



The Global CHURCH

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Going global.

If there is an emerging hallmark of Dr. Timothy C. Tennent's leadership at Asbury Theological Seminary, it might be summed up in a single word: Global. Not global as in grandiose, but global as in "For God so loved the World." In this trilogy of issues, *The Asbury Herald* explores some of the conversations shaping our convictions and inspiring a vision to serve our remarkably global Church. Join us.

ISSUE 1

The Global CHURCH

What is the global Church? Explore the horizons of the global Church, the growth of the Hispanic population in the U.S. and the post-Christendom Church in the post-Christian west.

ISSUE 2

Global PARTNERSHIPS

Asbury Seminary is training students in a global context. Read about our alumni in global ministry and learn more about our international faculty.

ISSUE 3

Global COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How do we move from the mentality of "the world is in my parish" to the reality of the world "is in" my parish? Learn about Asbury Seminary's involvement in global worship and missions in a rapidly globalizing society.

COVER: Portrait of a young African girl. We don't know her name. We only know she comes from the African nation of Nigeria. And according to our data, she is the most representative Christian in the world today.



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CONTENTS

04 WHAT IS THE GLOBAL CHURCH?
Dr. Timothy C. Tennent

06 CONVERTING DURING COMMUNISM

07 WESLEY FUND UPDATE

09 *War Journals*
THE STORY OF MEDINE KEENER

CENTERFOLD: SEEDBED INFOGRAPHIC

The Global Church: A Shift in the Christian Landscape

13 INVESTIGATING REVITALIZATION IN THE GLOBAL CHURCH

14 HISPANIC ROUND-TABLE

15 JUSTO L. GONZALEZ RESOURCE CENTER

16 PUBLICATIONS

17 NEWS

19 EVENTS

Go green!

TRY OUR E-EDITION

The *Asbury Herald* (including annual report) is published four times per year and is mailed to more than 17,000 households. It is the official magazine of Asbury Theological Seminary. It is also published in electronic format (asburyseminary.edu/publications) to reduce paper consumption and increase access.

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What is the



Dr. Timothy C. Tennent
*President and Professor of
World Christianity*
ASBURY SEMINARY

THE PHRASE “GLOBAL CHURCH” IS INCREASINGLY BEING USED TODAY IN BOOKS AND ARTICLES ABOUT CHRISTIANITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY. WHAT DOES THIS PHRASE MEAN? TO ANSWER THIS WE MUST BEGIN BY REVIEWING SOME OF THE DRAMATIC CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE CHURCH TODAY. FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS THE CHURCH WAS MADE UP OF MOSTLY WESTERN PEOPLES. THERE WERE, BY COMPARISON, NOT THAT MANY AFRICAN OR ASIAN CHRISTIANS. IN 1800, FOR EXAMPLE, 98 PERCENT OF ALL CHRISTIANS WERE LOCATED IN THE WESTERN WORLD. EVEN ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER, AT THE DAWN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, NINETY PERCENT OF ALL PROTESTANTS STILL LIVED IN THE WESTERN WORLD. IS IT ANY SURPRISE THAT 19TH CENTURY AFRICANS OFTEN REFERRED TO CHRISTIANITY AS THE “WHITE MAN’S RELIGION?” MOST AFRICANS HAD NEVER MET A NON-WHITE CHRISTIAN IN THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

However, during the 20th century something remarkable happened to the Church. The face of Christianity, quite literally, changed. Astonishing growth has occurred in the churches in Africa, in Asia and in Latin America. The change has been so dramatic that the number of Christians in Africa and Latin America has gone from being only 10 percent of the overall Church to being nearly 70 percent of the Church! Christians in the West have dropped from being 90 percent of the world in 1900 to about 32 percent today.

Let me give you some specific examples to help drive the point home. In 1900, there were over 380 million Christians in Europe and less than 10 million on the entire continent of Africa. Today there are over 367 million Christians in

Church around the world. It is not a reference to any single denomination or group. The Church, as a whole, is made up of about 22,000 separate groups, denominations or networks. But, whenever we speak of the Church as a whole, we use phrases like the “global Church” or “global Christianity.” The phrase refers collectively to all Christians everywhere in the world. Today, we can declare that Christianity is, by far, the most ethnically diverse movement of any kind, religious or otherwise, on the entire planet. There remains, of course, much work to do. There are thousands of people-groups who still have not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our daughter, Bethany, is part of a missionary team of ten people who live among a remote tribe in Tanzania who has not yet heard the gospel. The global Christian movement,

Global Church?

Africa, comprising one fifth of the entire Christian Church. Throughout the 20th century a net average gain of 16,500 people were coming to Christ every day in Africa. From 1970 to 1985, for example, the Church in Africa grew by over six million people. During that same time 4,300 people per day were leaving the Church in Europe and North America. Similar growth stories can be observed in other countries, such as South Korea and India. India, the land of exotic eastern religions, is today the home of over 60 million Christians. The largest single church in the world is the Yoido Full Gospel Church in South Korea. It was founded by Dr. “David” Paul Yonggi Cho (b. 1936) in 1958 with only five people in a small living room. Today, the church has over 700,000 members. The Chinese, despite living under a strict atheistic government, now has over 90 million believers, and with an average growth rate of 16,500 per day, is the fastest growing church in the world.

The other thrilling aspect of this growth of Christianity around the world is how it is influencing Christianity in a positive way right here in the United States. The fastest growing churches in North America are the new ethnic churches. Just last Sunday I had the privilege of preaching to over a thousand Chinese Christians in the Rutgers Community Christian Church in New Jersey. Increasingly, we are going to see the emergence of major new ethnic congregations across our country filled with Korean, Chinese, Hispanic and African peoples. This represents our greatest hope for the renewal of the Church in our country.

With this background, it is now easy to see why the phrase “global Church” has emerged. This is a phrase that seeks to capture a growing awareness of an emerging, vibrant

or “global Christianity,” continues to expand each and every year as more and more people receive the good news. Jesus is fulfilling His promise to build His Church (Matthew 16:18) and call men and women from every tongue, tribe and language to Himself (Rev. 7:9). Asbury Theological Seminary is committed to strengthening the global Church and using that vitality to help renew the church here in North America. Asbury Seminary will play a leading role in helping to train the hundreds of new pastors and teachers who are needed to shepherd these new flocks. It is truly wonderful to be a part of what God is doing in the world, isn't it? *

See centerfold for a removable infographic poster about the global Church and the shifting Christian landscape!

David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Trends, A.D. 30 – A.D. 2200: Interpreting the Annual Christian Megacensus* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2003), 331.

The World Christian Database notes that there were 380,641,890 Christians in Europe and 9,938,588 Christians in Africa. See www.worldchristiandatabase.org.

Lamin Sanneh, 15. Elizabeth Isichei says that the number leaving the church in the West was 7,500 per day. See, Elizabeth Isichei, 1.

Todd M. Johnson, Sarah Tieszen and Thomas Higgins, “Counting Christians in India, A.D. 52-2200,” Dharma Deepika (forthcoming). This research was conducted at the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, which produces the data for the World Christian Encyclopedia. This represents 6.15% of the population of India, far above the official 3% figure given by the government. However, the official figures disenfranchise millions of Christians who are counted as “tribals” or who are remaining within Hindu communities.

David Barrett, George Kurian and Todd Johnson, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 1.



CONVERTING DURING Communism

IN A TIME WHEN CHRISTIANITY WAS REASON TO KILL, GOD TRANSFORMED SASHA TSUTSEROV FROM A KGB AGENT TO HIS AMBASSADOR. As a child he was baptized in secret by his grandmother. But it was years later as an adult caught in communist Russia that God began awakening his heart. Sasha was convinced of God's love for him during a vision. It propelled him on a journey that had a resounding impact. During his life, he has helped train a new generation of believers in a country only two decades removed from political and religious turmoil.

Communism is a haunting history for Sasha, but it's the backdrop in which his faith came to life. The stirring for Christ began while he was a KGB agent. Sasha's daughter, Julia, became friends with the daughter of a Christian missionary. Soon after, Sasha's wife, Natasha, became their Russian language tutor. As a KGB agent, Sasha decided he needed to investigate this missionary who was making such an impact on his family. What he discovered was not what he expected. He felt drawn to a church that seemed to have an irresistible joy for life. His curiosity grew and he found himself at a church retreat. While he was praying, he had a vision of God standing on a mountain. In the vision Sasha saw himself as a jar of clay into which God was pouring the pure gold of the Holy Spirit. God touched the depths of his heart and he was a changed man. Sasha explains after the vision, "I needed no evidence for God's existence, for I knew God in Christ Jesus."

Natasha noticed an immediate change when he arrived home that day. "What's wrong with you?" She asked, as she greeted him at the door. The man she saw even appeared different. "You are smiling!" She had never before seen her husband smile, until that day. He told her that he became a Christian. She confessed that she too became a Christian, but was scared to tell him.

As a KGB agent Sasha's nickname was 'Tin Man.' He says the hardest part of being a Christian KGB agent was not blowing his cover. He had to maintain the image of a hardheaded, tough-as-nails agent even though God had given 'Tin Man' a new heart. "God sustained me during my Christian KGB years by having me trained for survival during my Atheist KGB years." It didn't take long for Sasha to realize he couldn't keep his faith and his job. He quit working for the KGB, and helped plant a church in Moscow.

"The Church in Russia is devastated. Russia is the most persecuted church in the history of Christendom," Tsutserov

Sasha's calling eventually became clear: "to replenish the devastated land of Russia with ministers and the Word of God."

explained. According to Operation World Encyclopedia, more than 200,000 Christian leaders were martyred under Communism and another 500,000 were imprisoned. There were 100,000 church-owned buildings in 1920. By 1940 only 1,000 were used by Christians because the rest were destroyed or seized. Sasha's calling eventually became clear: "to replenish the devastated land of Russia with ministers and the Word of God." However, theological training was not permitted during Communism. So Tsutserov went half-way across the world to study at Asbury Theological Seminary. While

at Asbury Seminary, Tsutserov took independent courses on how to run a seminary. Eventually the seeds that were sown in him at Asbury Seminary bore fruit in Russia.

He is now the Director of the Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary. "Everything that I learned at Asbury Seminary is being put into place in Moscow." One hundred fifty-seven

students have graduated from the Moscow Seminary since it opened in 1993. Their entire recent graduating class of more than 100 students went straight into ministry. It's proof that with Tsutserov's direction, Moscow Seminary is effective and needed in a land still healing from political strife. *



ABOVE: Moscow Seminary is less than 10 years old but their incoming freshman class has ballooned to 137 students.



Scan the code with your mobile device or visit asbury.to/herald to hear more about Asbury Seminary's impact in Russia!

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2011 - 2012 Wesley Fund Goal
\$1,750,000

In 1923, Henry Clay Morrison started Asbury Theological Seminary with the motto, "The whole Bible for the whole world." How audacious to claim that Asbury Seminary would reach the whole world when Morrison was located in Wilmore, Kentucky, with only three students in his founding class.

Today we have more than 9,000 alumni on six continents, in 65 countries, and in 22 of the 24 time zones. Our alumni are taking the whole Bible to the whole world. For more than 87 years, people just like you have joined our community in this effort to impact the global Church. In doing so, you make it possible for students to come and be transformed both intellectually and spiritually. They, in turn, go out and impact the world!

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Keeping tuition affordable

Attracting world-class faculty and staff

Supporting opportunities for spiritual growth and transformation

Funding technology-rich learning

Will you join us in impacting the global Church?



CERTAINTY *in an* UNCERTAIN *World*



Today more than ever, people need reliability, certainty and accountability when planning for their financial future. We are all looking for ways to invest that are stable, solid and firm. For many of us, it means a return to classic financial values and enduring ideals. One of these values is the charitable gift annuity (CGA).*

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To learn more about charitable gift annuities visit asbury.to/leavealegacy.

*Void where prohibited by state law.



ABOVE: The 1999 War devastated the Republic of Congo.
RIGHT: Medine's journal documented every traumatic and meaningful moment of the war.

War Journals

THE MEMORIES STILL GIVE HER NIGHTMARES. SHE WATCHES AS A GUN IS HELD TO HER BROTHER'S HEAD. HELPLESSLY, SHE LISTENS TO THE SCREAMS OF A TEENAGER BEING RAPED. GUNPOWDER BURNS IN HER NOSE AS BULLETS FLY AND BOMBS EXPLODE. SHE TAKES A DETOUR SO THE CHILDREN WON'T SEE THE DEAD BODIES IN THE ROAD. A SOLDIER'S HAUNTING RED EYES GIVE AWAY A DANGEROUS DRUG HABIT. CHILDREN CRY IN TERROR AS GAPING WOUNDS RAVAGE THEIR FLESH. HUNDREDS OF BULLETS ARE LEFT SCATTERED ON THE GROUND. THE CITY IS REDUCED TO RUBBLE. THE EERIE SILENCE CONSUMES HER AS SHE HEADS FOR THE COVER OF THE FOREST. THIS WAS THE LIFE OF MEDINE KEENER, THE REFUGEE.

Continued on next page ...

For 18 months, Medine was on the run with her family. She explains, “Your life is just hanging on a thread and you don’t know what’s going to happen.” Tens of thousands of people died during the war in the Republic of Congo. She says, “Those soldiers went from one area to another raping women; killing whoever would resist them.” Though Medine was surrounded by death, God sustained her. “It was God’s grace. He spared our lives.” Not only did God spare Medine’s life, he restored it. At the beginning of the war, her life was falling apart. By the time it ended, God gave Medine much more than what she had lost.

THE PIECES FALL

It all began in 1997 when Medine was living in Brazzaville, the capital of Congo. After earning a Ph.D. in France, she began teaching as an adjunct professor at the university and teaching English at the U.S. Embassy. She was recently married and pregnant. The former president, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, attacked the capital to regain power. In just four months, he ousted the current president and declared himself the new president. Luckily, Medine got out before violence became rampant in Brazzaville. By God’s grace she was able to get on the last flight out of there. In the following weeks no other flights were allowed out of the city.

Medine went to live with her father, but she found that she couldn’t outrun the political problems that were brewing. By 1999, Medine had a toddler, and her husband had abandoned them both. Despite the Ph.D., she was jobless. She had no home of her own and her possessions were few. The coming war meant they didn’t have running water or electricity. Times were not good and it only got worse. “One afternoon they just started to shoot. The whole place was on fire.” Suddenly, they were under siege and soldiers took control of the city.

Many people were coming, yelling from the main road. Medine’s brother went to see the commotion, but he froze when a truck full of soldiers confronted him. Medine recalls some soldiers were just children. “Kids with guns. Some of them might have been maybe 11 or 10.” Medine feared for her brother’s life. “When these people came they had one mission: if you see a man, kill him. If you see a woman, rape her.” The captain began interrogating her brother. Immediately he began to pray, “God please forgive my sins. I know I’m going to die. Get ready to receive me.” Then suddenly, with guns still aimed at him, the captain said “okay amigo” and the soldiers moved on. Medine’s family ran to their home. The soldiers went through the city killing and raping some and stirring up fear before leaving.

A FLOURISHING FRIENDSHIP

It was during this time she wrote a letter to her friend, Dr. Craig Keener, who was teaching at Palmer Theological Seminary in the United States. Medine met Craig when she was studying briefly in the U.S. many years ago. Interest sparked, but they decided that a romantic relationship wouldn’t work. Instead, they chose to remain friends, agreeing to pray for each other’s

future spouses. In her letters, Medine shared with Craig that her marriage wasn’t working out. Their regular correspondence by letter was abruptly cut short when the war started. In the last letter that Medine sent Craig before becoming a refugee, she wrote that she was unsure if she was going to live or die. She asked him to pray.

REFUGEES ON THE RUN

Things were just starting to seem normal again after the last assault. Then war returned; this time with a violent vengeance. On January 25, 1999, rebel groups, who were loyal to the ousted president, began attacking. Medine was getting ready to go the market. “Then we heard loud noises—bombing and shooting.” It was happening downtown. People came through yelling, warning everyone to leave. Masses of people began running, but Medine’s family stayed. Her father was paralyzed. Instead of running they prayed. They were stuck until they could come up with a plan.

That night soldiers paid Medine’s family a violent visit. Two soldiers came in the house demanding \$550. Medine’s father, using a cane to stand, explained that they only had \$60. Medine stood outside the house holding her son, David. She helplessly watched the scene unfold through the window. Chaos erupted when the soldiers said that \$60 wasn’t enough. The first soldier, who looked high on drugs, fired his gun in the direction of her father. He collapsed on the floor with a cry. She recalls, “The noise was so much that everyone was yelling. I thought maybe someone had died.” Luckily, the bullet narrowly missed

Medine’s father, hitting the ground between his feet. It ricocheted off the floor, hitting the window. Her father had lost his balance and fallen to the floor, unable to get up. The second soldier convinced his comrade that they should leave with just the \$60. The close call made Medine sick through the night. “I despaired. It felt so wrong, so bad, to have something like war imposed on people who didn’t even ask for it.”

The next day Medine’s family decided they had to leave or the soldiers would return, but they still didn’t have a plan. Again, they prayed. Her father asked God to provide someone who could help them escape. “When he said, ‘amen’ someone immediately knocked on the door.” Medine was amazed when she opened the door and found her cousin. Medine’s family had been on bad terms with this cousin. This cousin felt entitled to some of the family’s inheritance, but was denied. Medine said his help was a miracle. “God used someone who considered himself our enemy to come back and get us out of there.” The cousin put Medine’s dad in a wheelbarrow; he was the only one strong enough to push it as they fled. They maneuvered their way out of the city as bombs exploded and gunfire rang out in the distance. An eerie silence settled over them as they realized they were one of the last families in the city to escape. Their life on the run began.

Over the next several months Medine and her family slept in abandoned churches, schools and hospitals. Every night they committed their concerns to God in a family prayer time. They

At the beginning of the war,
Medine’s life was falling apart.
By the time it ended, God
was orchestrating some life-
changing events.



ABOVE: Medine's family pushed her paralyzed father in a wheelbarrow for thousands of miles as they ran for their lives.

depended on the forest for food. For six months they ate ferns. The family walked hundreds of miles, pushing her father along in the wheelbarrow. Since the violence was concentrated in the larger cities, their safety was more probable in remote villages. They retreated to isolated areas waiting for war to pass, but as weeks grew into months, they realized it might be a long time before they could return home.

HEARTACHE AND HEALING

On February 15, 1999, Medine hit a desperately low point. As Medine's family traveled from village to village, other displaced people joined their troop. She was walking with nearly 20 other people along the railroad headed for the next village. She had David strapped to her back and was carrying a bag on her head as the afternoon sun beat down on her. Her feet and back ached. She was hungry and hot. As she walked she got lost in her thoughts. The suffering seemed consuming, and the toiling devoured her. "I just started to cry. I had hit the bottom." Then someone in their group began singing. "Apparently someone was not on the same level as me." It began to really bother her. She remembers thinking, "How dare you sing when things are so hard like this?" As her irritation grew, she realized it was her own son who was singing. As she cried, David continued to sing and

"Heaven became closer because we lived with the idea that we could die tomorrow."

dance. He was blissfully unaware of his mother's inner struggle. "I started to think about the words. The words of the song said, 'we will overcome, we will overcome, with God's strength we will overcome.'" Pondering the words, God renewed her spirit pulling her out of the depths of depression. "Even today I think about that day and it gives me strength."

The low times brought a deep agony. But it was there that God drew her near. God brought her to a place where death had lost its sting. "Heaven became closer because we lived with the idea that we could die tomorrow." Medine says miraculously soldiers seemed to skip right over the Christians' houses. "Many Christian homes were not visited. When the homes were visited God protected the people." Medine says God went to great lengths to provide, protect and heal.

This wasn't the first time Medine had seen God do miraculous things. God had healed her before she became a believer. She grew up in a Christian home. At the age of nine, she was very sick with a fever. The medicine only seemed to make it worse. Her father prayed for God to heal her. Then he instructed her to go take a shower. Since they had no running water, they used a bucket to collect water from the river. Medine was already shivering. She dreaded touching the icy cold water, but her father insisted. "When I put my hands in the water I was healed, completely healed. It was the best shower I ever had." Instantly the fever was gone, the bitter taste in her mouth disappeared and she felt full of energy. By the age of 15, she felt ready to commit her life to Christ. This relationship got her through the hard times.

GOD PROVIDES

On March 26, 1999, Medine's entire family became very sick. They found themselves sleeping on dirt, unable to afford medicine or food. Life seemed bleak, but it was about to take a turn. Someone told her brother there was a package for them at the border of Gabon, a neighboring country. The trip there, however, was a dangerous one. Military trucks carrying armed soldiers often used the main road that her brother would have to take to Gabon. Her brother went and the family anxiously awaited his return. The night he got back, the family immediately wanted to know about

his journey. He insisted they wait until their nightly prayer time for details. After eating ferns, they gathered to pray, and he revealed what was in the bag: \$680! Her brother used some of it to bring back soap, bread and cookies. They hadn't had soap in months and had only seen bread in their dreams.

God's monetary provision seemed miraculous by itself, but when the family discovered how it got to them they were amazed. Years earlier when Medine's brother Emmanuel got his Ph.D. in France, he had made some very close friends through a church. When they heard about the war, these friends collected money for Emmanuel, yet, they had no way to get it to him. Like a puzzle, God's plan was an intricate, but perfect fit. One of Medine's friends from the Republic of the Congo was visiting France and happened to meet Emmanuel's church friends. He promised to take the money home to Emmanuel, but was unable to find him.

He had been on the run for months. However, this friend had a sister who lived in Gabon and knew where Medine's family was staying. The package traveled through many hands but got to them safely. People were killed for as little as \$10. Medine smiled as she recalled how God provided for them. He was moving long before her family knew they would ever need the money.

GOING HOME

In January of 2000, the news Medine's family had been waiting for finally came; the war was over. The human corridor opened allowing humanitarian organizations to come into the Republic of Congo to help the refugees. Death and illness rose out of the ruined cities. Corpses littered streets, polluting the water. There was a shortage of food and medical supplies. When the corridor opened, it offered hope.

They waited nine more months until October of 2000, to make the difficult journey to see what was left of her father's home. Although a treaty had been signed, some violence lingered. Medine's uncle, who owned a car, drove them there. Looking out the car window, Medine watched the destruction zip past her until they finally arrived at the house. Silently, their eyes were glued to the remains of the structure as they got out of the car. Though some walls still stood, chunks of plaster were missing, exposing the brick underneath. The roof was gone. The windows were now gaping holes. It had been ransacked; nothing remained inside. Everything her father had worked for was gone. Medine held her breath waiting for her father's reaction. The moment seemed to last an eternity. Then her father took a deep breath and made a shocking statement: "Let us thank God." Material things no longer mattered. Medine expected tears, but saw only praise for a great God. Though they had lost everything, they had gained much more. Like Job, their ears had heard of God but now their eyes had seen Him.

LIFE RESTORED

Every day that Medine was running for her life, Craig was praying for her protection. For more than 550 days he checked the mail, holding onto hope that she was alive. Eventually, Medine contacted her church friends in France. She had lost everything in the war, including Craig Keener's address. She asked her friends if they could find it. Using the Internet they did. Finally, Medine could write to Craig again.

Their correspondence picked up. Medine confided in Craig that she was now officially divorced from the husband who had abandoned her. As several months passed their friendship grew and they began talking about marriage. By this time, Medine, in hopes of finding a job, had moved to the one city that remained untouched by the war. There she found a cyber café and their conversations were more frequent through email. One day in that cyber café, Medine got a surprise proposal. They hadn't seen each other in 10 years, but Craig had no doubt that this woman of God was perfect for him. Medine immediately said 'yes.' Craig legally adopted David. It took another eight months for Medine to get the documents she needed for herself and David to travel to the United States, where she would get married and start a new life. Though the turmoil of war left deep scars, God restored her life. He blessed her with a husband, a father for David and a deeper understanding of His character.

Today Craig is beside her when the nightmares come. She wakes up, realizing the vivid scenes are only memories of a time that has passed. The images of turmoil were not the last thing Medine saw; she gets to wake up from the nightmare. "I appreciate life because I got a second chance." ✨



ABOVE: Craig and Medine Keener

Today...

Medine and Craig now live in Wilmore, Kentucky with their son, David. Medine is the Coordinator of Family Formation (formerly Spouse and Family Ministries) at Asbury Seminary, while Craig teaches New Testament classes for the Seminary. David is now 14 years old and attends West Jessamine High School.

Craig has written more than 15 books, three of which have won biblical studies awards. He has also published more than 200 articles. His most recent publication entitled, *Miracles: The Credibility of New Testament Accounts*, has received praise among scholars and professors. He is also working on a four-volume Acts commentary.

Medine kept detailed journals throughout the war, and has since created electronic files of the stories to preserve them. She is currently considering writing a book about her experience.

Investigating *Revitalization* in the Global Church

IN THE UNITED STATES WE SEE MAINLINE CHURCHES STEADILY DECLINING, BUT A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE REVEALS REVITALIZATION IS STIRRING ABROAD.

In Brazil, a Catholic community called Toca de Assis has grown to nearly 700 members with thousands more taking temporary vows. They practice thirteenth century Franciscan traditions, combined with contemporary music and charismatic prayer. In Africa, mass conversions have taken place in the last century. In the Ukraine, a Nigerian pastor saw his church grow to 25,000 members in just two decades amidst a largely secular and atheist society. These are the kind of revivals that are at the center of a research project at Asbury Theological Seminary.

“We need to see the wisdom and power of the Gospel at work in our time,” explains Dr. Michael Pasquarello. He’s one of several faculty members involved in The Center for the Study of World Christian Revitalization Movements. They are tracking renewals in the global Church and their project just received a big boost. The center was awarded another grant of \$350,000 that will allow them to continue research for another four years. “The project seems to have tapped into an artesian well of interest and concern, even hunger, for genuine renewal in churches and in society,” says Dr. Howard Snyder, a founding member of the center.

In the last four years, the center hosted three consultations around the globe to collect data. The events featured speakers and small group discussions that were carefully documented. Two publications are

emerging from this research. One of these is *Interpretive Trends in Christian Revitalization for the Early Twenty First Century* (Emeth Press, 2011), which is a collection of 20 essays that stems from the data discussed at the first two conferences. The other book will publish the data from the last conference, which took place in October of 2011 in Toronto, Canada.

The new grant will allow the center to expand the scope of its work. “We sense that it is vital to discern how and where God is at work in manifesting revitalizations,” explains Dr. J. Steve O’Malley, the center’s Director. They are now planning four global summits on four different continents, which will yield another series of publications. They will focus on the revitalization of the church in urban contexts in the non-Western world. “Our future work will make available concrete examples of Christian practice that may serve to strengthen our mutual understanding and witness,” says Dr. Pasquarello. Organizers say the project is meant to result in more than just a series of academic publications; it’s designed to develop lasting collaborations between academic institutions and churches. Dr. Pasquarello says it’s a global view that gives Americans an encouraging and enlightening perspective. “This kind of work is an expression of the global Church and a way of seeing what lies ahead for us in the 21st century.” *

“We need to see the wisdom and power of the Gospel at work in our time...”



Dr. Steve O’Malley has written an article that further explains what The Center for the Study of World Christian Revitalization Movements has been doing. Scan the code to read it on a mobile device or read it online by visiting asbury.to/tracking-revitalization.

ROUNDTABLE:

Growing Hispanic Minis



Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez
Dean of School of Urban Ministries,
Professor of Church History and
Theology



Lizette Acosta
Director of the Latino/
Latina Studies Program



Rev. José Hernández
Assistant to the Director of
Operations for the Florida
Dunnam Campus



Dr. Brian Russell
Professor of Biblical Studies



Dr. Angel Santiago-Vendrell
ESJ Professor of Evangelism
and Missions

THE PROJECTED
NUMBER OF
Hispanics
in the U.S.

BY 2050 IS
133 million.

ZP: Hispanics account for 56 percent of the nation's growth in the past decade. The 2010 census says that there are 308 million people in the United States. Of the so-called minority population, Hispanics are the largest group with 50.5 million people. College enrollment in the U.S. grew as follows: Hispanics increased by 349,000 and Whites decreased by 323,000. What are the statistics saying about Latinos/as in the U.S.?

AS: Those statistics tell you a story that we really are not a normal ethnic group, but that there are layers of privilege and access that some groups have and some don't. I think of the issue of fear. The numbers represent something good for us (Hispanics), but for others it represents fear of losing what we (Hispanics) have gained. College enrollment for Hispanics in the U.S. increased by 349,000 but for Whites it decreased by 323,000. It creates a switch and a tension. There's rhetoric against immigration, that we don't need them, but they are used and abused and the economy runs because of them. These numbers have so many interpretations. It's amazing how it reveals so many different aspects of reality.

ZP: What role does theological education play in Latino ministry in the United States?

JH: The vast majority of our (Latino) pastors don't have formal theological preparation. They've learned ministry in the trenches. They learn along the way. I am probably among the top one percent of ministers, with theological education in Latino ministry with a masters degree. Things like student loans can be difficult to access for some Latinos.

ZP: What are some of the gifts that the Latino community brings into the United States at Asbury Theological Seminary and various ministries?

LA: I think one of the gifts that we bring is our sense of family. Collectively, my family did experience racism, but because

tries



The Justo L. González Resource Center

There's a new addition at Asbury Theological Seminary's Florida Dunnam Campus. They recently opened the doors to a center for Hispanic ministries. "The center is important because it will become a catalyzer in the developing of Hispanic/Latino/a Christian leaders that will transform the church and the Hispanic/Latino community in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada," said Dr. Fernando Cascante, the Director of Pastoral Education and Leadership Development. The Florida Dunnam Campus was chosen for the center among several other seminaries and institutions. Ultimately, The Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH) says they chose Asbury Seminary because of its commitment to Latino/Latina ministries, which is evident through the increasingly bilingual staff and the option of classes taught in Spanish.

The Justo L. González Resource Center (JGRC) will be located on the first floor of the Florida Dunnam Campus. "Dr. González is the leading Latino theologian in the country and we are proud to be naming the center for him," said Dr. Zaida Pérez, The Dean of Urban Ministries at Asbury Seminary. He's written more than 100 books on topics including church history and historical theology, as well as Bible commentaries. The center houses his many honorary degrees, certificates, books, notes, unpublished work, and other pieces of the Justo González legacy. In addition, Dr. González will teach classes for the Latina/Latino Studies Program.

"The Florida Dunnam Campus is our gateway to the world and the Justo L. González Resource Center will enable us to form valuable partnerships in theological education and assist our Hispanic students in their studies," explains Geneva Silvernail, the Vice President for the Florida Dunnam Campus. President Timothy Tennent adds, "This is an important strategic step in Asbury Seminary's commitment to being a global player in theological education." The opening celebration of the JGRC took place on October 21. *

we were together we didn't really care. When I was young, some guys would follow us to school and call us names. But because we were together we took it as a family so it didn't impact us individually as much. Given how weak the family structure is in this nation, something we can contribute in the church and education, is our sense of family.

AS: Selflessness. In 2001, I went to Cuba for a month to do research and the most amazing thing was that the family I was staying with had an open door policy. People would come in off the street and watch TV. When I was growing up in Puerto Rico, we had an open door policy with our neighbors. In this nation, you may not even know your neighbors.

BR: Any Christian will have more in common with Latinos than their neighbors because of the values of family and faith in the culture. That's a door to connect these cultures. These values that the church cherishes, in some ways, the Latino community is keeping alive where for many Anglos these values are disintegrating.

ZP: How do you see the growing Latino community impacting Asbury Seminary's Florida Dunnam Campus?

LA: One of the differences, particularly in the Latino/Latina Studies Program students, that I have noticed is the passion that they bring for whatever it is that they are learning. They just want to learn. They are hungry for knowledge; thirsty for the word. There is a passion that is almost childlike about the gospel that is very beautiful about our students. *

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News

B.L. Fisher Library selected as an ISSR Library awardee

Asbury Seminary's B.L. Fisher Library is honored, after a competitive judging process, to be named an ISSR Library awardee by the International Society for Religion and Science based in Cambridge, England. The B.L. Fisher Library will join a select group of only 150 institutions worldwide to receive a full set of the ISSR Library.

The ISSR Library consists of 224 volumes spanning all areas of the interface between science and spirituality. An Editorial Board selected these books in consultation with the membership of the International Society for Science and Religion and experts from many academic disciplines, faith traditions, and regions. The result is a truly remarkable collection that ranges from a 'core' group of books whose primary focus is directly on science and spirituality (from many perspectives, including non-religious ones) to eleven other subject areas. These range from the sciences and social sciences to history, philosophy and the environment.

Asbury Seminary elects first female Chair of the Board



It is a historic event for Asbury Theological Seminary. After nearly 90 years of service, the Seminary has elected their first ever female Chair of the Board, Joan Krupa.

Krupa attends the First United Methodist Church in her hometown of Peoria, Ill., where she has taught classes and served as the Mission Ministries Chairperson. Krupa retired three years ago as the CEO of Heartland Community Health Clinic in Peoria, but she still volunteers for fundraising activities. She had a brief stint as a state representative and was elected to two terms on the Peoria County Board. She's served in leadership positions for non-profit agencies for at-risk children and was the President of a United Way chapter in Illinois.

Krupa and her husband of 45 years, Ted, lived in Asia for almost a decade. During that time she was a deacon at Union Church in Hong Kong. The Krupas were also founders of the Hong Kong Walk to Emmaus Movement. "After living in Asia for nearly eight years, I was happy to return to the States, but with a true appreciation for the global Church and the impact of missions around the world."

They have three adult sons who reside on three continents. One is a missionary in the Czech Republic and another lives part-time in China. The couple enjoys babysitting for their three young grandchildren. Currently, they are co-chairing their church's efforts to raise money to rebuild their downtown church for the next decade of urban ministries.

Asbury Seminary Signs Global Partnership in South Korea

Asbury Theological Seminary's global reach continues into South Korea. Asbury Seminary has renewed its partnership with Seoul Theological University, first established in 2006 and renewed October 6 of this year. This comes just five months after two other partnerships were formed in Africa.

This partnership includes such things as a student and faculty exchange program, a cultural-learning immersion experience, a global conference on church renewal and church planting, and exchange of digital resources.

Asbury Seminary meets Wesley Fund Goal of \$1.75 million

Because of the generous support of our alumni, donors and churches from across the country, Asbury Seminary has exceeded the Wesley Fund goal of \$1,750,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

The Wesley Fund literally touches every aspect of the Seminary. It funds:

- Helping to keep tuition affordable
- Faculty recruitment and teaching excellence
- Facilities improvements
- Program development

The Wesley Fund also allows the leadership of the Seminary to direct funds to areas with the greatest need and the greatest impact. For over 88 years, our donors and alumni have upheld the mission of Asbury Seminary through the Wesley Fund.



Florida Dunnam Campus dedicates new Student Services Center

Asbury Seminary is pleased to announce the opening of the new Student Services Center located on the Florida Dunnam Campus in Orlando. The Student Services Center was dedicated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 8, 2011, by President Timothy C. Tennent and Rev. Eric Currie, Director of Enrollment Management/Campus Relations on the Florida Dunnam Campus.

News



Dr. Ken Collins appointed to the Board of the Institute on Religion and Democracy

Faculty member Dr. Ken Collins has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, a Washington think tank that was established in 1981 by the late Richard John Neuhaus.

The IRD has been a voice “for transparency, for renewal, and for Christian orthodoxy.” The mission of the IRD is to “reaffirm the church’s biblical and historical teachings, strengthen and reform its role in public life, protect religious freedom, and renew democracy at home and abroad.”



Dr. Cathy Stonehouse honored in “2010 Book of the Year List”

The Academy of Parish Clergy has just released its “2010 Book of the Year List.” The list includes Dr. Cathy Stonehouse’s book *Listening to Children of the Spiritual Journey: Guidance for*

Those Who Teach and Nurture as one of the top ten books. In addition, Dr. Stonehouse’s book is now being published in Arabic. *Listening to Children* is available in both print and digital versions.



Bryan Blankenship elected as lay delegate to Free Methodist World Conference

The Free Methodist Church USA elected Bryan Blankenship, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Asbury Seminary, as one of their three lay delegates to

the Free Methodist World Conference, which was held in Burundi, Africa, August 10-12, 2011.

The Free Methodist World Conference is held every four years and is composed of the bishops and an equal number of lay delegates from all 13 General Conferences and the three Provisional General Conferences. The duties of the World Conference are to coordinate the visions of the General Conferences and to resolve constitutional issues.

Florida Dunnam alumni and current student named as delegates to the Free Methodist General Conference

The Rev. Dawn Elise Salmons and the Rev. Jose Hernandez, both alumni of the Florida Dunnam Campus at Asbury Seminary, and the Rev. Steven Bell, a current student on the Florida Dunnam Campus, were elected to be delegates from the South Atlantic Conference to the Free Methodist General Conference held July 13-18, 2011, at Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, N.Y.

The North American General Conference is held every four years.

Florida Dunnam Campus student elected delegate to 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church

The Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church elected Jetto Jeune, originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and currently a student on the Florida Dunnam Campus at Asbury Seminary, as a lay delegate to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Members of the FAC elected eleven clergy and eleven lay delegates for the upcoming 2012 General Conference. The United Methodist Church’s top legislative assembly, the General Conference, will meet in April 2012 in Tampa, Fla.

Remembering Dr. Herbert Byrne

Dr. Herbert Winston Byrne, Professor of Christian Education (1969-89) Emeritus, entered the presence of Christ August 5, 2011, in Lexington, Ky. Dr. Byrne’s ministry covered more than 40 years as pastor, evangelist, teacher, and administrator. His daughter, Betty, survives him. His wife, Ellen, and son, Burt, predeceased him.

An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, he exercised his gift of preaching in almost all of the states and provinces of North America. A Christian educator by profession, Dr. Byrne argued that the well-being of the church is dependent upon educating new generations of Christians within a foundational worldview in which a Personal, Creator God reveals Himself to humankind.

Dr. Byrne earned degrees from Asbury College (now University), Asbury Theological Seminary (1942), Western Illinois State College (1950), and Bradley University (1952). He served at Western Evangelical Seminary, Fort Wayne Bible College and Huntington College prior to becoming chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Asbury College where he served until 1967 when he accepted a call to become chair of the Department of Christian Education at Asbury Theological Seminary.

Remembering Dr. Susan A. (Schultz) Rose

Susan A. (Schultz) Rose, librarian at Asbury Seminary from 1949-76, went into the presence of her Lord on July 19, 2011, at the age of 99 years, at Shell Point Retirement Community (FL), where she and her husband, Dr. Delbert Rose, had lived since 1993.

Susan was a charter member of the Wesleyan Theological Society and a leader in the American Theological Library Association and the Christian Library Association. In 1967 she was named the “Outstanding Special Librarian” by the Kentucky Library Association.

After retiring from Asbury Seminary, Dr. Schultz developed various theological collections for seminaries and theological libraries in the Philippine Islands and Indonesia from 1978 to 1986 and served as a consultant to the Biblijsko Teoloski Institute in Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

Events



Seedbed launch

January 6, 2012

asburyseedbed.com

Join us online for the launch of Seedbed: The Resourcing Network of Asbury Seminary.



Kingdom Encounter: Preach the Word, Reach the World

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2012

Asbury Seminary Florida Dunnam Campus

More and more, preachers are required to be creative in communicating the Word of God in a way that engages an ever-changing listening world. What does not change is that we are called to preach the Word!

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, will share with us in four teaching sessions, and Asbury Seminary faculty members will cover expanded areas of the art of Preaching the Word and Reaching the World.



Streams in the Wilderness Retreat

March 5-7, 2012

Cliffview Retreat Center, Lancaster, Kentucky

Our retreat team is creating space for deep renewal and guided reflection with retreat guides Marilyn Elliott and J.D. Walt. We will drink from the wells of the Psalter.

Taking place immediately before Ministry Conference, this retreat offers several options for participants, ranging from silence to spiritual direction to healing and restoration opportunities. We will meet at Cliffview Retreat Center, which has motel-style accommodations, located a half-hour south of the Kentucky Campus.

There are a limited number of spots available. Discount pricing for attending this retreat AND Ministry Conference!



Q3: The Church: Sign of God's New Creation

March 5-7, 2012

Asbury Seminary Kentucky Campus

Join us for the third and final Q3 conference on faith and science. This conference is planned around the life and mission of the church in order to bring our three-year project to a wonderful conclusion. The plenary sessions and workshops will provide a variety of speakers who will help integrate insights from the world of science with our calling to bear witness to God's New Creation for the sake of the world.



Ministry Conference 2012: "And you shall be my witness"

March 7-9, 2012

Asbury Seminary Kentucky Campus

Open your eyes to amazing possibilities for reaching people of all ages for God's Kingdom. We are called to be witnesses, reaching out locally, regionally and globally. Opportunity is knocking and we are opening three doors that are critical for ministry today. Join us as we present—for the first time ever—a three-track Ministry Conference: Church Revitalization, Twenty-first Century Witness Through Worship Design and Church Planting.



Restoration of the Sabbath Retreat

April 19-22, 2012

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island, Georgia

A peaceful environment can bring a person closer to God. Join us to step away from a chaotic world and into a quiet place of refreshment. Reg Johnson, Marilyn Elliott and J.D. Walt will be guiding this long weekend on restoring the practice of Sabbath in our lives.

Leadercast

May 4, 2012



McKenna Chapel,
Asbury Seminary Kentucky Campus

The choices you make define the leader you become. Join us on May 4, 2012 to watch a live broadcast from Atlanta to learn from leaders like Andy Stanley, John Maxwell and Patrick Lengioni. This event is sponsored in part by Asbury University.

For more information or to register for Asbury Seminary events, visit asburyseminary.edu/lifelong-learning or call 888.5BEESON.

Tennent TOUR

Please join President Timothy C. Tennent as he shares the Asbury Seminary vision in your area. Tennent Tours are well underway, so mark your calendar now! At each of his stops, Dr. Tennent is honored to be speaking at various Saturday evening and Sunday morning services.

January 27-29: Niceville, Florida

March 2-4: Tupelo, Mississippi

June 8-10: Hickory, North Carolina

September 8-10: Orlando, Florida

October 13-14: Mt. Pisgah, Georgia

November 16-18: El Paso, Texas

For event schedule, reservations and information contact 877.PRAY.ATS (772.9287) or major.events@asburyseminary.



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