world's migrant population is found in those seven countries." He also noted, "From 1996 to 2000, immigration accounted for 75% of the population growth in the US."

He listed "push" and "pull" forces at work in the world to move people from their country of origin.

"Push" forces may include:

- War
- Political persecution and abuse of power (including human trafficking and related exploitation of women and children)
- Natural disasters
- Man-made "disasters," including psychological stress, social isolation, and political upheaval

"Pull" forces are comprised of such things as:

- The promise of political freedom and human equality
- Improved quality of life and economic opportunities
- Media exposure to stories of others who have immigrated and achieved success

Technological advances have contributed to a homogenized world culture in which it is more likely than ever that an individual living in the developing world may be lured to the West by stories of political freedom, material wealth, or an overall better life. Wan describes this "push-pull" phenomenon as people moving "from everywhere to everywhere with hope and despair." Whether they are fleeing internment in a refugee



## Beyond Diaspora: How Are Other Global Trends Contributing to New Ministry Approaches?

Dr. John Branner is Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies and the chair of Western's Division of Intercultural Studies. He further explained the current world climate through six commonly recognized global trends:

**GLOBALIZATION** Technology and immigration are homogenizing the world and helping us connect with radically different people groups in ways never before imagined.

**BUSINESS AS MISSION** Using marketplace opportunities to share the gospel and participate in discipleship.

**MUTUALITY** In contrast to former models, where the Western church is charged with imparting resources and aid, the current world climate acknowledges that each people group comes to the table with unique skills, gifts, and resources to share.

**PARTNERSHIP** Intentionally connecting majority and minority world churches to work together for kingdom impact.

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY** Cultivating relationships with ministry partners as the basis for financial giving, rather than simply sending a check.

**INVESTING IN LEADERS** Looking for those who have been leading ministry efforts without outside help and then offering resources and relationship to maximize their impact.

We spoke with Kent Humphreys and Western alum Jeff Denlinger to explore how some of these trends have impacted their ministries over time. Humphreys addresses how the business as mission approach is being used in different cultural contexts on page 18.



JEFF DENLINGER

Jeff Denlinger is now the senior vice president of international ministry with mission agency WorldVenture and a recent graduate of the Doctor of Missiology program. He explains that the world – and his

ministry philosophy – were a lot different when he and his wife started out as church planters in Caracas, Venezuela more than 20 years ago.

"Missions, even in the 90s, was still pretty focused on missionaries doing a lot of work in the ministry; on missionaries from the West," he recalled. Most of their time was spent in sharing the gospel with their Venezuelan neighbors. As they came to faith, Denlinger and the team engaged in discipleship and equipping fledgling church leaders.

"It was a whole journey full of transformation," he said. "Not only for the Venezuelans, but also for us as we started processing our changing role as missionaries."

About five years into their work, a Western Seminary professor visited Venezuela to coach the church planting team. Denlinger learned about Western's doctoral program, and realized that he could train for increased ministry effectiveness without having to leave the field. He entered the program and started to learn how he could raise the Venezuelan church's horizon regarding their role in God's kingdom.

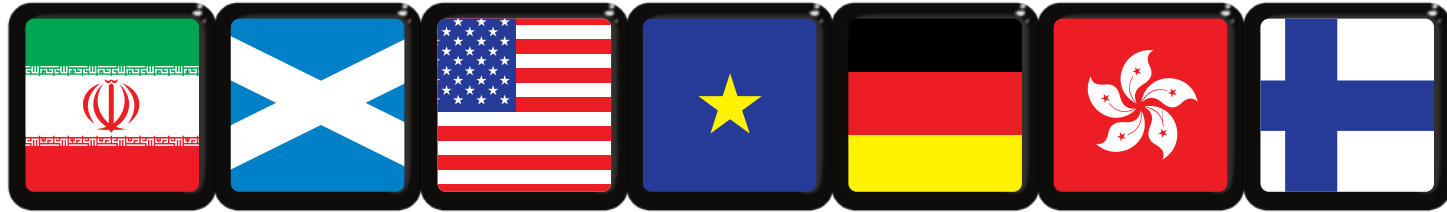
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camp or pursuing financial stability, the result is that pockets of displaced immigrants from diverse cultures are showing up all over the world. Some of them are permanent. Others are temporary, such as the aforementioned Nepalese and Sri Lankan community of contract workers at the U.S. military base. The needs are different for each community. A transient group, such as the Nepalese contract workers, may be thirsty for spiritual resources. As they return to their countries of origin, they are then uniquely able to bring the gospel message into some of the least

evangelized parts of the world. More permanent communities will have entirely different needs, ranging from practical living concerns to creating a new cultural identity that reflects both their country of origin and their new home.

Within the Doctor of Missiology program, Wan has discovered and developed leaders who study one particular diaspora movement and then develop a customized plan for evangelism and discipleship

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**FRESH APPROACH** continued

based on their needs. For example, he and Dr. Joy Tira developed a diaspora missions approach for Filipino communities around the world. They co-presented their strategy at this year's Lausanne international mission conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Wan is also working with current student Yah Attah Edu-Bekoe to develop a customized strategy for reaching diaspora Ghanians and alumnus Tuvya Zaretsky of Jews for Jesus to reach diaspora Jews. Wan is also overseeing dissertation work on Chinese, Vietnamese, and Sri Lankan diaspora groups.

"Diaspora mission is a providential and strategic way to minister to 'the nations' by the diaspora and through the diaspora," Wan said. "In diaspora missions, one can describe the contemporary situation to be a 'borderless world.' The Church is called to respond to God's way of providentially moving people spatially and spiritually. Diaspora groups are moving targets and we are to move with the targets by practicing 'mission at our doorstep' of reaching out to the diaspora in our neighborhood."

**ON THE HOME FRONT:  
REACHING THE DIASPORA  
IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Responding to Dr. Wan's last point, Western faculty are using creative methods to help men and women discover the diaspora in their local communities and adapt their ministry philosophy accordingly.

For example, each of our Master of Divinity students is required to take the course "Communicating Christ in Culture." On the Portland campus, Dr. John Branner, who co-teaches the course with Dr. Terry Burns, explained that it's designed to help tomorrow's pastors understand the multicultural environment where they will live and minister. Students are asked to spend six to eight hours developing a relationship with someone from a different culture, asking about cultural issues and differences between their perspective and the American worldview. It can be an eye-opening experience. Branner recalled one student who confessed, "I realized I don't know a single non-white person." The class forced this student to realize his own cultural isolation and develop a deeper appreciation for cross-cultural ministry opportunities.

Increased awareness is the key to recognizing new opportunities for ministry as God provides them within the moving targets of diaspora groups. This allows tomorrow's leaders to take a "both-and" approach. For example, Western Seminary graduate Adrienne Livingston (see p.16 for complete article), who is currently training

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**Beyond Diaspora** continued

"My perspective began to shift from my doing the ministry of church planting and discipleship to equipping Venezuelans to pursue God's calling on their lives," he said. He explained that it was no longer enough for him to be a missionary – he needed to raise up other world missionaries from within the Venezuelan church.

"That started to change the way we did church planting," he explained. "It was not just how many groups we could lead, but how many we were training who were then training others."

It was a rich time for Denlinger in life and ministry. He was equipping Venezuelan church leaders by teaching a Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course and engaging in discipleship, applying lessons learned at D.Miss. seminars through his missions work on the field. During that time, he was invited to take on regional leadership within World Venture, expanding his sphere of influence and ability to shape the organization's mission strategy.

Today, Denlinger coaches missions leaders around the world. He is excited to see how God is leading the Church to wrestle with the question of how to best communicate the gospel in each cultural context. "One of the really exciting things is how various churches around the world are engaging in missions according to how God's gifted them," he said. "God has just exploded the workers that are out in missions, approaching missions from different backgrounds. There's not just one way to do missions any more. Now God has unleashed missionaries from national churches who are very creatively engaging people in ways that we could never do. This explosion, this unleashing of the church in our day – it doesn't make the headlines, but it is what God is doing in our world."

**There's not just one way to do missions any more. Now God has unleashed missionaries from national churches who are very creatively engaging people in ways that we could never do.**

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**SACRAMENTO CAMPUS NEWS**



**Adjunct Professor Models Missional Living as Chaplain, Pastor, Activist**



**Sherwood Carthen**

Sacramento is a city of contrasts. It's been recognized as the most ethnically diverse city in the country; a blend of whites, Latinos, Asians, and African-Americans in which no single group constitutes a majority. It's also home to a range of socio-economic levels and lifestyles. The capitol building, in all its grandeur, is modeled after the nation's capitol in Washington D.C.,

with marble columns and a 40-acre park. Just a few blocks away, homeless people can be found wandering the surrounding streets.

It's in this context of contrasts that Bishop Sherwood Carthen has been ministering for more than 20 years as chaplain for the Sacramento Kings NBA basketball team, senior pastor of Bayside of South Sacramento Church, Western Seminary adjunct professor, and founder of Our Family Community Foundation. And although his ministry involvement ranges from mentoring men who have basketball shoes named after them to loving people who have no shoes, Carthen is compelled by one message – the gospel.

"What drives Pastor Sherwood is to see more people come in contact with Jesus for the first time and then to see those people become leaders helping others become Christ-followers," said colleague Gabriel Garcia, college pastor of Bayside of South Sacramento church.

Given his variety of ministry roles, Carthen has many opportunities for the gospel to flow out of his life and ministry. While some might look at his ministry as an NBA chaplain and think it's glamorous, Carthen said that there have been many days when he drove away from the Arco Arena and promised himself he would never come back. For 20 seasons, Carthen has faithfully served in this position, and he has seen times of both opposition and openness to the gospel. Finding those who are receptive has been incredibly rewarding.

On the other hand, he works with the homeless; with those out on the streets who are not looking for a handout but a hand up. Hard seasons of ministry have taught Carthen the importance of patience. "We are a 'right now' society," he said. "Everything I see that was accomplished in the Bible has taken some time. Those who will remain faithful and patiently wait upon the Lord, they are the ones who endure to the end."

This posture of faithfulness has caused Carthen to highly value teaching and preaching the Word. He's particularly passionate about this ministry because he sees a shortage in America of preachers who proclaim the gospel and fears that someday we might be completely without preachers who will proclaim the truth.

"I don't know that there is anything on earth as impactful, as meaningful, as the transformation of the gospel. To watch Western make a transition toward that – I feel really excited about it. And, I feel really honored that I can be a part of it," Carthen said.

Through preaching at his church and teaching at Western Seminary, Carthen believes he is able to pass the mantle on to future preachers who will proclaim the gospel. And this passing of the torch is evident in his former students' stories.

Prior to taking a preaching course from Carthen, Master of Divinity student Gary Weston had walked through a particularly difficult season of ministry, which led him to struggle with clinical depression and seriously question whether or not ministry was where he should be. Through both the opportunities to preach and compassion extended by Carthen, this course renewed Weston's calling as a preacher.

Weston said, "The greatest thing I learned from Sherwood was that when things get hard – when results don't go the way you want them to go – I can always remember I'm called to preach. This is what God wants me to do."

# Celebrating Our New Campus Location

Since 1985, the Western Seminary San Jose campus has been hosted on the grounds of Calvary Church in Los Gatos, California. It's been a wonderful partnership spanning a quarter of a century. However, two years ago, when the church approached Site Director Dan Ruiz about needing to reallocate space for greater ministry and staff use, he started asking the Lord for direction regarding a new location for our campus.

This fall, Western Seminary San Jose moves to University Station, a commercial building complex across the street from Santa Clara University. Strategically located next to a major mass transit center, University Station places Western at a key Bay Area hub. It's five minutes from the airport and four major California freeways. Students can walk to restaurants and the local coffee bar for snacks between classes. With both a new location and lease secured, Ruiz and his team are now addressing the task of preparing the new 9,300 square foot suite. They have been working for several months with architects and contractors to customize the interior to serve students' needs – including a library, classrooms, and kitchen.

The board of trustees, seminary leadership, and entire San Jose team are delighted with the new location. In addition to giving the campus greater visibility and access to improved resources, a larger space allowed them to add another classroom and expand the class schedule to include a Monday-only track. They also foresee hosting meetings and conferences for local churches and parachurch organizations who share Western's passion for gospel-centered transformation.

Throughout the process of praying for a new site, considering possible locations, and negotiating the lease, Ruiz found personal strength in trusting God's providence. "I get excited when I think about this journey over the last two years," he said. "The Lord guided us to where we would land."

With construction and the move now complete, faculty and staff are excited to host a series of campus preview days as well as an open house and dedication of the new campus. Details for these events can be found on the back page of the magazine or on the seminary's website. Please join us in giving thanks to God for his kind provision.



# The Center for Leadership Development: Training Lay Leaders for Effective Ministry

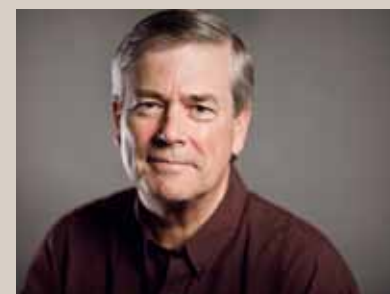
More than two and a half years ago, a group of Western Seminary faculty and staff started a conversation about the needs of the local church. They talked about lay leaders who serve as elders, deacons, small group leaders, and directors of ministries for men, women, students, and children. In Oregon alone, this group numbers over 40,000 men and women. They reflected on bi-vocational pastors, who often minister in rural communities or smaller churches with diminished access to financial and educational resources. They considered all that God has entrusted to Western – technological savvy, innovative staff, seasoned faculty, and a history of effective ministry training – and felt compelled to act.

Their response? The Center for Leadership Development, a training program in partnership with [biblicaltraining.org](http://biblicaltraining.org) designed to equip both lay leaders and rural pastors for increased ministry effectiveness. The Center for Leadership Development will build upon technology we've developed for our distance education courses and offer participants targeted stand-alone courses that are three to five hours in length and ministry-specific certificate options. Courses will cost around \$10 each and have been beta-tested for the last year and a half by churches in several states.

Academic Dean Marc Cortez is working with Center for Lifelong Learning Director Jim Stewart, Coaching Director Chad Hall, and President Randy Roberts, among others, to develop curriculum. Western Seminary Research Professor and [biblicaltraining.org](http://biblicaltraining.org) creator William Mounce is also joining the effort to create and deliver low-cost, distance-accessible training for church leaders around the world. With more than 25,000 current registered users in over 225 countries, [biblicaltraining.org](http://biblicaltraining.org) will bring The Center for Leadership Development to more people than seminary faculty dreamed of during those initial conversations over two years ago.

During the next year, program designers are working with seminary faculty to create 165 hours of curriculum and publicize the program. Within the next three years, our goal is to provide this training for at least 1200 leaders within 100 churches, with half of the participants serving in rural congregations.

If you believe that your church would be interested in learning more about training offered through the Center for Leadership Development, please contact Jim Stewart at [jstewart@westernseminary.edu](mailto:jstewart@westernseminary.edu) or (503) 517-1898.



**JIM STEWART**  
*Director of Distance Education*

**"No one can question the commitment or dedication of today's lay leaders. They spend hours each week in faithful service to Christ and to the congregation. Too often, however, the joy that should accompany their service is stolen away by frustration for the real or perceived lack of training for truly effective ministry. Western Seminary and the Center for Leadership Development want to help restore the well-deserved satisfaction in a job well done by helping to 'fill in the gaps' in biblical, theological, and practical ministry preparation."**



**DR. MARC CORTEZ**  
*Academic Dean*

**"One of the greatest needs of the church today is developing spiritually mature, biblically aware, and Gospel-centered lay leaders. To that end, Western Seminary is working with churches up and down the west coast to bring the resources of a seminary together with the expertise and experience of local church leaders and provide quality learning experiences through flexible, online systems to churches everywhere."**



**CHAD HALL**  
*Director of Coaching*

**"I've worked with churches for over ten years as a consultant and coach, and I've had many conversations with pastors in which they long for stronger and more informed lay leaders. Too often there is a gap between pastoral leaders and lay leaders, and this gap can result in them heading in different directions or at different speeds. I believe the Center for Leadership Development will help close some of this gap from the lay side."**



## Western Seminary Faculty & Alumni: Real World Practitioners Ministering Around the Globe

Jesus called His followers to make disciples of all nations and our graduates take Him at His word. As a result, they are currently building God's kingdom in each of the shaded regions on the map.

When they're not in the classroom, our faculty also travel the world to encourage missionaries, train high-level leaders, teach mentoring and ministry strategies, and otherwise participate in our work of providing advanced training for strategic ministry roles with and for the church. The red stars on the map illustrate the locations where faculty have recently served in ministry. Following, are highlights from ministries our graduates and faculty are doing around the world.

### NORTH AMERICA

"It was over 110 degrees in the city of San Luis Rio Colorado in Sonora, Mexico. However, the locals were passionate about God and did not let the hot weather deter them. I preached a message of hope in Jesus Christ, and invited people to leave their cares at the cross. One person who came forward was a 12-year-old boy from our church. He told me that he often had to protect his mom and his sister from his dad, who could come home drunk, or very violent. I cried in my heart and prayed.

Four years later, God has been at work in bringing change and transformation to this family. The father received help through the local men's ministry and our drug rehab center. The son is now a teenager using his life to bring the message of hope to the lost. He is part of the worship team and leads Bible studies. His sister, 15 years old, is a soccer player who often shares her testimony and witnesses with other athletes. They are praying that, once they get older, they can be obedient to God's calling to share the gospel and bring hope to the nations." *Submitted by Eugene Chang, who earned an M.A. in Specialized Ministry degree in 2004 and volunteers with Amor Ministries.*

### AFRICA

"In 2004, I decided to study intercultural studies at Western. The program required me to do an internship, and this led me to Hope Alive! in Uganda. Hope Alive! is a relief and development ministry that works with about 500 students in four different areas of Uganda. I returned to Uganda in July 2009 for a three-year commitment as a mid-term missionary with WorldVenture serving at Hope Alive! I now serve as the education specialist, coordinating and teaching tutoring classes and other education-related activities.

When I was young I thought that being a missionary meant a life-long commitment: saying goodbye to everyone you have ever known and leaving for a far off place to live with aborigines and preach the gospel, never to return again. I have found, however, that spreading the gospel can happen in as many ways as people can think of – through teachers, aid workers, builders, lawyers, doctors, writers, etc. – and for varying amounts of time.

Nine years ago God invited me on an adventure with Him, and saying yes to Him was the best decision I ever made." *Submitted by Kate Segrin, who earned an M.A. (Intercultural Studies) degree in 2008.*

### ASIA

Ken and Bola Taylor won the 2010 eXcelerate Award from The Mission Exchange for their innovative work using black gospel music for evangelistic outreach and church planting in Tokyo. Self-described as "two Filipino ex-nightclub entertainers," they were pursuing careers as recording artists when they came to faith in Christ. The Taylors married in the States and Ken earned an M.A. in General Ministry from Western in 1995 before moving to Japan. During the past ten years, their ministry has grown from one choir of 30 non-Christian Japanese performing gospel music to more than 40 choirs around Japan. More than 800 people participate in these choirs today, and 80 percent of them are not yet Christians. Read more about their innovative approach and partnership with the Japanese church online at [www.themissionexchange.org/downloads/eXcelerate2010.pdf](http://www.themissionexchange.org/downloads/eXcelerate2010.pdf)

### MIDDLE EAST

Doctor of Ministry program director John Johnson travels and teaches extensively in the Middle East and has ministered in Lebanon, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Israel, and Egypt.

### EUROPE

Terry Burns is the director of Western's Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies) degree program. He coaches top-level World Venture missionary leaders in both Europe and the Middle East, and he has taught at leadership development retreats in Germany, Switzerland, and Spain. Terry has worked with Italian church leadership and Bible school officials, teaching them how to effectively mentor others. He travels to Europe annually for leader development and mentors missionaries in Madrid, Spain; Rome, Italy; and Sao Luis and Sao Paolo, Brazil.

### AND BEYOND ...

Chad Hall is the director of Western's coaching program. He currently provides coaching and live training via webinar to individuals in the United States, Canada, Kenya and India.

Division of Biblical and Theological Studies Chair Gerry Breshears trains military chaplains and ministers to military personnel ranging from three-star generals to privates. He has coached international church leaders in China and plans to teach in Lebanon and Uganda next year.

# Creating a Multicultural Ethos in the Local Church

In addition to his role as an associate professor of pastoral theology and Doctor of Ministry program director at Western Seminary, John Johnson has been the lead pastor at Village Church in Beaverton, Oregon since 2000. Village Church is a distinctively multi-ethnic body, with specific ministries comprised of diverse groups including Korean, Chinese, East Indian, and Hispanic members. Known for its cultural integration and international involvement, Village is a church committed to pursuing Gospel-centered transformation among all people-groups locally and around the world. We asked Dr. Johnson to share some of the ways that God has created such a powerful heart for missions among the staff and members of Village and to provide some guidance for others seeking to cultivate a similar focus in their own lives and ministries.



**Dr. John Johnson**

I remember well my first taxi ride from the guest house in Manila to the nearby seminary where I was teaching wisdom literature. It was 1988, my first journey abroad, having been invited by Asian Theological Seminary to train some 45 students. I was looking out the window thinking

how amazing it was to be so far from home. Little did I know it was just the beginning of many overseas journeys.

Something got in my bloodstream in Southeast Asia, and I have never been the same since. God has sent me abroad every year. Never did I dream I would end up taking my family and living overseas, which we did for seven years in Holland, serving in a multiethnic church. And now I serve part of my time in ministry at Village Church, which has to be one of the most global-minded churches in the nation.

I have had little to do with creating this ethos. I stepped into a missional church that was already determined to reach the unreached groups in the world. On any given week, different speakers, interviews, and video clips have kept us abreast of issues. We have focused on the suffering church around the world as well. All of this has created a heart for the world, generated significant giving, and planted seeds. We have sent people from all sorts of backgrounds into places like China, India, and downtown Beirut.

My role as lead pastor has largely been about encouraging what already is happening. I have attempted to do this by building on our missional awareness, giving theological weight to our global work with a careful exegesis of Scripture. When my board worked out the terms of my employment, I took a reduced salary with an insistence that I be sent abroad every year to get a global reading. It

has turned out to be a good decision, both for me and the church. It has given me both passion and a greater sense of urgency.

Village has this unique ministry of finding great partners abroad and working with them. We have tended to work with Operation Mobilization, Bible Societies, and various relief organizations—anyone who has a track record of doing effective ministry. Some are nationals, some are expatriates. We find out what they need in the way of resources, personnel, programs, etc. and try to accommodate. We have sent a dental team to the Palestinian camps of South Beirut, medical teams to regions of India, pastoral teams to train pastors, and women's teams to lead women, among others. All of these come as a response to what partners are asking us to do. This past May I took a businessman to a small community south of Damascus to encourage a church in its building project.

This past weekend, our most recent team gave a report to a packed house. What made it especially informative was the photography. Our Korean pastor used his skills to bring the streets of Lebanon into the room. And here is one of the more amazing things—we are beginning to send different ethnic ministers abroad. One Korean and one Hispanic are in the pipeline to head out to the Middle East shortly.

Village's World Missions Pastor, John Jordan, has been out at the point leading us with great skill. He is very good at networking. Walking into his office, one is immediately aware of the energy. There is a steady stream of traffic. Each year, John puts together a conference that brings some of the best voices to inform, train, and inspire our people. If someone needs resources, John is a great contact.

Annually, we typically send 25-30 people to India in the early spring and the same number to Lebanon in the summer. Smaller teams go to other parts of the globe. I go ahead of some of these ventures, working with partners or teaching at a seminary.



A big part of our strategy is to challenge short-timers to become career missionaries. Each one who goes abroad goes through weeks of intensive training. And the results have been very positive. Just about everyone comes back with a passion to go again.

One of the most fulfilling parts has been our partnership with the Near East Initiative, a group three of us formed in Damascus six years ago. We saw a huge need to bring ministries out of their silos and encourage them to work together. Our passion is that Christianity becomes a vital force in one of the most strategic areas in the world. So far, it is working. In a factious part of the world, the only hope is a strong, united body of Christ. I will head over in November, hopefully with a core of businessmen, to South Lebanon. Our aim is to link them up with projects, meet other businessmen, and figure out ways to team up groups like seminaries, churches, and businesses to do ministry together.

Finally, because God is also bringing the world to us, Village has taken intentional steps to be a multicultural church. It has been a steep learning curve, with its own set of pains, but it has been a necessary step. If we are going to be a compelling witness and continue to reach the world, we have no choice. Anyone who is serious about being multicultural must come to grips with the cost. It is expensive. Such an approach may not generate the quick growth monocultural churches can have (as like tends to attract like). But we believe God is leading us to something unique—perhaps a day when we will no longer be a Caucasian church that invited other ethnicities to the table, but all of us coming to a third table, where there is no default ethnicity, with a multiethnic mix of preachers, worship leaders, and church leaders. It just might look like Revelation 7. Maybe we will become this “mystery of the gospel” Paul referred to in Ephesians 3.

If you are interested in learning more about Village Church, please visit their website, [vbconline.org](http://vbconline.org). ■

## Village Church's Model in Action: One Student's Story

“I’ve always been interested in culture,” M.A. in Intercultural Studies graduate Adrienne Livingston shared. “When I was in first grade, I bought a Spanish dictionary because this young girl in my class had moved to the States and didn’t speak English. I wanted to communicate with her.”

When Livingston later became a Christian, her innate love for people, travel, and adventure grew into an interest in cross-cultural ministry. She got connected with Western Seminary and Village Church through her friend Mythraie Gupta. Gupta, a graduate of Western’s M.A. Specialized Ministry program and a member of Village Church, introduced Livingston to Intercultural Studies faculty and church missions staff.



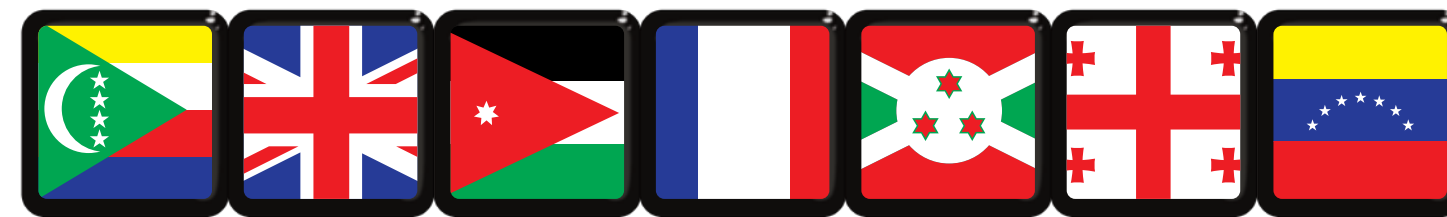
Adrienne Livingston

During the next several years, both relationships grew. Livingston was admitted into Western’s Intercultural Studies program and later traveled to Lebanon on one of Village’s short-term teams. When it came time for her to complete her seminary intercultural internship, she was invited to help coordinate the church’s short-term teams to India. She organized stateside training to prepare the teams and then traveled to India with them to provide leadership and document their ministry for partners at home and abroad.

While the experience reinforced Livingston’s appreciation for short-term teams ministry, it also sparked an ongoing involvement with the Indian community. “Here I am in Oregon, going to India,” she recalled, “but there are Indian people here too. Why not reach out to them as well? We can continue what we’re doing in another country here in our backyard.”

It also solidified her conviction that all believers are called to missional living. “The Great Commission is a global commission – and I say global meaning both global and local. It’s where you’re at, and it’s reaching to the ends of the earth. It’s not one or the other; it’s both-and,” she said. “Everyone has a role in missions. All skills are needed: business, medical, construction, prayer ... God has gifted us individually with talents, and He can use all of that.”

Looking to the future, Livingston hopes to draw upon her education and experience to mobilize African-Americans to serve in missions. She is currently training another short-term team from Village to spend three weeks ministering in India next January.



### FRESH APPROACH continued

short-term mission teams to serve in India, as well as reaching out to her local community of diaspora ethnic Indians. As she does so, she is helping others realize that a missional mindset means seeing opportunities to share the gospel cross-culturally both home and abroad.

As students better understand the diaspora phenomenon, they will not only be more apt to reach out to groups of immigrants living around the world, but also view them as potential partners in ministry. Branner noted that, generally speaking, Latino, Ukrainian, and Russian immigrants tend to be more evangelized than the average American. While these communities may be in need of Americans who are willing to help them make friends and navigate daily life in the States, they may also come with a spiritual heritage to offer un-

churched Americans. That type of creative thinking will be the basis for strategic new partnerships in the future – whether between two churches or two friends, such as Captain Weeden and the Nepalese barber.

In the end, graduates from each seminary program are becoming more effective agents for gospel-centered transformation in the world as they recognize the diaspora and see it as a God-ordained opportunity for cross-cultural influence. “There is a mission force from Western that has been sent out and it’s a continuing stream,” Branner said. As faculty continue to observe world trends and employ creative methods for teaching students, it’s a stream that we pray will gain even greater momentum in years to come. ■

### Beyond Diaspora continued

What does this unleashing look like?

In Indonesia, seminary students are required to plant a new church before completing their degree programs – applying acquired ministry skills in a practical context. In Africa, a historically Christian country is sending doctors to predominantly Muslim countries with dire medical needs. It’s reported that hundreds of people have come to faith in Christ as a result of that ministry.

How would Denlinger challenge American Christians to respond?

“The question is: How does a local church grapple with the commands of Jesus and seek to obey Jesus in ways that are relevant to the world we live in and how God has called that church?” he asked.

He calls us to take heed of Wan’s observations of diaspora – even in our local communities – and to seize today’s opportunities as divinely orchestrated by God.

“If our mentality is ‘missions happens overseas,’ then we’re going to miss the opportunity to reach the lost that live here,” he cautioned. “That’s where U.S. churches have a significant opportunity to reach people. On a micro-level, what does that mean for our discipleship? If God is bringing the world here and we have a message to share with them, there’s a lesson for us as well. Any missionary worth their salt will tell you they’ve gone overseas to share the gospel but their lives have been so enriched by being cross-cultural; they’re no longer the same person.

“It gives us the opportunity to see God through different lenses which can enrich our faith – beauty and also diversity – that great scene in heaven where all people of all tribes, tongues, nations are worshipping the Lamb. The beauty of that picture can be ours even in small glimpses right now, even without having to go into missions overseas.”

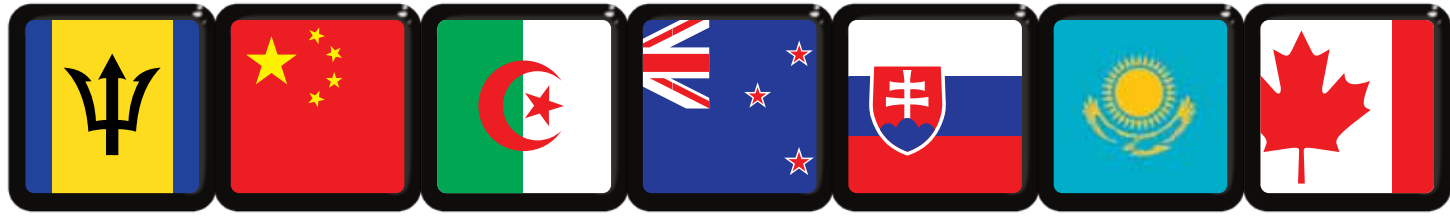
Gospel-centered transformation is no longer regarded as the work of the few, expert missionaries trained to reach cross-culturally. Rather, it is to be regarded as part of the Christian charge to each believer. That said, reaching across cultures is hard work – is it worth it?

**Incarnational living is not easy, but it is the way of Jesus. We are to become all things to all people, so that by all means some might be saved. It’s hard work, but that’s the life that Christ has called us to.**

“Every marriage is cross cultural, so we’re already doing this,” Denlinger said with a good-natured laugh. “Yes, it is hard work. Incarnational living is not easy, but it is the way of Jesus. We are to become all things to all people, so that by all means some might be saved. It’s hard work, but that’s the life that Christ has called us to.

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, ‘When Christ calls a man, he calls him to come and die.’ That’s not just for pastors, or for missionaries. It’s a challenge, but in Christ, we can do this.” ■





## Marketplace Ministry Around the World

**Kent Humphreys is president of the business as mission organization Fellowship of Companies for Christ International (also known as Christ@Work). Humphreys refers to himself as an ambassador, rather than president, and has been a pioneer in the business as mission approach. We asked him to share some of the things he has seen God doing in the global marketplace.**

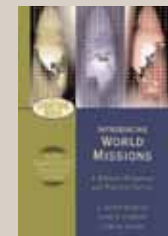
Missions are changing today and doors are opening for all of us in the body of Christ. As a business leader and CEO of a workplace ministry, I have been able to travel to 25 nations around the world, speaking with workplace and church leaders. Business leaders are using their platforms to share Christ and go places that missionaries could never go. In Kenya, a pastor of a church in the slums has an HIV clinic in a nearby town. An entrepreneur with several businesses has started a church. In China, local business leaders are working with civic leaders to pass out Bibles. Baptisms are taking place in factories in China. In Croatia, business leaders are bringing leaders from vari-

ous parts of the body of Christ together for the first time -- Catholics, Protestants, and Charismatics praying together for their city. Across Latin America, business leaders are openly proclaiming Christ in their companies and praying for God's blessing and anointing. In Hong Kong, Christian business leaders are having chaplains come into their companies to minister. In Malaysia, a 60 percent Muslim nation, Christians are meeting regularly seeking to integrate their faith and work. Christians from the Philippines are taking jobs in the Middle East in closed countries and sharing Christ in homes and businesses. Business owners in India, Indonesia, and South Africa are standing up against corruption publically. Traditional missions will continue but more and more of our overall strategy will include business as mission in both open and closed nations around the world.

*Humphreys has written two books which draw upon his experience as a marketplace missionary: Shepherding Horses: God's Plan for Transforming Leaders and Christ@Work: Opening Doors (Impacting Your Workplace for Jesus Christ). He has generously offered a complimentary copy of either book for Western Magazine readers as a tool for further equipping. To request a copy, please contact him at [kent@fcci.org](mailto:kent@fcci.org).*

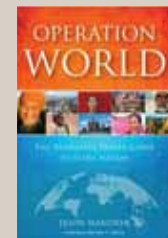
## Resources for Continued Study

### Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical and Practical Survey



**By A. Scott Moreau**  
Written for prospective missionaries as well as those interested in missions, this book provides a great introduction and broad overview of world mission. It is comprised of 5 sections: encountering missions in the Scriptures, in history, as a candidate, as a sent one or sender, and in the contemporary world.

### Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation



**By Jason Mandryk**  
This book is widely regarded as the definitive volume of prayer information about the world. Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, CEO of the World Evangelical Alliance, says it best: "Operation World is a tremendously useful resource that I use personally, with my family, and in my ministry. No Christian family, local church library, or Christian leader should be without this vision building, prayer enhancing, information packed tool."

### Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change



**By Paul G. Hiebert**  
Changes in behavior and belief are considered major indicators that Christian conversion has, indeed, taken place. Hiebert asks readers to consider a third factor: worldview. He goes on to elaborate on its meaning and what he sees as its far-reaching implications.

### The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission



**By Christopher J. H. Wright**  
This volume is a theologically rich, immensely practical, and occasionally provocative exploration of the mission that God has assigned to the Church. Being 'missional' is of limited value if the mission that we're on isn't in synch with the one described in Scripture. To that end, Wright's work will be of great help in guiding how we read the Bible and how we live our lives, individually and corporately.

### Online journals: [globalmissiology.org](http://globalmissiology.org) and [missionfrontiers.org](http://missionfrontiers.org)

Dr. Enoch Wan edits the online journal [Global Missiology](http://Global Missiology), published quarterly. New issues of [Mission Frontiers](http://Mission Frontiers) are posted online six times a year.

## ADVANCEMENT

# Western's International Students: A Strategic Opportunity for Kingdom Impact



**Greg Moon**

Western Seminary's international students face a unique set of challenges in entering seminary. Even if they are confident that God is calling them to study as preparation for significant ministry leadership, they have a whole host of questions to answer: How will they afford to move to the United States? Will they be able to secure the proper visa to study and work? Where will they live? How will they find a church? How can they navigate a new life and culture on their own?

Often, these men and women have faced incredible obstacles during the course of their ministry – including poverty, genocide, famine, and illiteracy. It takes careful and creative training, an understanding of the power of the Gospel to enact true transformation, the skills needed to resolve interpersonal conflict, and a support network of alumni and faculty to help them stay healthy in these challenging contexts.

We at Western are committed to training students to serve as agents of spiritual transformation and believe that it will take leaders from countries around the world to effectively reach other cultures with the gospel message. Church growth in the developing world is accelerating, and the need for leadership is critical. We understand our responsibility as a seminary to include meeting the needs of those who lack resources, but are called by God to lead His church. And international students have a unique ability to enrich the cultural and learning environment at each of our campuses. For those reasons, we are committed to helping international students receive training – helping them with the practical aspects of moving to a new country, soliciting grants and financial assistance to offset their tuition costs, and facilitating partnerships with local churches.

A connection with local churches provides our international students with many benefits, among them:

- Another means of financial support for their educational goals
- Promotes relational, spiritual, and emotional support that the international students desperately need while dealing with the pressures of cultural adjustment
- Provides natural ministry opportunities, where international students can immediately apply the lessons they learn in the classroom to practical ministry contexts

Churches win too. Members are provided with an opportunity to exercise good stewardship, kingdom investment, and hospitality. They are exposed to Christian practices from a different cultural viewpoint. Their heart and interest for God's work and missionary efforts naturally grows as they come to know and love brothers and sisters from other parts of the world.

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One of these brothers is Julius Twongyeirwe, who completed a master's program at Western and currently holds a national ministry position in Uganda. This past summer, Twongyeirwe had the opportunity to explain Western's approach to transformation – the Strategy for Evangelical Renewal – in a culturally-relevant context to more than 550 African pastors. Twongyeirwe is committed to building other African leaders' competence and confidence in doing God's work, God's way. He has been invited to join the faculty of an African training school, but will first need to complete a doctoral degree.

"While willing to spend an extended time away from his wife and children, if necessary, to do doctoral studies, he doesn't have enough funds to do so," President Randy Roberts said. "So he patiently waits and prays."

Twongyeirwe is one of many internationals with the character and call representative of the strategic ministry leaders we are committed to training for ministry. We are grateful for the individuals, churches, and organizations (such as The Chatlos Foundation) which contribute toward international students' tuition costs. We also invite you to consider partnering with us in equipping these future world leaders – whether you offer financial assistance through a gift to our International Ministry Fund, develop a personal mentoring relationship, or facilitate a partnership with your local church.

## Western's International Students by the Numbers

19

Number of current international students at Western Seminary

54

The number of international students who have earned degrees from Western in the past 15 years

90

The percentage of international students who return to serve in their country of origin upon graduation from Western

11

Countries represented by our current class of international students

Canada	Ghana
India	Sweden
Egypt	Hong Kong
Romania	Taiwan
Ethiopia	Japan
South Korea	

\$25,000

Gift received from The Chatlos Foundation to subsidize tuition costs for international students last year



## WESTERN SEMINARY

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# Upcoming Events

The faculty and staff of Western Seminary appreciate your partnership and prayers for these upcoming events. If you would like to join us for any of these activities, please contact Julia Seal at 503.517.1816.

## January 5, 15, 22, 24, 2011 San Jose Campus Preview Day

Do you know someone interested in seminary? Invite them to one of our two-hour Campus Preview Day events. It's an easy way to explore whether Western Seminary may be the next step for you. RSVP online at [www.westernseminary.edu/sanjose](http://www.westernseminary.edu/sanjose) or Tony Cruz at 408.356.6889, ext 416.

## January 11, 2011 The Spurgeon Fellowship, Portland Campus

Meeting four times a year, The Spurgeon Fellowship aims to enhance the personal character and professional competency of pastors and, thus, by means of Word and Spirit, contribute to the renewal of local congregations. In January, Pastor Josh McPherson will share on The Missional Church and Pastor Cole Brown will share on The Missional Pastor. Find more information at [www.thespurgeonfellowship.org](http://www.thespurgeonfellowship.org).

## February 3, 2011 Sacramento Campus Preview Day

Visit our campus, ask questions, connect with others who are considering seminary, meet faculty and staff, and learn about Western Seminary's unique approach to ministry training and where you might fit in. RSVP to Nate Cozington at 916.488.3720, ext 1.

## February 24, 2011 Portland Campus Preview Day

Are you interested in seminary? Do you know someone who is? Discover how Western Seminary trains men and women to serve effectively in a variety of ministry contexts.

## March 8, 2011 The Spurgeon Fellowship, Portland Campus

Dr. Jerry Bridges will speak on "The Bookends of the Christian Life". Find more information at [www.thespurgeonfellowship.org](http://www.thespurgeonfellowship.org).