

OhioChristian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine | Winter 2013

OCU Alumni Changing the World



LEADING THE WORLD THROUGH TRANSFORMATION

- » OCU Alumni: Global Impact
- » Enrollment Exceeds 3600
- » New! Faith & Liberty Talk Show



OHIO SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SHARON KENNEDY
WITH DR. MARK A. SMITH

Ohio Gov. John Kasich Appoints OCU President to Ohio Board of Education

On January 11, 2013, Ohio Governor John Kasich appointed OCU President Dr. Mark A. Smith to the State Board of Education for a term ending December 31, 2016. The board oversees K-12 education statewide.

Dr. Smith remarked, “I look forward to serving students, teachers, and parents as we build the best K-12 educational system in the nation right here in the great state of Ohio.”

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Message from the President

This World Needs Transformation

During the last several months, I have been involved in several sectors of our world: economic development, church work, education, and community development. In every corner there is confusion, hopelessness, and a search for the answers to life.

Additionally, with each devastating and heartless act of violence, the wise search for answers. Simplistic solutions such as banning guns, hiring school guards, improving mental health evaluations, and providing tasers for teachers have all been suggested. It is easy to jump to simple solutions for societal problems, but in reality the problems of humanity are much deeper. **The fact remains that fallen humanity and sin are the real issues, and only a life-changing experience with Jesus Christ will solve that problem.**

Most of you would not know the background of my extended family, but I was raised in rural Appalachia where only the tough survive. My family did not come from royalty. My extended family members and friends had their fights, used moonshine, and lived for the moment. However, the course of history was changed when Grandma met Jesus Christ. She was truly converted. Many family members became Christ-followers, and everything changed. It was a Bethlehem "God Moment." My great uncle was converted, and his family was changed. He had been a fighter and a wife-beater, but when he met Jesus he never did those things again. The family pursued righteousness and holiness instead of evil. They gave all to God in an act of full consecration, and in a moment of time, the Holy Spirit cleansed their hearts and filled them with love. Now for generations, our family members have lived righteously and been good citizens through the power of the Holy Spirit.

How do we become good citizens? We must be transformed by the power of God. It is a divine moment, not a human solution that solves man's sin problem. Someone once asked Billy Graham, "If Christianity is valid, why is there so much evil in the world?" To this the famous preacher replied, "With so much soap, why are there so many dirty people in the world?" Christianity, like soap, must be personally applied if it is to make a difference in our lives.

Charles Wesley was the 18th child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley. The Wesleys were in London in May of 1738. For a period of time, they stayed in the home of some Moravians in Little Britain, not far from St. Paul's Cathedral. As Charles sat listening to the Christian testimonies of his hosts, he was deeply affected. God was dealing with him. Charles said he felt "the Spirit of God striving with his spirit 'till... He chased away the darkness of my unbelief. I now found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in hope of loving Christ."

Exactly one year from his salvation, Charles wrote a song and recommended that it be sung "on the anniversary of one's conversion." One verse in particular is dedicated to what Christ did for him in this transformation moment:

"He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me."

Join with me in praying for and giving to Ohio Christian University—a place that seeks to share transformational Christian living, which is the only true answer to our world's problems.

His Servant,
Mark A. Smith
President



Dr. Hank Kelly

PROVOST

I became a Christian in 1983 when I was 29 years old. I instantly became a new creation in Christ Jesus. Later that year I surrendered everything to God (my money, time, worries, family, future, etc.), and God subsequently sanctified and filled me with the Holy Spirit. There were a number of magnificent things that happened in my life.

First, He gave me the power *not* to commit willful sin. Jesus not only died to save us from hell, but also to save us from our bondage to sin (Crazy Love by Francis Chan, 2008). Many other wonderful things happen in a fully-consecrated, sanctified, spirit-filled life, including:

- ✓ We fully believe in—not just mentally assent to—and love Jesus, which causes us to put our love into action (James 2:14-26)
- ✓ We know God loves us
- ✓ We worship and reverently fear God
- ✓ We do not want anyone to suffer or go to hell; therefore, we share our faith
- ✓ We want to spend time with Jesus so we can know Him more intimately and grow in His likeness
- ✓ We believe prayer works and pray often, relying on God and not ourselves or money
- ✓ We are filled with joy and peace (Romans 15:13) and free from worry (Matthew 6:25)
- ✓ We do not dwell on temptations in our lives
- ✓ We gauge our morality or “goodness” by comparing ourselves to Christ, rather than others
- ✓ We are pricked easily and repent quickly if we sin
- ✓ We live everyday as if Jesus might return that very day
- ✓ We live everyday as if it were Sunday; for example, our ethics are no different on Monday
- ✓ We do not participate in crude talk, including curse words or sexual innuendos
- ✓ We are not selfish; we consider others more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:3)
- ✓ We are the opposite of lukewarm towards God (Revelations 3:16)

Caution: although we are completely surrendered and on fire for God, our flame can die out if we are not vigilant. To keep this flame and retain God’s strength to resist willful sin, we must continually nurture a relationship with God by talking with Him, reading His word, and regularly accomplishing spiritual disciplines. If we stop pursuing Christ, our relationship will deteriorate. “We do not grow closer to God when we just live life; it takes deliberate pursuit and attentiveness. Being filled with the Spirit isn’t something we do once; rather, it is something we do always and repeatedly” (Chan, 2008).

In the pages that follow, you’ll meet OCU alumni who are changing the world through ministry and professional excellence. You’ll also learn from our esteemed faculty in a special series focused on how the doctrine of holiness and the Christian worldview can transform hearts to impact the Church and society.

Transformation through **AUTHENTIC LIVING**

OCU Alumnus



Dwight Mason | '83

LEAD PASTOR OF NEWPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH

"This OCU graduate is not just changing a town; he's shaking up religious norms around the globe."



During his OCU days, Dwight Mason was known for his basketball prowess. He completed an Associate of Arts in Arts and Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts in Sport Ministry at Ohio Christian University. Now the 1983 graduate is the Lead Pastor of NewPointe Community Church in Dover, Ohio, and is driven by a desire to lead others to realize their full potential in Jesus.

Mason believes one of the biggest problems with society today is "too many churches are full of religious people, rather than people who are truly in love with Jesus. Christians are often known for being against things, and we've alienated ourselves from the people we are called to reach. This is exactly the opposite of Jesus, who was a friend to sinners. Jesus embodied grace and truth."

Dwight suggests one of the most important ways to avoid this is to understand your identity in Christ. Mason elaborates, "It bothers a lot of religious people that I refuse to be put in a box. On the other hand, those who are unchurched think it's great; they see that they can come to Christ (and church!) just as they are. Christ is the only one worthy of your full allegiance."

"My greatest impact on the church is that I'm willing to make church people mad and push against their paradigms," Mason said. That nonconformist attitude has been the driving force behind the success of NewPointe, which has grown from 75 to 4,000 in attendance, with three campuses in Ohio as well as **13 church plants and 300 house churches throughout the Middle East.**

Ahead for Mason is a book coming out in February, *Only God: Change your story, change the world*. He is also working on a venture called *Influence 177*, which seeks to inspire business leaders, school administrators, and churches. He notes, "If you can touch the business place and impact the schools so that you have a vibrant church, you can change a town, a city."



Dr. David Case

PROFESSOR OF RELIGION

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh... But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law... If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

— Galatians 5:16, 18, 25

The Wesleyan-Arminian teaching on the pursuit of holiness is founded on two essential concepts, both equally important. The first component is the experience known as entire sanctification. The second is the living out of holiness on a daily basis. These two distinct concepts are vital for victorious Christian living.

Entire sanctification is a cleansing from the depraved, sinful nature which we inherited from Adam. We believe entire sanctification is a crisis experience because it refers to the last moment of depravity in the human heart and the first moment of **purity**—a heart cleansed from all sin.

The experience of entire sanctification has a very specific purpose, but it is not the end of the story. There is a holy life to be lived, moment by moment, day by day. The Christian is to walk, be led, and live by the power of the Holy Spirit for the rest of his/her life. Living by the Spirit leads to a life marked by Christ-likeness and **maturity** in the things of God.

Failure to adequately articulate the difference between purity and maturity has often led to confusion and needless debate among believers. When emphasis is placed solely on the experience known as entire sanctification, the impression is often given that "we have arrived spiritually," and there is no room for improvement or spiritual growth. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is a holy life to be lived out after the conversion experience.

Prior to conversion, the human heart is filled with sin inherited from Adam's act of disobedience (Romans 5:12), and evil deeds spring from its corrupt state (Matthew 15:18-20). At conversion the Holy Spirit enters the heart of the new believer, but the depravity inherited from Adam

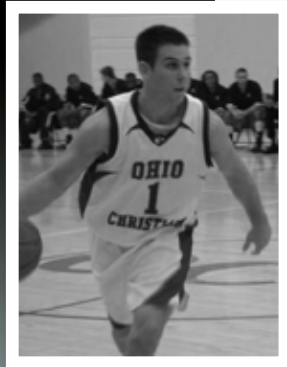
remains. The result is a spiritual condition in which new Christians want to do right, but something within them keeps them from doing the right (Galatians 5:17). Paul refers to what has remained in the heart of the new convert as "flesh." We believe sinful conduct in those who have experienced conversion is prompted by this remaining sinful nature.

The difference between a shortcoming prior to conversion and a shortcoming in the daily life of the entirely sanctified is the motive of the heart. In daily life, the honest Christian becomes painfully aware of weaknesses and how far he/she falls short from Christ-likeness. These may be due to weakness, ignorance, humanity, or even just plain tiredness, but they are not prompted by a depraved nature. Thus, while they need to be accompanied by admission and repentance, they do not bring one under the wrath of God. They often are the source of painful lessons as one lives the life of holiness each day. In fact, the saint trying to live as close to God as possible is the one who sings, "I need thee, Oh, I need thee!" and "I'm pressing on the upward way; new heights I'm gaining every day."

Entire sanctification is God's plan to cleanse the heart from all sin, in this life. This means there is nothing within the human heart to prompt sinful conduct; there is only the presence of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the entirely sanctified. The Christian will experience a time of great spiritual growth as he/she lives daily in holiness and devotes time to the spiritual disciplines, including Bible reading, intercessory prayer, the exercise of spiritual gifts, and a wide range of other spiritual exercises that God desires for each of us.

Transformation through **ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION**

"I challenge Christians to see what Jesus actually said and did in the Gospels."



After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (2010), Stefan Vasiloff went on to complete a Master of Arts in Practical Theology at OCU in 2012. Stefan recalls "looking at Professor Gerald Mershimmer and wondering what he had, because whatever it was, I wanted it. I had never seen love like that before, and I came to know Jesus Christ at OCU largely because of his life." Also pivotal in Stefan's growth was mentor and friend, Professor David Brown, who spent countless hours answering questions and helping him through tough times.

Vasiloff believes the richness we enjoy in America has led the Church to spiritual indifference, observing, "Few Christians act like the Jesus we see in the Gospels—a friend to the poor, the sick, and the widows—or the Christians we see in the book of Acts, who worked to make disciples of all nations. We are blessed with so many things that we are easily blinded to the mission God has for us. I think this is why Jesus said, 'It is hard for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.'"

As a pastor, Stefan is leading by example. He challenges Christians to learn what Jesus said and did, then to follow Him by doing the same things. To that end, Homeland CCCU now ministers weekly to people battling drug and alcohol addictions. They are being fed, taught, and given Bibles. Stefan has also started a small group focused on developing young adults as radical disciples of Christ. This has resulted in an exciting opportunity for the church to partner with Inner City Mission in serving the poor in the Columbus, Ohio, area.

OCU Alumnus

Stefan Vasiloff | '10

SENIOR PASTOR AT HOMELAND CCCU CHURCH



Dr. Jim Smith

PROFESSOR OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING

"God delivers us in a variety of ways. Sometimes mental health counseling is part of this process."

Holiness is experiential. As taught by Wesley, it is the heart fully surrendered to Jesus Christ that allows the indwelling Holy Spirit to influence, not dictate, the way we embrace life. God changes our hearts so we want and are able to bring glory to Jesus Christ in what we say, think, and do.

Holiness does not mean a person is mentally, emotionally, or physically perfect. Like the Apostle Paul, many will have to deal with some type of "thorn in the flesh." This is not due to a lack of faith, but rather serves as a point that God chooses to perfect the heart.

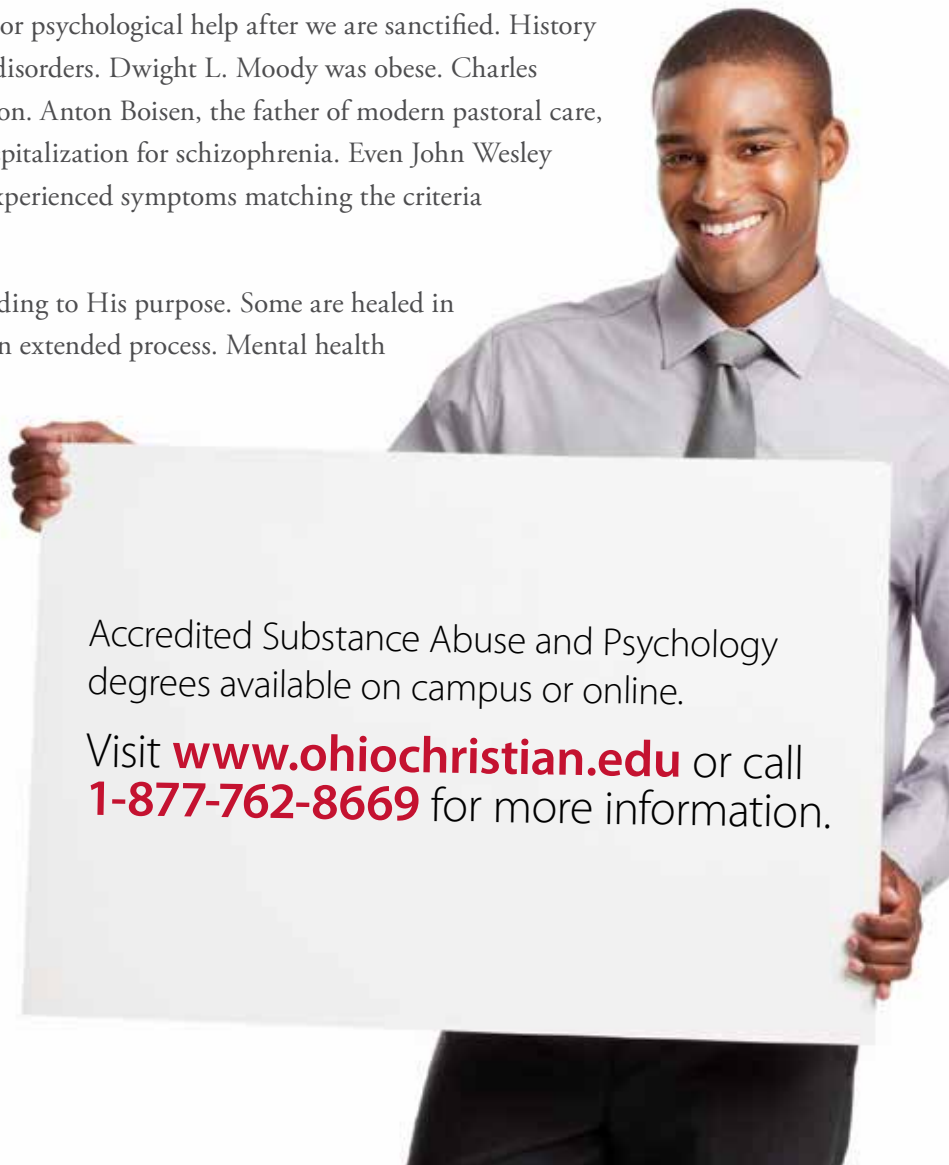
Many of us will still need to seek medical or psychological help after we are sanctified. History is full of godly saints who struggled with disorders. Dwight L. Moody was obese. Charles Spurgeon struggled with bouts of depression. Anton Boisen, the father of modern pastoral care, had at least three episodes of extended hospitalization for schizophrenia. Even John Wesley wrote about his "nervous disorders" and experienced symptoms matching the criteria for depression.

God delivers us in a variety of ways, according to His purpose. Some are healed in a moment of time, while others through an extended process. Mental health counselors are sometimes a part of this process. Regardless of His method, He gets the glory.

As Christians, we are called to pray and apply God's Word. When things do not work out the way we want, there is a temptation to write it off as a lack of faith on our parts. God has called us to use the resources He has made available, including pastoral care, medicine, psychology, and healthy lifestyle practices, even after we are sanctified. They are an extension of His grace.

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Transformation through **PSYCHOLOGY**

OCU Alumnus



Darlene Heron | '94

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ARBOR COUNSELING

"I hope to inspire people to have a closer relationship with God."



Darlene Heron graduated from OCU in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Dr. Jim Pollard, Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Counseling, was instrumental in igniting Darlene's passion to help others. She also credits him with providing an excellent foundation for her career.

Since 2005 Heron has been the Executive Director of Arbor Counseling in Columbus, Ohio. She supervises more than ten counselors and two staff members, and the practice has grown under her leadership. She also provides professional oversight and mentoring for two counselors outside the practice.

The Church and society are being impacted through Darlene's work in the Psychology field. She sees her role as helping those who are experiencing emotional pain find freedom. This is accomplished by providing a professional, safe, compassionate environment for guidance and growth. Once people are freed from emotional pain, they can have better relationships with God, self, and others.

Darlene believes apathy is the greatest challenge facing the Church and society. She notes, "Apathy causes people to lack discipline (self, child rearing, work ethic, etc.) and depth in their relationships with God and others. Apathetic people tend to take the easy way of doing things."

Darlene identifies keys to success as **passion** for what you're doing, **determination** to overcome the obstacles you will encounter, and the **support** of good, Christian people. Her advice to young leaders is, "Nothing good happens without a good foundation; you must take care of yourself."

Heron holds a Master of Science in Education and Community Agency Counseling from the University of Dayton and has completed 30 graduate credits in Clinical Counseling.

Women's Basketball Team Ministers in the Dominican Republic



The Ohio Christian University women's basketball team ministered in the Dominican Republic during a life-changing trip over Christmas break. During the mission trip, the team held a youth basketball clinic and ministered to local children. "It was a life-changing trip for all of us. We went there hoping to be a blessing and to witness about Jesus, and we did that. But I don't think any of us expected to learn so much from the people there," commented OCU Head Coach Mandy Wray.

The team visited a girls' orphanage where they had a chance to worship with the girls, distribute items such as toys, nail polish, and make-up, and bring Christmas cheer to the three-bedroom facility housing 28 girls. At Emmanuel's House, a Christian school and day care center for underprivileged children, the ladies helped with painting and played with the children. There they saw a few homes and witnessed the children's poor living conditions first-hand. Many live in overcrowded shacks with no running water or electricity. The team also visited children in a village outside of Juan Dolio and at Josiah's House, an all-boys home where the team played soccer and ran races with the boys.

Another highlight was playing basketball against players from the Dominican National Team. The team ended each of their clinics, games, and orphanage visits with a member of the team sharing the Gospel and another sharing the story of how she came to know Christ and what her relationship with Him is all about.

Transformation through MISSIONS



"These experiences change lives," said OCU Head Coach Mandy Wray. "This trip not only impacted the community we served, but our student-athletes returned home changed. We are proud of our team for taking on a monumental ministry project like this. **The team was able to raise \$27,720 to cover the cost of the trip.** We couldn't have done this without all who supported us prayerfully and financially."

"It was a life-changing trip for all of us. I don't think any of us expected to learn so much from the people there."

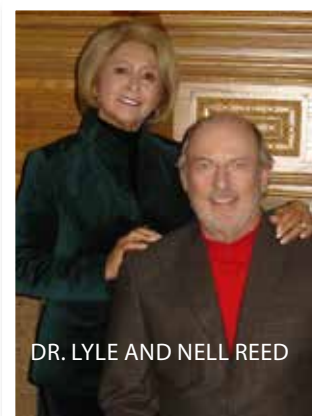
Coach Wray added, "This trip really put our lives in perspective and showed us how truly blessed we are. It was very humbling to see people living with almost no material possessions, yet being content with what they had. We learned first-hand that the best gift you can ever give or receive isn't money or material things; it is love."

Dr. and Mrs. Lyle Reed Contribute Disaster Management Response Vehicle

Ohio Christian University is pleased to announce that Texas businessman Dr. Lyle Reed and wife, Nell, have provided funding to purchase a new disaster management response vehicle. This sixteen-foot vehicle will be equipped with stoves, ovens, refrigerators, food warmers, a generator, and floodlights to assist those in need.

The vehicle will allow OCU students and community members to respond to and serve citizens during times of emergency. The vehicle will contain equipment and supplies to augment a standing response team or act in a relatively autonomous fashion. When disaster strikes, this vehicle will allow teams to respond within hours, serving and providing meals for days. OCU students in the Disaster Management and Relief program are trained and have already responded to several disaster relief efforts, but without this vitally-needed vehicle, they were unable to respond to a number of other requests for emergency relief.

OCU President Mark Smith said, "I am humbled by such a significant year-end gift and by Dr. and Mrs. Reed's confidence in OCU's Disaster Management and Relief program." Smith added, "This vehicle will provide much needed capability to respond to disasters with a trained cadre of certified response people. The vehicle is a great training tool for our students."



DR. LYLE AND NELL REED



Transformation through **COMPASSION**

Reed stated, "I would like others to be challenged to give to this program and make it one of the best in the nation. This gift is a challenge to others to raise an additional \$100,000 over the next 100 days!"

OCU's Bachelor of Arts in Disaster Management and Relief teaches students how to assist in relief and recovery efforts in natural disaster situations and man-made conflicts. It also prepares them for jobs in emergency management organizations. Professor Thad Hicks developed and directs the program, now has 40 students. Students have helped earthquake, hurricane, and tornado victims in Haiti (4 trips), New York, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. About the gift, Hicks remarked, "This will multiply OCU's efforts around the world."



Your gift changes lives!

Will you help Ohio Christian University serve the world? Your support provides opportunities for OCU students to bring relief and comfort to those who are suffering while gaining real-world experience.

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Students Bring Relief to New York City after Hurricane Sandy

Following Hurricane Sandy's destructive landfall, students from the Ohio Christian University Disaster Management and Relief program traveled to New York City in response to the devastation that ensued.

Professor Thad Hicks and the team, led by OCU students Kyle Landenberger and Dustin Hube, joined forces with the Staten Island Christian Union Church and Helping Hands, a US-based non-profit organization that provides hands-on assistance to communities around the world. Alongside the church and All Hands, the team was able to serve multiple families suffering after the storm. The 14-member OCU team was able to split several of the days, effectively doubling their efforts. The effects of the storm caused massive amounts of flooding and water damage, affecting thousands of homes on Staten Island. According to Landenberger, "Flooding destroyed everything in many of the houses."

OCU is one of fewer than 150 colleges and universities in the country which is training students to respond to emergencies and disasters. The trip allowed the students to put their unique training into practice, gaining real-world experience responding to a disaster and addressing the physical and spiritual needs of those impacted. Director Thad Hicks stated, "In the classroom they learn the theory of emergency and disaster work, but this sort of experience allows them to put the theory into practice, allowing for a more complete education."



Transformation through **COMPASSION**



OCU Student Ethan Allen Gains Disaster Planning Experience

Ohio Christian University strives to instill the value of community service in its programs. This idea is driven home in each class, and students are encouraged to use the skills they are developing at OCU to help wherever they can. Last summer OCU student Ethan Allen did just that when he helped an organization in Rising Sun, Indiana.

Ethan volunteered to work as a mentor for a job skills training program hosted each summer through the Denver Siekman Environmental Park (DSEP). The park's new managers wanted an emergency action plan for the grounds.

Knowing Ethan's major in college, his supervisor asked him to create the plan. Ethan's plan covered everything from structural fires to man-made disasters such as active shooters. Ethan stated, "One of the biggest challenges was the fact that the park itself covers a large area, including many trails. We needed a way to alert groups when an incident was occurring while they were not in the main building." Program Director Thad Hicks stated, "If Ethan is able to do a large project like this, he should have no problem finding a position in the field once he is done here at OCU."



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Transformation through **BIBLICAL PREACHING**

OCU Alumnus

Dr. Jerry D. Fryar | '77

SENIOR PASTOR AT GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

"I am committed to introducing people to the heart of God and His gift of salvation."



Dr. Jerry Fryar completed his undergraduate studies at OCU in 1977. He went on to complete Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees at Trinity Lutheran Theological Seminary and currently serves as a senior pastor in Columbus, Ohio. He has a passion for mentorship and developing biblical leaders within the Church, particularly those within the five-fold ministry.

During his time at OCU, Fryar recalls, "Dr. Amos Henry had a unique way of making you feel very special through humility and humor." As a pastor, Fryar seeks to enlighten people through the teaching of the scriptures, thus allowing for the potential of total restoration and abundant living through Christ Jesus. There are many ways to do this, including curriculum development, teaching, and servant leadership.

Dr. Fryar believes the church faces a challenge in that some believers have not resolved in their hearts and minds that God's Word and ways are relevant for all times and human circumstances. Historically, the greatest dangers to the Church have always come from within: heresy, unbelief, and moral degeneracy among God's people. The Church must keep the biblical message clear concerning Jesus Christ and His redemptive work. God is personal and relational. How this is accepted will ultimately provide the transformative power our society needs.

Fryar has some practical advice for young leaders: "Love God, love your spouse and family, listen to wise counsel, and live with purpose and passion. Maintain a quality relationship with the Lord. Don't become so busy that quality time and fellowship with the Lord is neglected. Understand the importance and uniqueness of your call. Learn how to appreciate and be receptive to other

leaders in the body of Christ and community. Make a lifelong quest for learning. Expose yourself to literature and others who can assist you in interacting effectively with diverse cultures and backgrounds.

This OCU graduate is making a difference in the world by introducing people to the heart of God and His most precious gift of salvation.



Rev. Gerald Mershimer

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE DIRECTOR

How should one approach the honorable and inevitable responsibility of preaching biblical holiness?

As one who was nurtured in the conservative, evangelical, holiness tradition within the Christian faith, this question sparks a lifetime of memories, both good and bad. As one who teaches in the religion department of a university within the holiness tradition, I realize that the scope of biblical, theological,

and historical issues raised by this question could not be adequately addressed in an article as short as this one. (However, I do hope that some of these gaps will be filled for the reader by the collaborative collage of holiness articles written by my colleagues.)

I shall frame my answer to this question in terms of general advice I might give an aspiring preacher in a

half-hour chat over coffee. This advice will be structured around a crucial orientation and two key principles for preaching biblical holiness.

A Crucial Orientation

In preaching biblical holiness, we must relentlessly commit to a theocentric orientation instead of an anthropocentric orientation: we preach a holy God, not our own perception of our religious experience. While an appropriate response to God is a necessary entailment of holiness preaching, it is a curious idolatry for me and my preaching to be more

"We preach a holy God, not our perception of our own religious experience."



Transformation through **BIBLICAL PREACHING**

obsessed with my spiritual resume than with God Himself, to be more focused on my past experiences with God than with worshipping Him in the present moment. We are not called to preach holiness as an abstraction, but rather the Holy One as an inescapable, present reality. Wesley's famous dictum to holiness preachers was, "Offer them Christ!" That was good, theocentric advice. It still is. God, in Christ, by the Spirit, has moved and is moving in holy love to take lost people and make them holy, loving people in whom He lives and through whom He works. We must preach holiness in a God-centered way, not a human-centered way. Anything less is idolatrous; anything less is disastrous.

Exegetical Integrity

In the context of a theocentric orientation, our preaching of biblical holiness should be, in fact, biblical; it should embody the principle of exegetical integrity. I imagine that for almost as long as there has been preaching, Christian preachers have had to guard against exegetical alchemy, whereby we can attempt to make a text say or prove whatever we want for it to say or prove. We who aspire to be holiness preachers have not been removed from this temptation. Sometimes this might take the form of reading our religious experience (or our group's professed religious experiences) back into the text and then preaching the text so as to make

it justify our beliefs or experiences. This can also happen when we force the text to fit the inferences of our systematic theology, instead of the other way around. Taken in its appropriate contextual and canonical relations, every biblical text, in some way, reveals the one, true, holy God; and in some way, it has implications for how to respond to Him. Thus, it could be argued that, in this sense, every text is a holiness text. However, the onus is on preachers to read the biblical text in its appropriate contextual and canonical relations and not "put words in the mouth of God." We should preach holiness by using the terminology and concepts that are actually in a particular focus text instead of using the focus text as a "jumping off" place for echoing our favorite phrases or ideas.

Existential Authenticity

Another key principle for preaching biblical holiness is that of existential authenticity: we as preachers of holiness must do so in the context of a life that is humbly and sincerely striving to trust God completely, love him supremely, and obey him unconditionally. It is much easier to be a holiness preacher than it is to be a holy preacher. How many eloquent holiness preachers, evangelists, and denominational leaders have negated their message with arrogant attitudes, spiritual one-upmanship, lust for ecclesial power, and slander? Are we as comfortable with what others might

"It is much easier to be a holiness preacher than it is to be a holy preacher."

see on our computer screens as we are with how we are seen in the pulpit? How safe is your reputation in my conversation? Do I demonstrate joy, compassion, and integrity in such a way as to make those who know me best hunger for holiness? Who we really are, in the totality of our lives, is "the sermon that surrounds the sermon," and it infuses our actual sermons more than we might ever know.

There is much more that could and must be said about approaching the holy charge of preaching biblical holiness, but a relentless, God-centered orientation, exegetical integrity, and existential authenticity are non-negotiable. Our smoothest, most well-crafted sermons cannot take children of Satan and make them into children of God who imitate Christ; that can only happen as a resurrection-class miracle enacted by the Holy Spirit. For some reason, however, God chooses to use preachers as He works this miracle—preachers who put Him at the center of their preaching, who handle His Word with integrity, and who practice what they preach. "Please, God, help me to be such a preacher!"



"Dr. Melvin Maxwell spoke faith into my life when he told me, 'I believe you can do this.'"



Dr. Terry Toler

VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY OF
ADVANCEMENT AND CHURCH RELATIONS,
SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Terry Toler served as a pastor for twenty-six years. Since then he has worked at Southern Nazarene University, serving as Vice President for University Advancement and Church Relations for the last ten of his twelve years there.

To Dr. Toler the keys to success are simpler than some make them out to be: "Show up early and offer to help." He adds, "To be successful, one must resolve the proper place of Jesus in his/her life and then influence others to make a similar decision." Dr. Toler was sixteen years old when he made that decision.

At OCU, where Toler was awarded an Associate of Arts, Dr. David Case had the biggest intellectual and spiritual impact on Dr. Toler's life. He praised Dr. Case for his warm heart, keen mind, love of students, and ability to gently persuade. From a leadership perspective, Dr. Melvin Maxwell made a tremendous impression. Terry recalls, "He spoke faith into my life when he said, 'I believe you can do this.'" Toler also credits his roommate, brother Stan Toler, for helping him find God's vision for his life.

Dr. Toler believes his greatest impact on the Church and society is his music. He has been privileged to have his songs published around the world in different genres and has been a contributing writer on three Grammy Award-winning

recordings, a certified platinum album, and multi-platinum videos. His songs have won three Grammy Awards, including Best Children's Recordings and Best Polka Album. His song, "He Still Speaks," recorded by more than fifty artists, expresses that God knows us, cares about us, and still speaks to us with His still, small voice.

According to Dr. Toler, the greatest challenge facing the Church and society is growing

Transformation through **HIGHER EDUCATION**

secularism. When asked their religious affiliation, more and more people are marking "none." As a result, the Church is facing a loss of influence in society.

In the past, the best and brightest students studied theology, but many of them now choose other fields. Toler's advice to leaders is to lead with gratitude. Learning the fine art of noticing and expressing gratitude for people's efforts requires leading with selflessness.

Dr. Toler is married to Susan Diane (Wallace). They have two married sons, Trent and Aaron, and two grandchildren. Terry holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Ministry degrees from Southern Nazarene University and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Sarasota. He is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene.

"Leading with gratitude requires selflessness."

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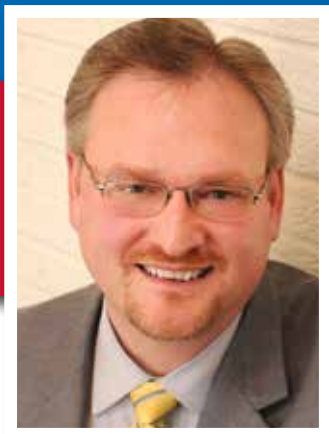
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Dr. Rick Christman

VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

"The essence of holiness is not found in singular moments, but in continuous dependence on God and growth through daily living."

Oswald Chambers reminds us that we have a purpose in life, that we are "not destined to happiness, nor to health, but to holiness." Chambers reflects on the biblical mandate that, as believers, we are to "be holy" (I Peter 1:16). The occurrence of holiness in our lives is launched from a personal encounter with the

Holy Spirit, but is fully realized in daily living and reflected in attitudes, actions, and motives.

It is in this mode of daily living that the faculty and staff of Ohio Christian University meet and are empowered to influence students from around the nation in their understanding of holiness and practice of holy living.

Evidence of holy living abounds. Students serve in local churches, community service organizations, and individual projects in Circleville, the surround-

ing communities, and locations around the world. OCU students understand that holy living is not harvested in a sterile, academic environment, but in the sin-infested climate of this world, where people are hurting, hungry, and in need of a Savior.

The call to "be holy" is far more than a cry for more religious restraints and theological manifestations. It is a challenge to reveal the inner work of the Holy Spirit by serving those who desperately need a Savior. Oswald Chambers adds, "Holiness is not simply what God gives me, but what God has given me that is being exhibited in my life." The exhibition is not an opportunity to simply demonstrate for others to see, but to serve, sharing the love of God so that others may experience His power and work in their lives. The core value that drives Ohio Christian University is the belief that students can change the world by experiencing a holy, transformed heart. This renewal of the heart transforms students into fully devoted followers of Christ: transformed to serve, to lead, and to change the world for the cause of Christ!

Feeding the Hungry

Ohio Christian University hosted approximately 700 guests for the seventh annual Festival of Carols and Messiah, a gift to the community. In lieu of admission fees, guests donated more than 1,000 nonperishable food items to needy families in the Pickaway County area. This annual event is one way OCU reflects the love of Christ by serving its community.



Transformation through **SERVICE**



OCU Alumnus

Angie (Carter)
Pacholke | '90

PRINCIPAL OF FREEMAN'S MILL ELEMENTARY

"If, as Christians,
we would take
a stand for
what is right,
we would be a
better world."

With a heart for Christ and a love for others, Angie (Carter) Pacholke currently serves as the principal of Freeman's Mill Elementary in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Following her graduation from Circleville Bible College in 1990, she went on to receive a second bachelor's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University, a Master of Arts from Ball State University, and a Leadership Certificate from the University of Georgia.

Angie credits her parents, Dr. Doug and Winnie Carter, with showing her what it meant to have a real relationship with Christ and nurturing a biblical foundation in her life. During her time at CBC, Angie was greatly influenced by Dr. Valerie Wilson. She referred to Dr. Wilson as a "phenomenal educator" and emphasized how her life was impacted when Dr. Wilson taught her how to be a Christian leader in a public school environment.

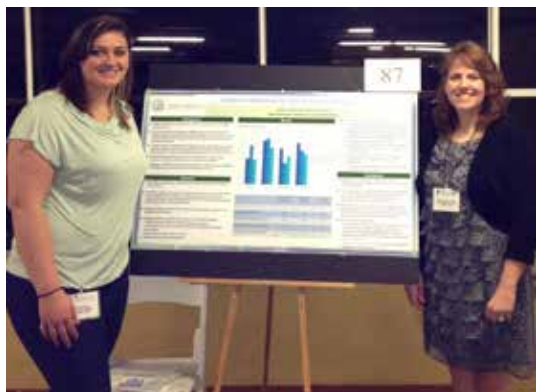
As an elementary school principal, Angie strives to serve staff and students with professionalism and integrity. While keeping her faith in Christ and her family as top priorities, she also has an opportunity to impact hundreds of people on a daily basis. Angie works to provide students and staff with opportunities to serve their community and has brought in organizations to present information on character and leadership—the same principles she teaches and demonstrates in her daily routines.



Angie shared, "People have a selfish attitude, worrying about themselves. If, as Christians, we would take a stand for what is right, we would be a better world. My motto is that students do not care what you know until they know you care. They need trust."

Dr. Sylvia McDonald and Jodi Irvine

Present Research at National Psychology Conference



Dr. Sylvia McDonald presented research on the use of hybrid models in higher education at the National Institute for the Teaching of Psychology in St. Petersburg, Florida, in January. An avid user of the hybrid model, which combines classroom and online deliveries of course material, Dr. McDonald is continuously striving to improve the hybrid course design as well as the teaching component for professors. Her presentation, *Student Preference for Hybrid Course Design*, highlighted student preference for personalized lecture videos over discussion boards, MP3 lectures, and various eLearning materials. "I think students feel a personal connection with professors when we create our own videos. Students also liked being able to repeatedly review material they found difficult to understand."

Dr. McDonald also supervised and co-presented with OCU senior, Jodi Irvine. Jodi's presentation, *Professor Immediacy in Hybrid Classes: Do Hybrids Make the Grade?* showed professor-student rapport did not differ significantly between evaluations of traditional face-to-face courses and hybrid courses. "I was blessed by this opportunity," Jodi said. "The privilege of presenting at this conference was an opportunity very few undergraduates get at any school. It was an invaluable experience."



- MAY 31, 2013
REGISTRATION DAY
- FEB 21, 2013
PREVIEW DAY
- JUNE 14, 2013
REGISTRATION DAY
- JUNE 14, 2013
PREVIEW DAY
- JUNE 28, 2013
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PREVIEW DAY

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Commencement Speaker, J.C. Watts

OCU is pleased to announce Julius Caesar (J.C.) Watts, Jr. as the 2013 Commencement speaker. Watts served as a U.S. Congressman for Oklahoma from 1995 to 2002 and served for eight years on the House Armed Services Committee. He co-authored the American Community Renewal and New Markets Act, which President Clinton signed into law in 2000. He was the author of President Bush's faith based initiative, the Community Solutions Act of 2001.

After leaving congress, J.C. founded J.C. Watts Companies, a lobbying and consulting firm. He is a regular analyst on CNN and a frequent guest on national radio shows. He has been widely quoted in major newspaper articles in the United States and

around the world, and he writes a twice-monthly column for more than a dozen newspapers.

J.C. graduated in 1981 from the University of Oklahoma with a B.A. in Journalism. While at the University of Oklahoma, Watts was quarterback for the Sooners, leading them to two consecutive Big Eight Championships and Orange Bowl victories. He was voted the Most Valuable Player in the 1980 and 1981 Orange Bowls. From 1981 to 1986, he started for Ottawa and Toronto in the Canadian Football League and was voted the Most Valuable Player of the Grey Cup, the CFL's Super Bowl, his rookie season.



Honor our Grads
May 4th, 2013





NEW!

Dean and Diana Hickman Student Center Dedication

After many months of construction, OCU is pleased to present the Dean and Diana Hickman Student Center. The 30,000 square-foot facility includes a new cafeteria, cafe, game room, and expanded Christian bookstore. The addition will be named in honor of long-time OCU supporters, Dean and Diana Hickman.

The community is invited to attend a dedication ceremony March 23, 2013 at 5:00p.m. It will be followed by a dinner and concert at 5:45p.m.

THE CONNECTION

Ohio Christian University announces a new service to the community with the opening of The Connection, Circleville's premier Christian bookstore. The new two-story facility is located in the east wing of the Maxwell Center on OCU's main campus. In addition to OCU apparel and textbooks, The Connection boasts a large selection of books, bibles, cards, artwork, church supplies, and gifts.

"Being a part of the community and serving is what we strive for," said Dr. Hank Kelly, OCU Provost. "The Connection is a new way members of the community can enjoy our facilities as much as our students do."

For more information, contact LeeAnn Daniel, at 740-477-7756.

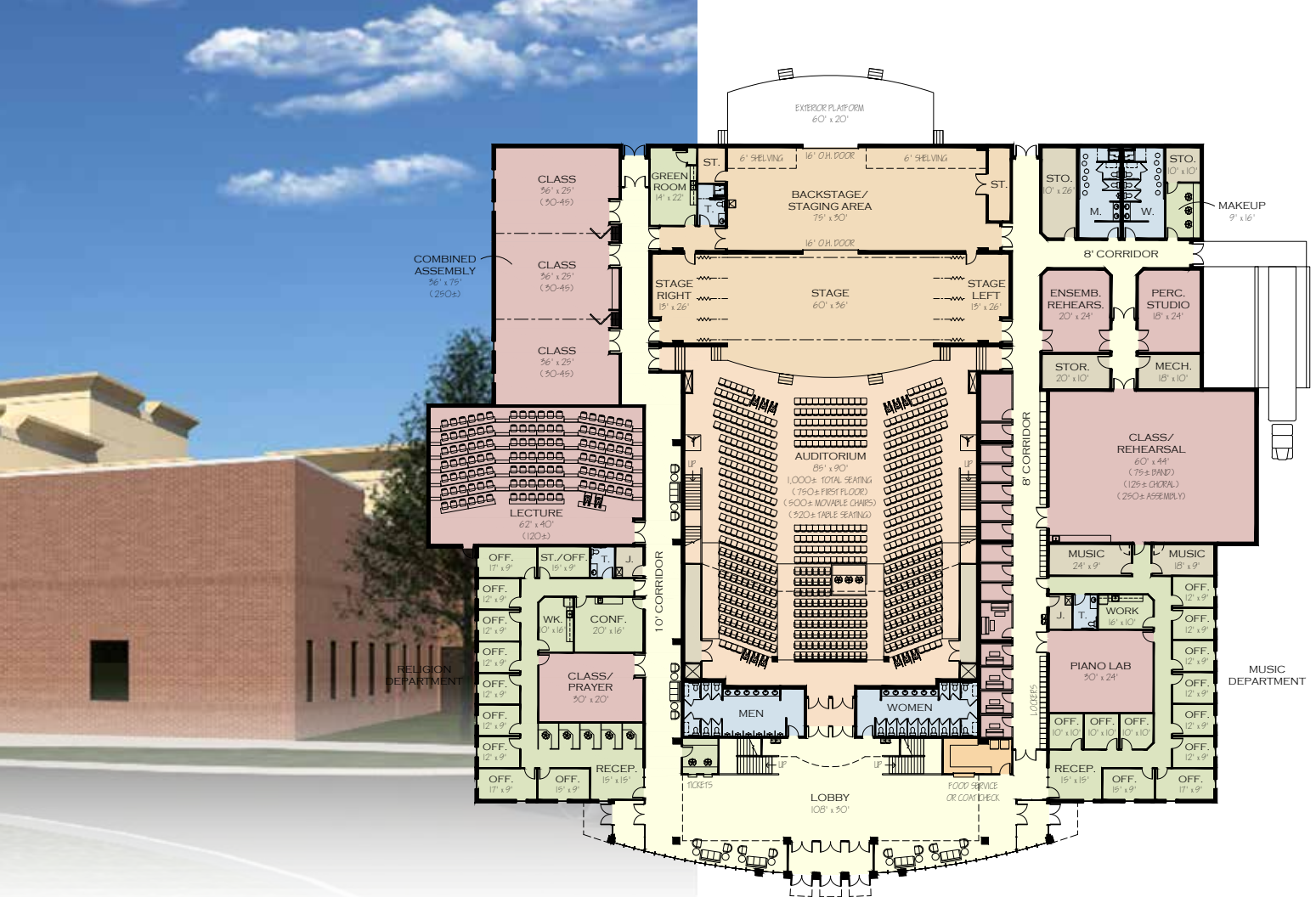
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Men's Soccer: 4th Place Finish in National Tournament

After winning its 4th consecutive regional championship, the OCU men's soccer program finished in 4th place at the NCCAA National Soccer Championships.



OCU advanced to the final four after winning 4-2 on penalty kicks but came up short against #2 seed Northland International. The Blazers finished off the tournament with a dramatic contest against Manhattan Christian College. OCU took a 1-0 lead in the first half, but Manhattan worked to tie the game at 1-1 and force it into overtime. The match then went to penalty kicks where Manhattan pulled out the win.

Three players were honored as **NCSAA and NCCAA All-Americans: Steven Fabian, Emanuel Harris, and Dave Blamo**. Congratulations to Coach Josh Murton and his seniors on another spectacular season.

Volleyball Finishes #6 in the Nation with First Regional Championship

The OCU women's volleyball team capped of a memorable season with a solid showing at the NCCAA National Tournament. The ladies won **OCU's first regional volleyball championship** in a five-set victory over defending champion Kentucky Christian University. The landmark win propelled the Blazers to the national tournament in Florida. In their **first national tournament appearance**, the Blazers continued to make history as they picked up their first NCCAA National Tournament win in a four-set victory over West Coast Baptist College. OCU battled with other opponents throughout the week, winning sets against some of the top teams in Division II. The future is very bright for OCU volleyball.



February 15, 7:30pm
OCU vs. Kuyper College

Bring your youth group to cheer on the Trailblazers at an OCU basketball game this season! Your group will receive free admission and free pizza!

Campus Tours are available before the game by request.

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Kim Uetrecht - 2012 Akers Award Winner

Kim was selected by coaches across the nation and eight regional chairs in the NCCAA to receive the prestigious Michelle Akers Award, which has been presented since 1997 to the student-athlete who best models the values of America's first-female soccer star. Akers demonstrated passion, integrity, and excellence in all aspects of the game. From her days at the University of Central Florida, where she was a four-time NCAA All-American, to carrying the U.S. Women's National Team to World Cup glory, Akers' faith in Christ was always her first priority.

Kim was soccer captain from 2010 to 2012. She is the first player to be part of the women's soccer team from its inception (2009) to her graduating year. In the summer of 2012, Kim was honored to train in Florida at the National Training Center. She was named team chaplain, and she led the team in worship and fellowship.

Every summer, Kim has given her time to serving in various soccer camps in Seattle, central Ohio, and at OCU. Uetrecht is leading children to Christ through a game she loves. In 2010 and 2011 she volunteered as an assistant coach for Pride Soccer Club. She also led the involvement of OCU Soccer with Upward Soccer during every regular season, while leading her team in a small group ministry.

"Kim has been a joy to coach. She has been a blessing to be around and I thank God for having her in our lives here at OCU."

All-American, Brooke Gardner

The OCU Cross Country program recorded a landmark effort at the NCCAA National Meet. OCU freshman Brooke Gardner ran a time of 19:49 to finish in 3rd place. Gardner was also honored as a 2012 NCCAA All-American for her amazing season. Gardner goes down in the record books as OCU's 1st All-American in Cross Country.

The OCU women's Track and Field team finished in 6th place, while the OCU men claimed 7th place. Congratulations to Coach Diltz and his runners on a phenomenal season!



BROOKE GARDNER



KIM UETRECHT

OCU Faculty Provide Monthly Academic Presentations

Ohio Christian University faculty have begun monthly presentations to enhance the academic quality and engagement of faculty, students, and community members.



In October, **Dr. Rick Christman** presented the results of his research study on the relationship of spiritual well-being and gender with college student leadership practices. Dr. Christman serves as Vice President for Student Development and Athletics and holds an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership.



In November, **Prof. Matt Decker** presented on a research study on depression screening and treatment for black Americans with multiple sclerosis. Decker is pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and serves as Assistant Professor of Psychology.



In December, **Prof. Thad Hicks** presented on the topic of Managing Compassion Fatigue, common among individuals who work directly with victims of trauma. Prof. Hicks serves as Director of the Disaster Management and Relief program and is working on a Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies.



OCU Welcomes New Chaplain for Adult Program

Pastor M. R. McCrary (Pastor Mac) hails from a small community in southern Indiana, where he began in ministry as a teenager. By age 19, he had answered the call to pastoral ministry and has since given 55 years of his life to pastoral and evangelical service. Pastor Mac notes the highlight of his ministry has been “working with students and youth.”

As the Chaplain for Adult and Graduate students, Pastor Mac will support OCU students on their spiritual journeys as they pursue their educational goals. He will serve students, faculty, and staff of the university through encouragement and prayer. Pastor Mac’s alma mater is the former Frankfort Pilgrim College in Frankfort, Indiana.

In conjunction with the new chaplaincy, OCU’s Information Technology team recently announced the addition of a new web application to enhance student services. The university is investing in students by providing new services and ministries. The new myOCU provides centralized access to systems and resources for the OCU community, such as access to the chaplaincy page where students can send prayer requests to Pastor Mac and access to tutorials, academic resources, and new communication tools.





A Tribute to Melvin Maxwell

Born and raised during the Great Depression, Melvin Maxwell survived and even thrived to become a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and humbly influence seven generations of students, faculty, ministry leaders, and corporate officers. *Melvin Maxwell: A Tribute* is a collection of heartwarming reflections by those whom he has mentioned—of whom many have gone on to bless their own generations literally around the world. His immeasurable devotion to God, to his family, and to his calling have been motivating factors in the success of church leaders, business leaders, educators, and laypersons everywhere.

Sixth president of what is now Ohio Christian University in Circleville, Ohio, Dr. Melvin Maxwell led the institution to a new campus with a new vision—all based on its foundation of faith and its mission to influence the world with the positive hope of the gospel. OCU President Dr. Mark Smith said, "These tributes are only a few among the testimonies of hundreds and thousands of lives Melvin Maxwell and his wife, Laura, have reached with the love of God."

"Dr. Melvin Maxwell truly is a Holy Spirit anointed minister of the gospel and one of the greatest church leaders of his generation."

—Dr. Mark Smith, President of Ohio Christian University

"Dr. Melvin Maxwell is 90 years old, and he still takes time to call and encourage me. He is the most exuberant and enthusiastic person I have ever met. I always have a better day when I hear his booming voice calling me with a positive word for my life."

—Dr. Stan Toler, General Superintendent, The Church of the Nazarene

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OCU's Faith & Liberty Talk Show Premieres

DR. DAVE GARRISON, BUSINESS AND
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Ohio Christian University recently announced the premiere broadcast of its Faith and Liberty Talk Show. The show's first guest was New York Times best selling author Dr. Larry Schweikart. The shows are hosted by former congressional candidate, Fortune 100 top executive, and Chair of OCU's Department of Business and Government, Dr. Dave Garrison.

The Faith and Liberty Talk Show – Where Faith and Freedom Meet – is a podcast production of OCU's Business & Government Department. The talk show will highlight issues related to Christians engaging in the political and civil arena.

Guests will include political and spiritual leaders, along with experts in many fields related to faith and liberty. Some of the first guests to be interviewed by Garrison are Steve Munisteri, chairman of the Texas Republican Party; Bob Barber, CEO and founder of Christian Financial Association of America; Dr. Juliette Madrigal, president of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons; and Stephen Mansfield, author of *Lincoln's Battle with God: A President's Struggle with Faith and What it Meant for America*.

The weekly format is Garrison interviewing significant authorities in the area of faith, politics, the economy, finance, government, business, education, medicine, and other areas of interest to Christians as they engage our civil society with a Christian and biblical worldview.

Every Friday, a new Faith and Liberty Talk Show will be published on iTunes and can be accessed directly at www.faithandliberty.org where people can find information, articles, and links related that week's talk show. All of the talk shows are archived and made available to listeners free of charge.



Visit www.FaithandLiberty.org to
listen or subscribe to the talk show.

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Kevin Myers*
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*American syndicated author
and radio commentator*

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