



2|8|9

TWO EIGHT & NINE

SPRING 2016, VOL. 36, NO. 1

# GRAFTED

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PHYLLIS MARWAH

MARNA PACHECO

MIKE FISHER

COME EXPERIENCE THE WARMTH OF

# H O M E C

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1, 2016



HIGHLIGHTED REUNION YEARS

1966 1971 1981 1991

# O M I N G

## AND FAMILY WEEKEND

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CELEBRATE BETA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

CLASS REUNIONS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS CELEBRATION

HOMECOMING BANQUET: GRAFTED

TRACK & CROSS COUNTRY REUNION

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**GRACE**  
COLLEGE &  
SEMINARY

In Scripture, the Apostle Paul uses the word “graft” six times in Romans 11, likely assuming that those living in and around Rome were familiar with olive tree grafting.

In the grafting process, the hardy wild olive trees are cut back. Slits are made in the freshly sawed branch ends, and several grafts from a cultivated olive tree are inserted in such a way that the new branch (called a scion) and the original tree stock are joined. The exposed ends are smeared with a mud compound and bound with cloth so that the strength of the hardy host is joined to the fruitful new branch. This combination of the two produces good, usable fruit.

Paul uses this analogy to suggest that the Gentiles would flourish spiritually when grafted onto the rich heritage of Israel.

This same analogy applies to the educational process at Grace. Parents, churches and communities send us hardy, growing young people — sometimes a little wild — who have much potential.

We begin the grafting process with our Grace Core. Every student at Grace completes a series of general education courses that stretch across all the disciplines. The Core challenges students to acknowledge God’s infallible source of truth as revealed in His Word, through His Works and in His creation.

Then the student begins grafting in learning and applied experiences in his or her chosen specialty, led by godly,

master faculty members who love God, their disciplines and their students.

You’ll read about one such student, incoming freshman Jeremy Himes (pictured on the right), who grew up as an orphan after his mom died when he was 13. Through the generous donation of an alumna, Jeremy will be a student at Grace this fall and will experience this quality, biblical education! Don’t miss reading about God’s miraculous work in his life on Page 20.

Our mission is that a Grace education results in fruit-bearing graduates who have a thirst and ability to grow in character, competence and service to others. Over the 78-year history of the seminary and college, experience has shown that most of our graduates have the tensile strength to live for Christ in whatever culture they choose, to make a livable wage and to impact their worlds for Christ. Please pray for all involved in this process.

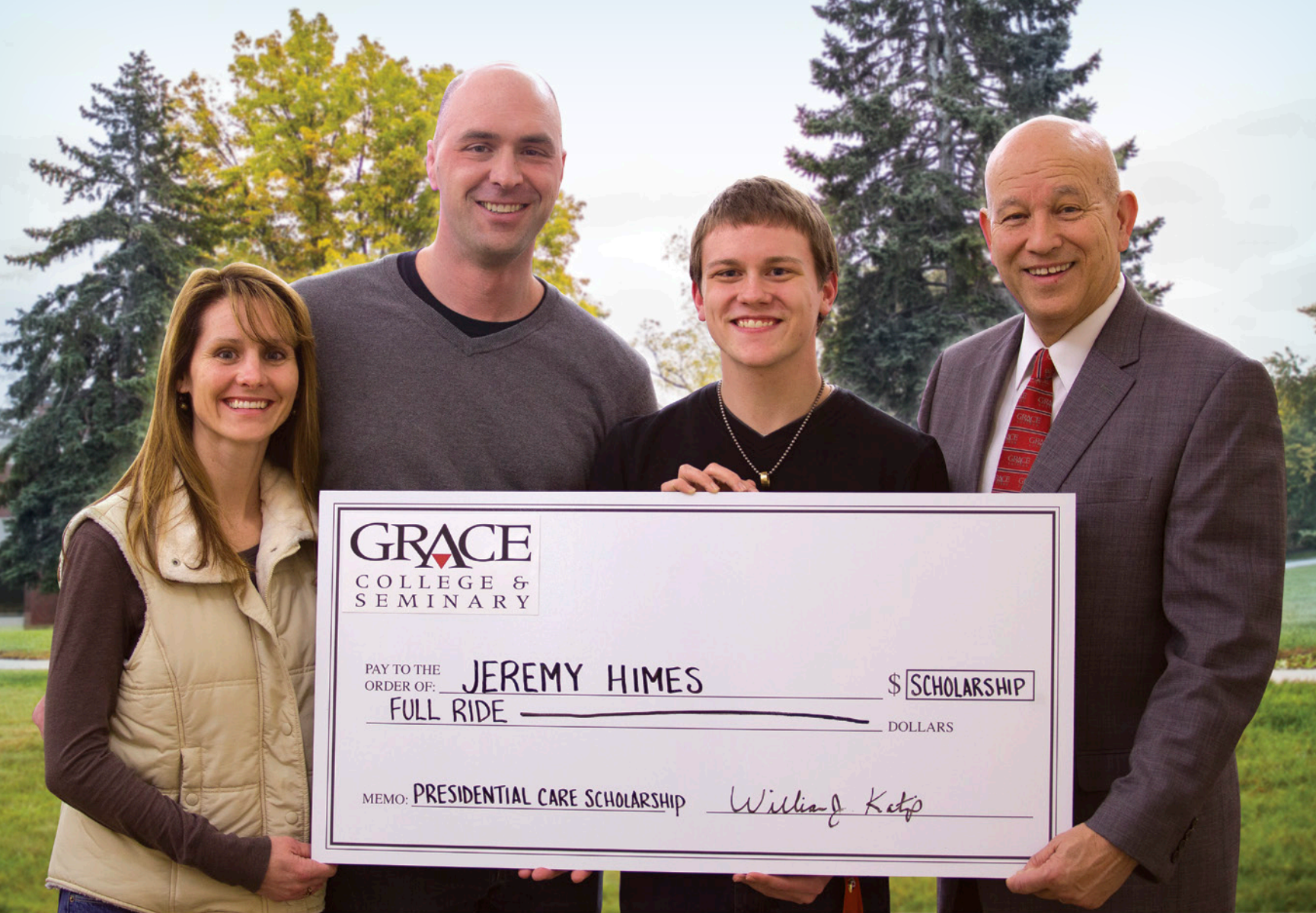
The grafting is producing good fruit!



*Bill Katip*

**William J. Katip, Ph.D.** (BA 74)  
President





Incoming Grace freshman Jeremy Himes receives a full-ride scholarship from Dr. Katip (right) on behalf of Grace College. Pictured with him are his guardians, Beth and Brandon McBrier (left).

*Jeremy Himes' full-ride scholarship is a result of the newly established "Presidential Care Scholarship Fund." Donors who contribute to this fund help students like Himes access a Grace College education that would otherwise be impossible. You can read Himes' full story on Page 20. If you'd like to donate to the Presidential Care Scholarship Fund, contact V.P. of Advancement Drew Flamm at (574) 372-5100, ext. 6121 or [drew.flamm@grace.edu](mailto:drew.flamm@grace.edu).*



## 05

### AN UNCOMMON CHOICE

Phyllis (Horney BS 69) Marwah, after discovering the high pregnancy termination rate among young women in Hong Kong, helped found Mother's Choice, a nonprofit that provides care for children and single girls facing crisis pregnancies.

## 08

### A DREAM REDEFINED

Marna (Burnham C 90) Pacheco thought being a good Christian would result in a fairy-tale life. But a childhood of neglect, becoming a widow at 20 and adopting a child with special needs almost crushed her. Read how God saved her and made her best dream come true.

## 11

### AT THE BORDER OF DESPERATION AND HOPE

Grace graduate student Mike Fisher works with Samaritan's Purse, feeding South Sudanese refugees in Uganda. Discover how he's found his calling — and his home — while serving those without one.

## 20

### SURPRISED BY GRACE

Jeremy Himes, who was once orphaned, has faced more hardship in his 18 years than most. He shares how God's light pierced through his darkness, providing him with a loving family — and most recently, the gift of a lifetime from Grace College & Seminary President Bill Katip (BA 74).

Phyllis (Horney BS 69) Marwah addresses Grace's student body at Chapel in September 2015.



8



11



20



05

# 2|8|9

TWO EIGHT & NINE

A Publication of Grace College & Seminary

## Institutional Mission

Grace is an evangelical Christian community of higher education which applies biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence and preparing for service.

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## On The Cover

Pictured are Marna (Burnham C 90) Pacheco and her adopted daughter Millie.

Comments may be sent to [289@grace.edu](mailto:289@grace.edu). Opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Grace College & Seminary. Grace College & Seminary reserves the right to edit alum note submissions.

## What's In A Name?

Two Eight & Nine references Ephesians 2: 8–9, the verses upon which Grace College & Seminary were founded. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."

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**WE ABIDE IN  
CHRIST, LIKE  
BRANCHES  
ON THE TRUE  
VINE; WE  
ENJOY UNION  
WITH CHRIST;  
WE ARE  
CO-HEIRS  
WITH CHRIST.**

# GRAFTED

The language biblical authors have used to describe our relationship to Christ is often some of the most encouraging and meaningful in all of Scripture.

We abide in Christ, like branches on the true vine; we enjoy union with Christ; we are co-heirs with Christ and so on. But one of my favorite phrases is “grafted in” because it powerfully reminds me of the intimacy and adoption we’ve experienced as children of God.

It projects the ideas of favor, acceptance and flourishing. Although most of us aren’t weekend horticultural husbandry experts, these agricultural themes really help, don’t they?

To truly appreciate the meaning of grafting, we have to dig a little deeper. (Pardon my pun.)

Grafting has two important concepts I want you to remember as you read the stories in this issue of 2|8|9:

First, the nature of the “root stock,” which is chosen for its established strength and ability to feed the branches and offer life. Christ is the root stock in all these stories.

Second, the need of the “adopted stem,” which must be a part of a living root system or face being cut off — leading to death. Many stems are actually taken from unhealthy situations. The stem, in some cases, may be the only healthy branch left on the failing or decaying plant or tree. These stems are conscripted and reintroduced to a healthy plant in order to preserve their life and usefulness — their ability to continue producing good fruit.

Whether you are reading about Mike Fisher, a Grace College graduate student who offers the strength of Christ’s nourishing vine to refugee settlements in Uganda, or you are reading about Phyllis (Horney BS 69) Marwah, who, through Mother’s Choice, is making sure no girl or baby is cut off, cast out or left alone, in Hong Kong — you will be emotionally grafted into these stories and bear witness to the fruit our students, staff and alumni are bearing.



A handwritten signature of Kevin Sterner in black ink.

**Kevin Sterner** (C 94)  
Editor-in-Chief





# AN UNCOMMON CHOICE

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BY CHELSEA BATTEN AND BRYAN THOMPSON

Growing up in Taos, New Mexico, Phyllis (Horney BS 69) Marwah and her five brothers and sisters were given a choice by their parents: They could become teachers or preachers.

But, whichever choice they made, they would have to study for it at Grace College & Seminary.

“My father would have it no other way,” Marwah laughs. Her father, Samuel I. Horney II (DTh 42), had not only graduated, but also served as a trustee for more than 20 years at Grace. And although it was really a tongue-in-cheek choice, Marwah seemed naturally suited to educating others, and she along with all of her siblings decided to further their education at Grace.

Upon graduating in 1969, Marwah went on to teach in Mexico and then study at the East West Center in Hawaii, where she trained to teach others in English as a second language (ESL).

Soon after, a field study stop in Hong Kong led to a path destined by God. Though she planned on staying in the city only for the weekend, lo and behold, she met her former husband Ranjan, who had already been living there for three years. That weekend turned into a 43-year residency in the complex, teeming city that Marwah says “makes Manhattan feel like a village.”



## CHOOSING TO LOVE

**1.** A Mother's Choice worker plays with one of the infants who is receiving care from Marwah's organization. **2.** Pictured is **Marwah** at Mother's Choice, a nonprofit that provides care for children and single girls facing crisis pregnancies.



Marwah was not intimidated by the size of Hong Kong, but she was concerned for the plight of many young women in the city. In 1986, an article appeared in the South China Morning Post, a local English newspaper, by a reporter who had gone across Hong Kong's border into Shenzhen to investigate the destination of thousands of teenage girls from Hong Kong with crisis pregnancies. After visiting only three clinics, the reporter discovered there had been over 400 terminations in two days, and the majority of the patients were very young and already in their eighth and ninth months of pregnancy.

Remembering the shock she felt, Marwah says, "We were wondering why a girl would wait until she was seven, eight or nine months pregnant to look for a way out."

Teenage pregnancy was not a subject that was openly discussed in Hong Kong culture. Many of these young girls, typically 11-16 years old, did not even know they were pregnant until they were five to seven months along. Once they did find out, there seemed to be no alternative

## FROM A SMALL TOWN TO THE BIG CITY

POPULATION BY LOCATION

7,188,000

HONG KONG

1,626,000

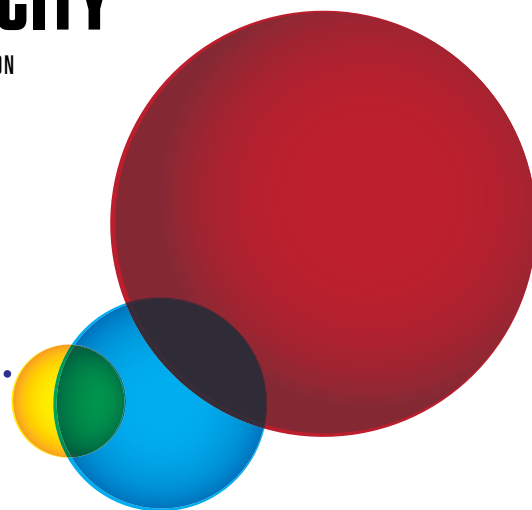
MANHATTAN, NY

374,658

HONOLULU, HI

5,731

TAOS, NM





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## ... THERE SEEMED TO BE NO ALTERNATIVE TO A VERY LATE STAGE TERMINATION, AND ADOPTION WAS ALMOST UNHEARD OF.

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to a very late stage termination, and adoption was almost unheard of.

"These girls didn't really have a choice," Marwah says.

Marwah and her former husband, along with their friends Gary and Helen Stephens, who had been in Hong Kong working with refugees through Youth With a Mission, were stirred to action. Young girls were having traumatic and dangerous late stage terminations because their situation was culturally unacceptable in the community. "So we thought, why don't we open a home for girls to have support during this very difficult time and help them understand what options are open to them, which may also include a third choice — adoption." They founded Mother's Choice in 1987, only months after reading that newspaper article. "The intention was to have a place for a pregnant girl to go to ... a safe place. We wanted to make sure no girl or baby was left alone in Hong Kong," says Marwah.

A large part of the problem was the lack of sex education in schools. "Even today," explains Marwah, "of the girls who come in, average age of 14, many of them don't know that babies can come from sex. They don't know how they got pregnant."

Mother's Choice was founded to provide care for these young pregnant girls so they could have options. For many girls, the only option they knew was termination. The

organization provides support to those who choose to self-parent and introduces a third option of adoption to those who are unable to parent their children.

"One of the things we do is try to bring adoption out in the open and say, 'It's okay.' Family doesn't have to just be blood."

Shortly after they incorporated, Marwah and her co-founders decided to hold a press conference to let everyone know Mother's Choice existed. The following day, newspapers explained that there was a group of people who were creating a home for young girls in crisis pregnancies. That day Mother's Choice received a phone call. A social worker had found a young girl hiding in a local youth center who was scared and obviously pregnant. The social worker took the young girl to a hospital. She was physically healthy but wouldn't talk. Since she wasn't sick, she couldn't stay in the hospital. The hospital called Mother's Choice and asked if they would come and get her.

"We had our first girl before we were really ready, and she had her baby the next day. We had to hit the ground running!" remembers Marwah.

Mother's Choice has since received countless calls nearly every day from girls who are pregnant and need help. For many, crisis pregnancy can be a sensitive and political topic, but Mother's Choice isn't interested in the politics of the situation. They are interested in helping all single, pregnant girls "no matter what they decide to do." Marwah is emphatic about this point.

"We want all young women to know that

there is someone there to help them."

Over the years, Mother's Choice has expanded its services beyond providing loving and non-judgmental support to pregnant teenagers to also caring for children without families and fighting for each of them to have a safe, loving and permanent family to call his or her own. Mother's Choice has since helped over 51,000 single girls, cared for 3,600 babies and assisted with 1,400 successful adoption cases. "We are involved with many of the adoptions in Hong Kong," Marwah says.

More importantly, Mother's Choice has been instrumental in changing perceptions about teenage pregnancy and adoption in Hong Kong's culture. What began in Hong Kong has since inspired similar organizations in several countries, including China, India and Cambodia.

The work Marwah, her colleagues and many volunteers have accomplished through Mother's Choice is nothing short of transformative. All it took, in Marwah's words, was "just being willing to help and take a risk. It's just saying, 'God, I'll do what you want me to do. If this is a need, I'm willing to put everything into it.'" ■

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As one of the newest Grace College Board members, Marwah will be using her experience to help with the Enrollment and Marketing Commission. Her intelligence and kindness are apparent to anyone who has the pleasure of conversing with her, and Grace is profoundly grateful to have her working on its team.



# A DREAM REDEFINED

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK

When Marna (Burnham C 90) Pacheco held Millie for the first time, she thought it was the fulfillment of a dream come true.

Pacheco had been imagining a moment like this since she was 11 years old. Just like Millie, Pacheco was a child of neglect.

Her parents divorced when she was 7, and thankfully, her dad got custody of Pacheco and her siblings because the courts deemed their mother unfit. "But my dad didn't know how to raise kids," says Pacheco. So they were left to raise themselves, producing within her an insatiable longing for family.

Although she was led to the Lord through

the witness of a baby sitter when she was 10 years old, Pacheco's first introduction to what a real family and real Christianity looked like was made through her school friend. "Her family adopted me. They showed me what it looked like to have a family dinner. I learned what manners were," remembers Pacheco. The church she attended with them was the Kent Grace Brethren Church (Kent, WA) and where Pacheco first learned about Grace College.

**Above:** Marna (Burnham C 90) Pacheco (left) gives her adopted daughter Millie a squeeze at their home in Winona Lake, Ind.



Because of her troubled childhood and a delayed dyslexia diagnosis in high school, Pacheco came to Grace on academic probation. After her first semester, her GPA plummeted and she lost her scholarship.

She returned to Washington and met and fell in love with Jeff Lukkes (C 84) who had attended Grace a few years earlier. “I realized my fairy-tale family could come to fruition through Jeff,” says Pacheco. Jeff and she were married in 1988, and Pacheco was living her dream.

Nearly a year into their marriage, they were on a family trip in South Dakota swimming in a river. As a result of some unpredictable currents, six of Jeff’s nieces, nephews and cousins began to drown. Jeff rescued them all but drowned himself. Pacheco was devastated.

But in 1991, Pacheco returned to Winona Lake, Ind., where she re-enrolled at Grace College and met Dan Pacheco (BS 90) while attending Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church; they fell in love and were married in 1993. “I felt so blessed that God would give me two incredible husbands, and I could get back on track to making my dreams come true,” says Pacheco.

Eventually, Pacheco believed God would reward her with the family she never had since she had promised to follow Him. “I always believed that if you follow Christ and walk in His ways that things only get better. I did not realize that ‘hard’ might be someone’s better.”

The Pachecos got pregnant on their honeymoon, but Marna miscarried. Just a few

months later, they became pregnant again and gave birth to their daughter, Madeleine. They were so thrilled with the addition to their family, and Pacheco looked forward to “a brood of babies.” But she was never able to get pregnant again.

When the dream of more biological children became impossible, the Pachecos moved to adoption. In elementary school, Pacheco had seen the documentary “Dying Rooms” which revealed the orphanages where Chinese parents would leave unwanted babies in rooms to die of starvation. “It always stuck with me, and I knew if I got a chance to adopt, I wanted to adopt from China. We also knew we wanted a child with a physical need that was treatable.”

When the Pachecos received word that they’d been assigned a match, the whole family flew to China and picked up the newest member of their family, Millie. She was 2 years old and just 17 pounds. “We immediately saw her cleft lip which had already been operated on, but we also noticed a few other things,” says Pacheco. Millie was nonverbal, and she didn’t know how to be held. She didn’t know how to eat, she couldn’t make eye contact and she could hardly walk. “What she did know how to do was just rock back and forth on all fours. It was clear that she didn’t know what human touch was,” says Pacheco.

Millie’s facial defect was considered bad luck. “They’re thought of as worthless, untouchable and outcasts. When they arrive in the orphanages, they’re even assigned the

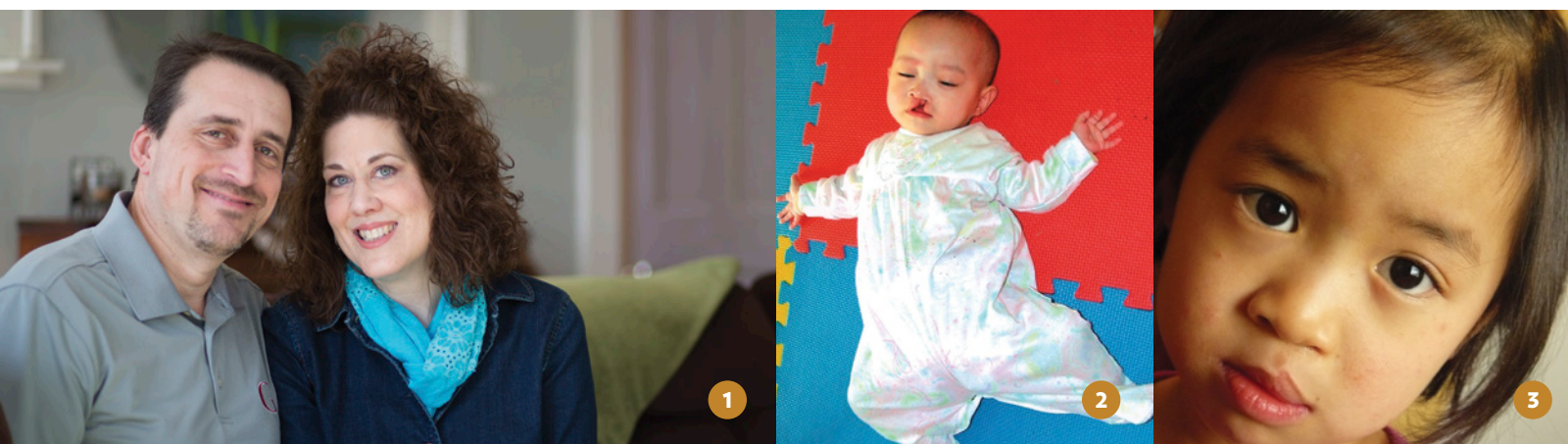
‘bad nannies,’” says Pacheco.

Millie was almost certainly neglected at her orphanage, which housed more than 700 children. “In many ways, neglect is 10 times worse than abuse,” says Pacheco. “Once an attachment is made and broken, it can always be made again. But if an attachment never happens, it literally changes the brain, making it almost impossible to happen in the future.”

The Pachecos returned to Indiana with Millie, not realizing the scope or severity of her disabilities. The next four years would become a living nightmare. Millie couldn’t talk, and she had regular but unpredictable fits of rage. The Pachecos couldn’t go anywhere. “We gave up everything for Millie. We couldn’t go to church or the grocery store. She rarely slept. I couldn’t control her behavior at all,” confesses Pacheco. Since coming to the U.S., Millie has been diagnosed with 10 disabilities including: complex developmental trauma disorder, sensory processing disorder, reactive attachment disorder (RAD), post-traumatic stress disorder, autism and ADHD. Unless God heals Millie, says Pacheco, she’ll never be able to function on her own.

Pacheco threw every waking moment into researching Millie’s symptoms, visiting doctors and simply surviving every day with her. Pacheco says Satan attacked her family like a roaring lion, seeking to devour them, and he almost did.

“Everyone’s dreams were shattered,” recounts Pacheco. As Pacheco’s perfect picture of family faded, she felt perplexed. “God, I’m



**1.**Dan (BS 90) and Marna Pacheco just celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary. **2.**The Pachecos were sent this picture of Millie when they were matched with her by their adoption agency. It’s the youngest photo they have of her at 11 months old. **3.**Pacheco took this picture of Millie at her 3-year-old birthday party, the first birthday they celebrated together.

trying to be good enough for You, so You can love me,” Pacheco says, tears welling up in her eyes. Pacheco didn’t realize the lie she had believed and the way it was driving her to live her life, completely dependent on her own strength.

The Pacheco family was falling apart. “We couldn’t control our happy meter, and we were all contemplating what faith in God really means,” says Pacheco. She realized the only thing she could do was surrender her dreams, her control and her self-reliance to God. “I couldn’t control Millie’s behavior. I couldn’t fix her or change her. I couldn’t hold my family together or make them perfect. God brought me to the end of my own self through Millie. I didn’t even know I was trying to do it all on my own.”

The Pachecos began fighting against the lies of Satan who said they weren’t good enough for God’s blessing. “We began recognizing who the enemy was, and it wasn’t adoption.”

“God was saying to me, ‘Do you believe I am who I say I am regardless of your circumstances?’ And I decided to say ‘yes’ to that question no matter what. But the next question was, ‘Are you willing to walk in the difficulty of life and still trust me?’”

Millie just turned 10 in February, and life hasn’t gotten any easier. But Pacheco lives out every day in surrender. “We got the ‘hard’ we didn’t sign up for. But even if it never changes, He’s asked us to walk it, and we’ve chosen to

submit to Him in it.”

Another one of the blessings of Millie is the creation of a line of fashionable and functional products for people with disabilities. About six years ago, during one of Millie’s countless doctors’ visits, her occupational therapist recommended to Pacheco that she look online for some weighted items that might help manage Millie’s sensory processing disorder. “I went online and the only items available were like straitjackets,” says Pacheco.

Pacheco was resolved that if Millie needed these extra items to help her, the very least she could do was ensure she look adorable and fashionable in them. Pacheco had a weighted blanket and lap pad for Millie, but Millie couldn’t easily move around without them falling off. This inspired Pacheco to design a little pink weighted cape that could always stay attached to Millie. “It was cute, washable, reversible and functional,” says Pacheco, and when she showed up at her next OT appointment, “our therapist went gaga over it,” laughs Pacheco. “She told me that so many of her other clients could benefit from something like this.” Pacheco didn’t know how she could possibly make more. Her time was so limited as it was, caring for Millie, but the need kept presenting itself.

In November of 2012, Pacheco and her friend Susan, who also adopted a child from Millie’s orphanage, invented CapeAble. They took the business public six months ago. “It’s

of course rooted in the first product I made, but also that every person is truly capable,” explains Pacheco. CapeAble produces 19 different products that help people of all ages who struggle with anything from anxiety to dementia to Parkinson’s to post-traumatic stress disorder. In its first six months, CapeAble sold \$75,000 worth of product from its shop in Fort Wayne, Ind. Pacheco’s products are even being used in hospitals and dentist offices, and she and Susan currently have a medical patent pending.

“God did this,” says Marna. “It was His idea, and He brought it into being. He loves to use the broken and the weak to display His goodness. I have no idea in what ways He wants to use it, but I surrender it to Him.”

The real miracle in all of this, says Marna, is that God brought her to the end of herself. “Once I surrendered it all and embraced the hard in His strength, this little girl, who was considered worthless, inspired a business that is now giving comfort and hope to so many lives.”

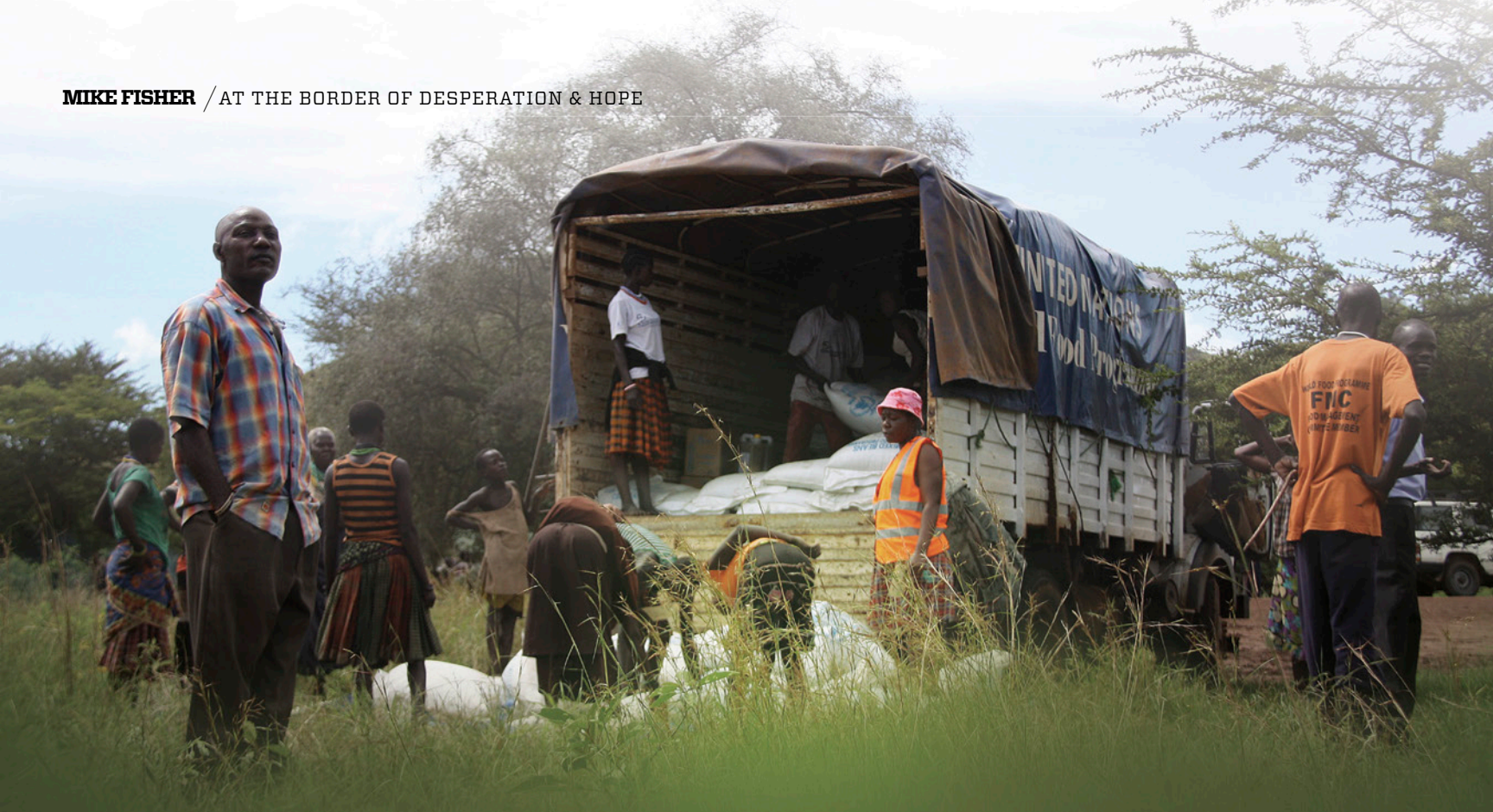
God’s promise to her isn’t that life will look like a fairy tale, but that He’ll walk with her in the messy circumstances of life and give her the strength to do it as she holds firm to the truth of God’s Word.

And that’s her best dream come true. ■



**1.** Pacheco holds up one of her weighted blankets at her store CapeAble, inspired by Millie. **2.** The CapeAble store is located in Fort Wayne, Ind. **3.** The whole Pacheco family gathers at Marna’s home. Top row: Cousin and Grace student Ashmine Minnix, Marna Pacheco and Dan Pacheco. Bottom row: Grace junior Madeleine Pacheco, Millie, Dan (BA 64) and Miriam (Ashman BS 65, MABC 85) Pacheco, Sr.





# AT THE BORDER OF DESPERATION & HOPE

BY CHELSEA BATTEN AND BRYAN THOMPSON

Until about 100 years ago, most people never ventured farther than 20 miles from where they were born. With the exception of a few bold explorers, a successful life was defined by safety, security, food to eat and a family to share it with.

As Western society grows increasingly mobile, those values fade into the background. A successful life is now defined primarily by freedom. It's not that we don't want safety, food and family — it's that we assume we'll have them eventually.

**Above:** One of the food distribution sites in Karamoja, the most remote northern region of Uganda, where Grace College graduate student Mike Fisher serves Ugandans in need of food assistance.





A Congolese refugee boy waits for his family to receive their food distribution.

# “THE STUFF YOU SEE ON THE NEWS IS REAL.”



Current Grace graduate student Mike Fisher and his wife Priscilla Ngero Fisher were married in Entebbe, Uganda, on Jan. 9, 2016.

This assumption is precisely what separates us from other parts of the world, the places where even food takes a backseat to escaping immediate danger.

Mike Fisher, a Grace College graduate student, is the rare person who feels most at home in those places. An explorer with a deeper cause, Fisher has spent the past 12 years joining others in the midst of life-or-death struggle.

It started in 2004, when Fisher joined Youth With a Mission to help with reconstruction in the wake of the tsunami that shattered Thailand's coast. Despite the post-storm chaos and the grueling work, Fisher took to the environment naturally, even picking up the Thai language in a matter of months. Only a month after returning to the U.S., Fisher was back on a plane, headed for the Thailand-Cambodia border to help with translation in the area's ongoing relief efforts.

Once in Cambodia, Fisher was shocked by what he saw.

“Cambodia was worse than anything I'd seen post-tsunami in Thailand. And there was no reason for it. It was like, ‘What's going on here?’ It really challenged me. I realized the world has issues way bigger than I could even begin to comprehend.”

Fisher left Cambodia determined to learn how to better help impoverished countries around the world. After completing his international studies degree in just three years, his heart for the world immediately pulled him back into the field. He joined the relief organization Samaritan's Purse in southern Sudan, reconstructing churches destroyed by the Sudan government.

But Fisher's job changed entirely when the area gained its independence from the country's northern half, which tipped off a huge migration of refugees escaping the North's violence. For the following year and a half, he coordinated the distribution of food to 90,000 people each month. This meant more than simply handing out provisions. During the rainy season, traveling refugees were cut off from the relief station by an impassable swamp. People were starving, and getting food to them by land transport was impossible.

“The stuff you see on the news is real,” Fisher says, his friendly tone dropping to a murmur. “The malnutrition rate among children was very high. It was always a very desperate situation.”

Throughout the rainy season, Fisher's team air-dropped food to the refugees waiting in the swamp. Once the dry season arrived, they were able to truck food in.

But even then, relief was not as simple as offering meals. The refugees had traveled hundreds of miles by foot. They had fought against the Northern government during the war, but when the border was drawn, they were still a part of the North region they wanted to escape. Many carried the scars of seeing loved ones killed, either quickly by bombs or slowly from starvation. People



arriving with this level of desperation, Fisher says, need special supplies to nurse them back to life.

The following two years were marked by daily, unrelenting intensity. What kept Fisher going was the evidence that what he was doing was not just important, but a necessary part of his role as a human being. He knew his calling — and this was the place for him to fulfill it. “People are hungry, so you give them food. It really is an honor and a privilege to be able to do this.”

In 2014, Fisher was transferred to Uganda to help with its influx of Congolese and South Sudanese refugees. The difference between the two African nations, he says, was amazing. “The Ugandan government [and] economy can handle the refugees. Supplies are ready and waiting for them. It’s great infrastructure: more self-sustaining, more hopeful.”

The improved infrastructure also means that Fisher can work a normal 9-5 schedule, with weekends off. Kampala, where he lives, is a modern city with normal amenities that now seem like luxuries, such as Internet in his home.

Rather than rest in these comforts, Fisher is putting them to use: He’s in his second-to-last semester of Grace’s online Master’s in Nonprofit Management program. Many of Fisher’s classmates are, like him, currently engaged in relief work around the world — this rapport, along with a testing ground waiting right outside his door, gives him insight into how to fulfill his calling better every day. “I find ways to apply almost everything I learn from my classes to what I’m doing here.”

Fisher plays a more administrative role these days, though the goal of the job is still the same: to get food in the hands of those who need it. Under his oversight, Samaritan’s Purse receives food shipments to its warehouses in the refugee settlements, and it’s distributed from there. Fisher also helps with the effort

# “AS A HUMAN BEING, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO FOOD.”



Ugandan Samaritan's Purse staff and volunteers from the Congolese refugee community of Rwamwanja, Uganda, help unload sacks of beans and corn-soya flour.

to train local farmers in better agricultural practices so that Samaritan’s Purse can partner with them to feed the refugees.

A cornerstone of the whole effort’s success, Fisher has learned, is to assure refugees that what you are offering them is not charity. “As a human being, you have a right to food.”

There are currently between 400,000 and 500,000 refugees in Uganda from South Sudan, the Congo and several other areas. Despite the ravages of warfare in their home country, many of these people will leave Uganda as soon as they hear news of the rebel group’s departure, only to reappear in the settlements when their villages are once again in danger.

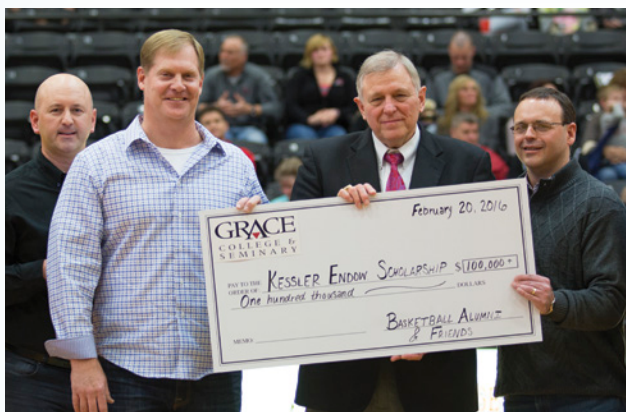
“People want to go home,” Fisher reflects. For himself, though, Uganda has become

home. Or maybe it’s more fair to say that he’s made a home for himself within his calling, especially since getting married to Priscilla, a Ugandan woman whom he met as a co-worker in South Sudan. Fisher knows his purpose, he has someone to share it, and he lives his life in freedom. The difference is that rather than traveling the world to expand his sense of freedom, he invests himself in helping others reclaim their freedom, one basic human right at a time.

When asked about plans for the future, he seems to echo a feeling known by all cultures since time immemorial — that home is where the heart is.

“I’ll probably be here for a while.” ■

Images courtesy of Amy Kuhl (BA 10). You can follow her at [lovmercyliveadventurously.wordpress.com](http://lovmercyliveadventurously.wordpress.com).



An endowed scholarship is established in honor of Coach Jim Kessler (BS 70) (second from right) and presented to him by (left to right) alumni Bob Jackson (BS 91), Mike Watson (BS 89) and Rex Schrader (BS 92).

## A Scholarship Fund Is Established in Honor of Coach Kessler

It was with shock and awe that Coach Jim Kessler (BS 70) received the news that an endowment fund of over \$100,000 had been established in his name. Just before game tipoff on Feb. 20, two of Kessler's previous players, Mike Watson (BS 89) and Rex Schrader (BS 92), presented Kessler with a giant check to commemorate the fund. Unbeknownst to Kessler, some of his former basketball players contacted previous players, alumni and Lancer fans to establish a scholarship fund in Kessler's name. "We all felt like it was the perfect time to celebrate Coach K's induction into the NAIA Hall of Fame in March and to honor him for his more than 40 years of service to Grace College," explains Watson.

Over the years, Kessler has won more than 700 games, reached nine NAIA National Championships and seven NCCAA National Championships. He's also won five Coach of the Year awards, 10 Crossroads League titles and been named both the NAIA Coach of the Year and the NCCAA Coach of the Year.

But Kessler's proudest achievement is the impact his athletes are making all over the world as teachers, pastors, doctors and businesspeople. "His commitment to not only teach and model the fundamentals of basketball, but especially the fundamentals of life, has changed thousands of lives," remarks Watson. And now because of the Kessler Endowed Scholarship, more young men will not only have access to Kessler's influence but also a biblical, quality Grace College education.

For more information or to give to the Kessler Endowed Scholarship, contact basketball alumnus and Grace College Regional Director of Development Bob Jackson (BS 91) at [jacksonrd@grace.edu](mailto:jacksonrd@grace.edu) or (574) 372-5100, ext. 6119.

## GTS Initiates a New, in the Church, Competency-Based Education Seminary Model

Grace Theological Seminary (GTS) was recently part of a gathering of select seminaries to be invited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), an accrediting agency, to discuss how seminaries are delivering theological education in innovative ways. For two days in February, Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74), president of Grace College & Seminary, Dr. Jeff Gill (MDiv 82), vice president of the seminary, Dr. John Lillis, executive vice president of academic affairs, and consultant Dr. Leland Eliason attended the ATS forum to share ideas on how to provide competency-based theological education.

The invitation came on the heels of a yearlong strategic analysis Gill has been leading for GTS. "In the last decade, we've seen a lot of seminaries become cemeteries. Churches are now hiring laypeople from within and a traditional theological education is no longer a prerequisite," explains Gill. But he also understands that these same churches desire their people to receive biblical training. "Over the last year, we've listened — and listened some more — to pastors on how to provide a relevant biblical education in a local church. We all still see the real value in face-to-face and life-on-life training."

As a result, Grace Theological Seminary has been strategizing and brainstorming with pastors and ministry leaders to determine the most effective ways to deliver both a foundational and functional theological education. It's called a "competency-based model," and although there are still plenty of details to be worked out, including accreditation approvals, it's where Gill is leading GTS. This model uses local churches as a hub for education and their pastors as mentors for students.

But as GTS is remaking its delivery model, its mission remains unchanged, says Gill. "Our seminary exists to serve the local church by partnering with them to equip godly, effective spiritual leaders." Gill also states that this new initiative will be in addition to — not a replacement of — the seminary's current residential programs. Be on the lookout in future 2|8|9 issues to learn more about GTS's new competency-based education model.



Dr. Jeff Gill, V.P. and Dean of the Seminary and School of Ministry Studies





## Professor of New Testament Studies Matt Harmon Awarded Top Spot by The Gospel Coalition

Dr. Matt Harmon's commentary on Philippians was named among The Gospel Coalition's Top Books of 2015. The editors of The Gospel Coalition chose their top choices and runner-ups in eight categories from among 300 books they reviewed. Dr. Harmon's "Philippians: A Mentor Commentary" won in its "Bible and theology" category.

Gospel Coalition editor Matt Smethurst had this to say about Harmon's commentary: "Academically informed, clearly written and pastorally insightful, this is evangelical scholarship at its best. The volume is filled with helpful outlines, charts and suggestions for gospel-driven application. I'm already anticipating Harmon's next contribution." You can find Dr. Harmon's book on Amazon.



## Grace College Hosts 1961 Freedom Rider Charles Person

On Jan. 18, more than 600 people came to the campus of Grace College & Seminary to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In his honor, guest speaker Charles Person shared his first-hand account of the Freedom Rides of 1961 — a series of bus trips through the American South to protest segregation in interstate bus terminals. Person, who is one of three surviving riders, was part of the group of 13 who launched the Freedom Rides.

Only 18 years old at the time, Person and the other riders took two buses from Washington D.C. to New Orleans. One of their buses was fire bombed in Anniston, Ala., and in Birmingham, the riders were severely beaten. The rides continued with police and federal escorts. In Jackson, Miss., the riders were sent to a maximum-security penitentiary, where they served a 30-day sentence. But publicity brought hundreds of people from around the country to join the Freedom Rides.

Five months after the Freedom Rides began, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued an order ending segregation in public transportation. Person's recounting of the Freedom Rides was a memorable, and at times emotional, experience for those in attendance. Monday's event marked the 28th year commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Kosciusko County and was organized by the Committee to Commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Grace's Online Master's in Counseling Program Named First in the Nation

BestCounselingDegrees.net ranked Grace College's online Department of Graduate Counseling as the best in the nation. BestCounseling gleaned the top 15 online Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degrees based on regional and national accreditation as well as graduate student tuition and fees, awarding Grace College the top spot.

TheBestColleges.org also recognized Grace's Department of Graduate Counseling, placing it 9th out of the top 10 online master's in counseling degree programs of 2016. BestColleges' rankings were based on several different criteria, including market reputation, accreditation, student satisfaction, ratio of students to instructors and tuition.



Grace offered the lowest tuition of the top 15 schools named by BestCounselingDegrees.net and gives online graduate counseling students the option of a three-year or an accelerated two-year plan of study, each involving an intensive, skills-focused residency on campus every August. Dean of the School of Behavioral Science Tom Edgington commented, "I am very proud of the team that we have here at Grace. The faculty are committed to developing professionally skilled clinicians who have a heart for God and for helping hurting people." To learn more about online academic opportunities through Grace College, visit [online.grace.edu](http://online.grace.edu).

# VILLAGE AT WINONA FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

presented by Grace College and  
the Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts

Bringing the highest quality professional and amateur  
musical and cultural experience to the community.

**Jazz Fest** / June 18 / Winona Heritage Room **Celebrate America at Winona (with fireworks)** / July 2 / Village at Winona  
**River Raisin Ragtime Revue** / July 9 / Winona Heritage Room **Barbershop Music Festival** / August 7 / Winona Heritage Room  
**Band Concert** / August 27 / Village at Winona **Chamber Musical Festival** / September 3 / Village at Winona

[www.grace.edu/musicfestival](http://www.grace.edu/musicfestival)



# MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

DAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
APRIL 12, 2016

GRACE  
COLLEGE &  
SEMINARY

Many students attend college with the goal of obtaining the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the professional world. At Grace, we are focused on developing students who can make an impact not only on the professional world, but on the world at large.

Your contribution to the Grace Fund helps give students the perspective they need to impact the world – **and your giving during Grace's Day to Make a Difference goes even further through donor matching.**

.....

Join us April 12 for a day of giving.  
Visit [www.grace.edu/dtmad2016](http://www.grace.edu/dtmad2016)  
for more information.

## Rave Reviews

Our faculty are great teachers. You know them as mentors who've coached you, challenged you and equipped you. But part of what makes them so effective in the classroom is what they do beyond it. Preview some of their recent endeavors that show our educators to be nothing less than masters in their fields.



### Dr. Nate Bosch

Director of the Center for Lakes & Streams

Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Center for Lakes & Streams, was awarded the Chandler-Misener award for the most notable paper published in the Journal of Great Lake Research in 2015. Dr. Bosch's paper, "Assessing and addressing the re-eutrophication of Lake Erie: Central basin hypoxia," addressed the source of harmful algae in Lake Erie as a result of inflowing water from primarily agricultural drainage areas. The paper, co-authored by 28 scientists across the country, also offered application for the inland lakes in Kosciusko County, Ind.



### Dr. Ryan Johnson

Assistant Professor of Math

Dr. Ryan Johnson, assistant professor of math, co-authored the paper "Indicators of Tambara-Yamagami categories and Gauss sums," which was published in the Journal of Algebra and Number Theory (ANT) in October 2015. ANT publishes research covering a wide range of algebraic and arithmetic geometry. Dr. Johnson's research is part of a larger effort by mathematicians to classify fusion categories. Fusion categories have many applications, one of which is the attempt to build a topological quantum computer. An analogy for Dr. Johnson's main result is that

these strange creatures (Tambara-Yamagami categories) can be distinguished by their footprints (Frobenius-Schur indicators).

### Stephanie Todd

Adult Basic Education Instructor,  
Grace Community Education

Stephanie Todd, an instructor at Correctional Industrial Facility for Grace Community Education, was named the Educator of the Year for the Indiana Criminal Justice Association (ICJA) at its conference in October 2015. Todd competed with nominees from every Indiana Department of Correction facility to win the award.







Matthew West (above) and members of his band (pictured upper right) perform at the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center. Images courtesy of Gary Mohler (BA 64).



## Matthew West Dons Lancer Shirt To Sing 'Grace Wins'

Four-time Grammy nominee Matthew West and the Live Forever Tour performed at the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center in November. Allowing Christ To Shine (A.C.T.S.), an organization dedicated to helping children in Haiti, brought the tour to Winona Lake for an evening of worship.

Athletic Director Chad Briscoe bought tickets to attend the concert and in a serendipitous turn of events, made a connection with West's tour manager through the help of Briscoe's cousin before the show. "I inquired if Matthew West might consider adding a Grace Lancer shirt to his concert wardrobe, and apparently he agreed!" While performing his song "Grace Wins," West revealed his Lancer shirt. "It could not have been a more perfect fit," says Briscoe — referring to the similarity between the lyrics' meaning and the philosophy of Grace Athletics ... although the shirt size was a perfect fit too.

## Katelyn McCullough Qualifies for NAIA Nationals

Katelyn McCullough made history for Grace when she qualified for the NAIA Cross Country National Championships. She became just the second female runner to reach the NAIA race, joining two-time qualifier MariJean (Wegert BA 11) Sanders. McCullough finished in the top half of the race in Charlotte, N.C., as she represented the Lancers. Coach Jeff Raymond commented: "Katelyn didn't have a bad race all year and was a leader for our team. Earning a spot in the national meet was a great accomplishment for her, and she represented our program in a fine way."





## Men's Soccer Celebrates Its 50th Season

The 50th season for Grace's men's soccer team was celebrated in style this fall. The Lancers earned their most wins (14) in a season since 1983 and advanced to the NCCAA Nationals for the third time in five years under coach Matt Hotchkin (S 11). Grace soccer alumni returned to campus on Sept. 25, enjoying a night of fellowship and stories of how God had used soccer at Grace to impact lives since 1965.



*Pictured left to right are Men's Soccer alumni Doug Quine (BA 68, MACSA 79), Chet Kammerer (BA 64), Bill Wilhelm (BS 73), Terry Eichorst (BME 70), current coach Matt Hotchkin (S 11), Ron Weimer (BA 68, MDiv 72), Sam Baer (BA 68, S 71), Robert Dowdy (C 72) and Steve Damer (BA 68).*



## Women's Soccer Heads to NAIA Nationals for First Time in Program's History

Grace's women's soccer team enjoyed its finest season in program history, earning its first trip to the NAIA National Championships. The Lady Lancers won an Opening Round game over Park — thanks to goals by Mallory Rondeau and Meredith Hollar — before losing in the "Sweet Sixteen." Grace finished with a 15-3-3 record under Head Coach Michael Voss.

## Lancers Reach NCCAA Finals

Twenty wins and a national tournament have become the norm of late for Grace's men's basketball team. The 2015-16 season was no different as the Lancers reached 20 wins and earned a berth in the NCCAA National Championships, held at Grace's Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center. The Lancers reached the NCCAA's "Final Four" in the bracket, thanks to the senior leadership of All-American Brandon Vanderhegghen, Logan Irwin and others. This season was also special as longtime head coach Jim Kessler (BS 70) was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame. To view his commemorative webpage, visit [www.gclancers.com/kesslerHOF](http://www.gclancers.com/kesslerHOF).



*Senior guard Brandon Vanderhegghen drives to the basket in the NCCAA National Championships semifinals against Emmanuel (Ga.).*



# SURPRISED BY GRACE

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK

**JEREMY HIMES WAS JUST 13 YEARS OLD SITTING BESIDE HIS MOM'S HOSPITAL BED, WATCHING HER BREATHE THROUGH LIFE SUPPORT.** Just 15 hours earlier, he'd been in Georgia with a friend from school when he got a call saying his mom had been taken by ambulance to the hospital after a seizure and a fall. His friend's grandmother drove Himes 11 hours back to Warsaw, Ind., where Himes and his half-sister, Erica, spent a night of uncertainty at the hospital.

"We didn't understand what was going on," says Himes. "Mom couldn't breathe, she had a feeding tube, and my aunt and uncles were trying to explain to us the severity of the situation. They told us as her kids we needed to decide whether or not to pull the plug."

Hospital visits were a regular part of their lives. Just five years earlier, in 2005, Himes' grandmother, whom he had lived with since he was born, passed away. Himes' mother, though struggling with chronic heart-related issues, had always survived with a new drug, or a new piece of hardware, like a pacemaker. She had always returned to care for her children. This time, however, it was different.

After counsel from the doctors and his family, Himes and Erica agreed to say goodbye to their mother. "At her funeral, I showed no emotion," says Himes. "I was blank. I didn't even know how to feel." The loss led Himes to a point of despair and an attempted suicide. "Obviously it was a failed attempt, and I didn't tell anyone until years later," confesses Himes.

Himes' dad was serving a life sentence in prison, so in the middle of his seventh-grade year, Himes moved in with his aunt. But their relationship soon deteriorated, and he boarded with a friend. That stay didn't last long either. "Legally, I'm an orphan," explains Himes, "but I never went into the system."

The summer before his freshman year, Himes' youth group leaders, Brandon and Beth McBrier, knew he was desperate for a place to call home. Himes had met the McBriers when he began riding his bike to New Hope Freewill Baptist Church from his aunt's house a couple of years earlier.





The McBriers asked Himes if he wanted to come live with their family of five, and he jumped at the chance, living with them for the last four years.

"They've showed me unconditional love over and over ... and that God is greater."

Himes didn't grow up going to church, and although his life circumstances didn't drive him to atheism, they did make him really angry. "I didn't used to believe God was good. I didn't want any of that, but after a while, I started thinking about it more." Himes eventually decided to give his life to Jesus. "It's not perfect in so many ways; it's been a struggle; but I know that if I focus on Him, I can surpass whatever comes my way."

Now as a senior in high school, Himes has seen God's continued provision in his life, most recently, through an unexpected gift awarded to him by Grace College President Bill Katip (BA 74).

"I wanted to go to Grace since I was like 10 years old," laughs Himes. It was close to his home and he knew with his mom's chronic illnesses, he didn't want to go far. But he had no idea what kind of school it was; it was just a childhood dream.

"I didn't even know if I could get in, and even if I did, I didn't know how in the world I would pay for it," says Himes. Grace College was the only school he applied to, his ambitions set on the psychology degree he hopes to earn. "I've been in counseling my whole life dealing with the anger and the anxiety that's come with my experiences. If I can survive my past and admit what I've done and

come from, I think I can help others. I believe God can use my hurt to help others."

Himes was nearly in tears receiving his acceptance letter from Grace in September. He felt like it was a miracle. But God had even more in store.

After getting accepted to Grace, Himes met Dr. Katip at a Big Brother banquet in Warsaw where Himes shared a bit of his story, including his desire to go to Grace. After Dr. Katip and some of his Grace colleagues heard Himes' story at the event, they knew they wanted to play a role in his story.

While visiting campus this past February, Dr. Katip surprised Himes with a full-ride scholarship – the result of a newly established "Presidential Care Scholarship Fund," which will benefit students like Himes who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend Grace. This scholarship was established by a donor who cares deeply about orphan care. "My prayer is that these funds will help Himes finish college and develop leadership and ministry skills," says Dr. Katip.

When we talked with Himes a week later, he was still in shock. "I can't believe it, I'm still trying to believe it ... I was so, so happy. I knew if I didn't control myself, I would start bawling."

Dr. Katip believes their meeting was God-ordained. "We felt like the Lord put us at that banquet for this purpose. Others had stepped up along the way, and now it was our turn." ■



# ALUM NOTES

Connecting with  
our family of friends

## CLASS NOTES

### 1956

**01 Reverend John W. Evans** (BDiv 56) has shared with the Office of Alumni Engagement a copy of his most recent collection of his poetry and songs, "Hold On to Your Fork!" John has served in eight churches in Indiana and Ohio. He and wife Joyce of 63 years live in Jacksonville FL where they have served at First Baptist Church for 22 years — John as an adult Sunday school teacher (18 years) and Joyce in the church choir (15 years). He is a former recipient of the Fellowship of Christian Poets coveted "Poet of the Year" award. John's previous book of poetry, "At Evening It Shall Be Light," is also available. [joevans@comcast.net](mailto:joevans@comcast.net)

### 1960

**Reverend Dr. Werner Bürklin** (BA 60) turned 85 on Nov. 2, 2015. Dr. Bürklin says that although his tennis days are over, he still goes to the fitness center and thanks the Lord for having kept him all these years. "Looking back over the many years, I truly can say it has been a wonderful time walking with Jesus. He has been my sustainer, helper and guide. What a wonderful Savior!"

**02 Kenneth Liechty** (BA 61) was named chairman of the board of Building Abilities of Special Children and Adults (BASCA,

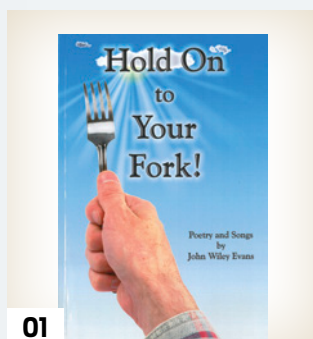
Inc.), a Christian organization working to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in northeast Florida, in January 2014. Kenneth holds an MS in Meteorology from Naval Postgraduate School (1972) and an MA in Educational Administration and Supervision from University of North Florida (1985). Kenneth lives in Fleming Island FL with wife Linda. [www.bascainc.org](http://www.bascainc.org), [kenlnty@yahoo.com](mailto:kenlnty@yahoo.com)

### 1970

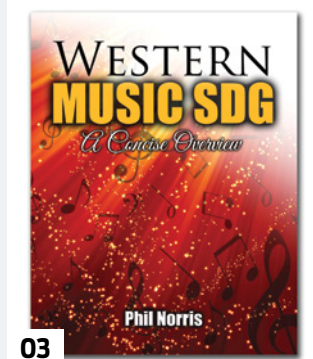
**Steve Myers** (BA 70) will be retiring from his position as superintendent of Educational Service District 105 in Yakima WA in June 2016, after serving there since 2010. Prior to this, Steve served as principal of Toppenish High School from 1992 to 2001, assistant superintendent from 2001 to 2003 and as Toppenish School District superintendent from 2003 to 2010. Steve began his career in the 1970s as an Indiana elementary and high school social studies teacher and later moved to North Carolina to teach English prior to moving to Toppenish in the early 1980s.

### 1972

**Ross Weidman** (MDiv 72) has served as director of development at Bible Centered Ministries International (Lancaster PA) since November 2013. BCM is a global nondenominational ministry dedicated to reaching children and developing churches



01



03



02



04



05



worldwide. Ross and wife Nancy reside in Conestoga PA. [rweidman@bcmintl.org](mailto:rweidman@bcmintl.org)

## 1976

**03 Dr. Phil Norris** (BME 76) published a music appreciation textbook with Kendall Hunt Publishing Company (Dubuque IA) titled "Western Music SDG: A Concise Overview." It's a faith-based text which traces its origin to the music appreciation course taught by the late **Donald E. Ogden** (BDiv 54), former Grace music department founder and chair. Phil lives in Minneapolis MN with wife Julie. [pennwc@gmail.com](mailto:pennwc@gmail.com)

## 1978

**04 Gerald Hammock** (BS 78) is semi-retired after serving at U.S. Foodservice, Inc., from 1991 to 2015. Gerald and wife Melanie reside in Lithonia GA. [utreach3@yahoo.com](mailto:utreach3@yahoo.com)

## 1982

**05 Mark D. Weinstein** (BS 82), executive director of public relations for Cedarville University (OH), was recently elected to two regional boards. In July 2015, he was elected to the board of directors of the Rotary Club of Beavercreek (OH), where he serves as director of public relations. In November 2015, Mark was also elected to the board of directors of the Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Mark was selected to the Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) board of directors in Dayton (OH) on which he will

serve as the master's committee chair for one year. [mweinstein@cedarville.edu](mailto:mweinstein@cedarville.edu)

## 06 Retired Lieutenant Colonel (USMC)

**Brian M. Winter** (C 82) was the featured speaker at the 240th Birthday Dinner/Ball of the USMC in November 2015 in Yakima WA. He currently serves as sheriff of Yakima County, a position he was elected to in fall 2014.

## 1988

**Dr. Gerald Lincoln** (MDiv 88, MTh 94) received his PhD in Library and Information Science from University of Pittsburgh in 2014. He serves as library technology director/assistant at Lancaster Bible College. Gerald's wife **Kathryn (Strickler)** BA 90) graduated from Lancaster Bible College with an MA in Counseling in 2007. The Lincolns reside in Mount Joy PA. [glincoln@lbc.edu](mailto:glincoln@lbc.edu)

## 1990

Bryan and **Michelle (Farner)** BA 90) **Barlitt:** Married June 28, 2014. Michelle received her master's in education from Ashland University in 2005. The Barlitts reside in Sunbury OH. [mbarlitt@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mbarlitt@columbus.rr.com)

## 1993

**07 Dr. Douglas and Rebecca (Beam)** BA 93) **Mohrmann:** Married August 22, 2012. Rebecca has served as the conference manager at Michigan State University,

College of Human Medicine, since November 2013. The couple resides in Caledonia MI. [pumpkin1271@hotmail.com](mailto:pumpkin1271@hotmail.com)

## 1994

**Steve Popenfoose** (BS 94) received his MBA from University of Phoenix in 2008 and has served as the vice president of finance for Lincoln Christian University (IL) since September 2014. Steve and wife **Paula (Snell)** BS 79) reside in Lincoln IL. [stevepopenfoose@gmail.com](mailto:stevepopenfoose@gmail.com)

**Deborah (Steffen)** BA 94) **Sills** serves as director of social services at Miller's Merry Manor (LaGrange IN), which received a Deficiency Free Indiana State Department of Health Survey for 2015. This required all departments to work together to achieve this status. [deborah\\_sills@hotmail.com](mailto:deborah_sills@hotmail.com)

## 1995

**08 Leecy (Nicely)** BS 95) **Fink** was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2013, received surgeries and treatment and was diagnosed with a Stage 4 cancer in March 2014. She remains on chemotherapy and is so grateful for the continued love and prayers shown by her lifelong friends from Grace. Leecy retired from owning and managing Celebration Bridal ([www.celebrationbridal.com](http://www.celebrationbridal.com)) and Tresca On 8th ([www.trescaon8th.com](http://www.trescaon8th.com)). The businesses remain successful and eventually will be passed to her children.

Husband Gary is serving his 18th year on the Lynchburg Police Department. Leecy and Gary reside near Lynchburg VA with children Madeline (18), Cameron (16), Jenna (14), Eliza (5) and Amelia (4). [leecyfink5@icloud.com](mailto:leecyfink5@icloud.com)

## 2000

**09 Marlin Sechrist** (BS 00) of the Indianapolis Metro Police Department was inducted into the Central Indiana American Red Cross Hall of Fame and was a National Association of Police Organizations officer of the year nominee. [sechrimj@yahoo.com](mailto:sechrimj@yahoo.com)

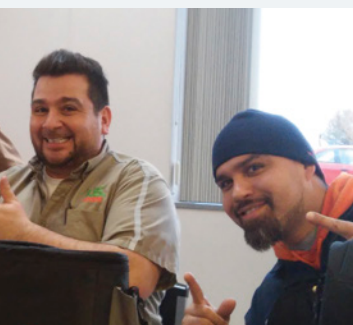
## 2001

**10 Joshua** (BS 01) and **Lexi (Oliver)** C 02) **Fretz:** Mia Elizabeth, Sept. 1, 2014. Prior to Mia's birth, the Fretz family experienced the birth and passing of son Walter Joshua on June 14, 2013. Josh and Lexi reside in Greencastle PA with Mia and sisters Michayla (8) and Emma (6). [lexifretz@comcast.net](mailto:lexifretz@comcast.net)

**11 David and Elizabeth (Speidel)** BS 01) **Smith:** Kaylee (6) and Justin (4), adopted Sept. 5, 2014. They join brother Benjamin (6) at their home in Tallmadge OH. [jaynie2579@hotmail.com](mailto:jaynie2579@hotmail.com)

## 2003

**12 Andrew and Amy (Pinkard)** BS 03) **Moffitt:** Colin Andrew, Nov. 3, 2014. Colin is the couple's first child. The family resides in Bowie MD. [amypinkard@yahoo.com](mailto:amypinkard@yahoo.com)





## 2009

**13 Nathaniel** (BS 09) and **Christine** (Miller BS 09) **Foote**: Adalyn Joy, Feb. 14, 2015. Adalyn is the couple's first child, and they reside in Lexington OH. foote.christine@gmail.com

**Thomas** (BS 09) and **Tari** (Means BS 89, MEd 11) **Rusinack** established The Grapes of Wrath LLC in August 2013 where they are vintners. They will be opening a vineyard/winery and classic book store on their property in Warsaw IN in 2018. trusinack@comcast.net

**14 David** and **Jenny** (Potts BS 09) **Thanepohn**: Married Aug. 14, 2015. The couple calls Yorkville IL home. jennypotts@gmail.com

## 2011

**15 Dillon** and **Rachael** (Warrington BA 11) **Bok**: Married June 20, 2015. Rachael has taught kindergarten at Bath Elementary School since August 2011. The couple resides in Columbus Grove OH. rwarrington07@hotmail.com

**16 Felix** and **Kori** (Sutterfield BA 11) **Cummings**: Married June 6, 2015. The Cummings call Indianapolis IN home. cummings.kori@gmail.com

**17 Matthew** and **Rachel** (Dunham BS 11) **Eby**: Married Sept. 4, 2015. The couple resides in Noblesville IN. dunhamrk@gmail.com

**Kory** (BS 11) and **Melissa** (Witwer BS 11) **Pruner**: Married July 22, 2015. Melissa received her Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Butler University (IN) in May 2015. The couple calls Ephrata PA home. melissa.pruner@gmail.com

## 2012

**Jonathan** (BA 12) and **Danielle** (Goodman BA 13) **Allan** relocated to Long Island City NY in October 2015 when Jonathan accepted a job as corporate associate at law firm Kirkland and Ellis. He graduated from The Ohio State Mortiz College of Law in May 2015. d\_allan13@yahoo.com

**18 Steven** and **Stephanie** (Owens BS 12) **Keltner**: Maribel Quinn, Aug. 19, 2015. Maribel joins brother Atticus (2) at their home in Zeeland MI. owenssl90@gmail.com

**19 Jason** (C 09) and **Brittany** (Schofield BS 12) **Smith**: Julian Xander, May 28, 2015. Julian is the couple's first child and joins them at their home in New Freedom PA. brittanychensmith@gmail.com

## 2013

**20 Simroy** and **Sarah "Katie"** (Strine BS 13) **Campbell**: Married April 22, 2014. The couple calls Littleton NH home. strinesk@gmail.com

**21 Dr. Theodore Lim** (DMiss 13) has been senior pastor at Los Angeles Global Mission Church for 12 years. He completed his MDiv at Fuller Seminary prior to his Doctor of Missiology from Grace. In addition to having published several books and articles, Dr. Lim is an evangelist and missions advocate. He has been appointed provost of international affairs for Tahan Theological College and Seminary in Sagaing Province, Myanmar, where he also teaches mission classes as visiting professor. pastortedlim@gmail.com

**22 Vincent** (BS 12) and **Andrea** (Tucker ASN 15) **Sell**: Married July 11, 2015. The Sells make their home in Warsaw IN. sellvm@grace.edu

## 2014

**23 Matthew** and **Krista** (Mithun BS 14) **Jemison**: Married May 30, 2015. The couple makes their home in Noblesville IN. kristammithun@gmail.com

**24 Caleb** (BS 14, MBA 14) and **MariJean** (Wegert BA 11) **Sanders**: Scout Serenity Grace, Sept. 28, 2015. Scout is the couple's first child. The family resides in Winona Lake IN. marijeansanders@gmail.com

## 2015

**25 Nathan** (BS 15) and **Rebekah** (Coolman BA 15) **Mason**: Married June 6, 2015. The Masons reside in Warsaw IN. rebekahmason@gmail.com

**Ben Quiggle** (BA 15) was promoted to managing editor and government/political writer for the Chronicle-Tribune in Marion IN in October 2015. In December 2015, Ben started as an investigative reporter at The Elkhart Truth. In March, Ben won the Best Enterprise Reporting award from the Associated Press for articles he wrote for the Marion Chronicle-Tribune about Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in the city of Marion, Ind. Ben thanks **Dr. Paulette Saunders** (BA 64, CBS 77) and **Dr. Terry White** (BME 64) for their journalism education, which gave him confidence in his career. Ben's wife Ferron works at Combined Community Services. They live in Pierceton IN with sons Andrew (12), Caleb (8) and Luke (5). quigglebenlee@gmail.com

**26 Jason** (BS 15) and Tiffanie **Schlatter**: Married Aug. 15, 2015. The couple lives in Seattle WA where Jason is a behavior technician for Connections Behavior Planning & Intervention and Tiffanie is a tutor for Brain Child and instructional assistant substitute at Lake Washington School. Jason began to pursue his master's and doctorate degrees in counseling in fall 2015. sigtool@aol.com



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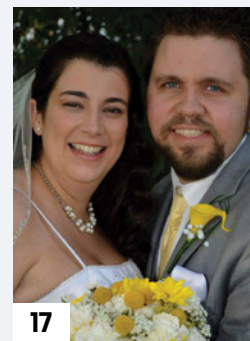
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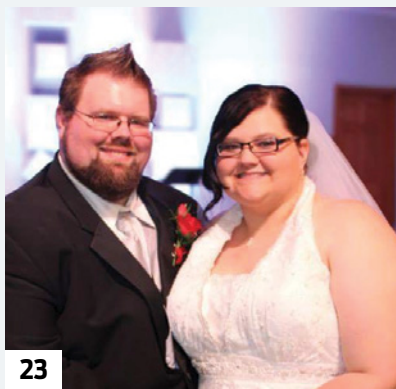
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# James and Sarah Steele Publish ‘The Shoephabet’



**James** (BS 06) and **Sarah (Hutchens BA 07) Steele** began selling their children's book, "The Shoephabet," in November 2015, but it began nearly a decade earlier, when James created his own depiction of the alphabet in a Grace College typography course for Professor **Art Davis** (C 79). It won him first place at the annual juried art exhibit — "Completing your homework is worth it!" reports James — and although people suggested then that he turn his illustrations into a children's book, it wasn't until after James and Sarah married and had their third child that they began putting it together. Sarah laughs, "I say it's my escape from constant diapers, laundry and meal planning!"

Sarah began writing the poems to accompany James' illustrations back in 2008, and eventually, a high school auction in October 2015 prompted the Steeles to self-publish their book. They've since sold nearly 400 copies, and Sarah has been invited to numerous local elementary schools where she's read their book to more than 1,000 students.

The duo don't have any plans of slowing down: They've restocked their inventory and are working on their next alphabet book to be out later this spring, called "The Monsterbet." James designed the layout of the new book, Sarah authored it, and fellow alumnus **Daniel Manduka** (BA 10) illustrated it. To stay connected to the Steeles, find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/theredheadsartwords](https://www.facebook.com/theredheadsartwords), visit their Etsy shop at [www.theredheads.etsy.com](https://www.theredheads.etsy.com) or find their book on Amazon. The Steeles make their home in Warsaw IN.



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## IN MEMORIAM

**Reverend Henry "Hank" Bryant** (MDiv 66) passed away on Aug. 8, 2014, in Grenoble, France. He graduated from Princeton University in 1963 with a BS in Engineering prior to enrolling at Grace Theological Seminary. In 1967 he married **Alice Frantz** (BS 66) and they served the Lord together with Crossworld (formerly Unevangelized Fields Missions International) in France for 46 years. His ministry included teaching, speaking, discipleship, training church leaders and laypeople and translation. Hank used his skills to help remodel, design and build several churches and student ministry centers, including a print shop. He was the founder of a French Christian publishing house, a combined effort of Crossworld and Grace Missions, addressing the scarcity of Christian literature available in France. Hank authored 10 books in French, including three commentaries and several books designed to present the Gospel in the context of difficult issues. He helped establish a campus ministry at the University of Grenoble, which became a model for several other university works throughout France. He was a beloved teacher, disciple and mentor, sought out for his love and knowledge of the Scriptures and his ability to explain them clearly. Hank is survived by wife Alice; sons Dan (Dakar Senegal) and Marc (Glendale CA); daughter Laura Hanford (Fairfax VA); their spouses; 13 grandchildren; and a brother.

**Reverend Lee Merritt Copeland** (MDiv 75) entered eternal joy on Oct. 13, 2015. He leaves wife Betty of 47 years; daughters Laurie Victa (Shawn) and Madelyn; son Thomas (Alina); and 12 grandchildren. He earned a BA and master's degree in counseling from Old Dominion University prior to earning a Master of Divinity from Grace Theological Seminary. Lee was ordained by Norfolk Tabernacle Church. In 1975 he moved with his family to Farmville VA to plant a Bible-believing church. His devotion to God and to missions was evident by his position on the board of the China Institute, ministering to Chinese at the University of Virginia, and in how he prepared theological material for the Chinese church. Reverend Copeland's compassion and humility were evidenced by his ability to listen and counsel as if you were the only person in the world and to give advice in a way that persuaded you that you had thought of it yourself. His 40-year counseling ministry reached across the United States, from Ukraine to Venezuela and from Germany to China.

**Carole (McCollum BS 62) Hocking**, wife of former Grace Brethren pastor, **Dr. David Hocking** (MDiv 64), passed away on Nov. 20, 2015. They were married for over 53 years and were the parents of Brent (Malibu CA), Brenda Tucker (Arnold MO) and Matt (Huntington Beach CA). Carole was a grandmother of nine children.

**Mary Louise Hooks** (BA 57) went to be with her Savior on Sept. 24, 2015. She attended Bryan College (Dayton TN) prior to enrolling at Grace College where she completed her degree in secondary social studies

education. After graduation she taught elementary school in Indiana and then worked as secretary for Emerson Ward (Warsaw IN), a Christian movie and visuals producer. Mary played the piano, was very involved in music at her church, provided childcare and volunteered with Area Agency on Aging and United Way. She was a member of the Grace Brethren Church in West Kittanning PA and recently attended Grace Baptist Church of Kittanning. Mary was the last surviving member of her immediate family but is survived by sister-in-law Phyllis Hooks; nieces **Sylvia Hooks** (BS 72), Sandra Olinger, Jacqueline (Bruce) Smith and Rebecca (Terry) Brown; and nephews Michael (Linda) Hooks, Nathanael (Charlene) Schwenk, John (Melody) Hooks, Robert Dougherty and **Aaron** (BS 87) (**Terrill LaBuff** (C 88)) **Hooks**.

**27 Lois Rebecca (Cartwright BCEd 56) Lee** went to be with the Lord on Jan. 10, 2016. She attended William Jennings Bryan College in 1952 where she met and married **Ernie Lee** (BDiv 55, MTh 56) in August 1952. She soon became a member of Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) and Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL). Lois served alongside Ernie in Vietnam with SIL from 1958 to 1971 as head of the childcare department and later as secretary for the literacy department at the International Linguistics Center (Dallas TX). In 1979 she and Ernie went with WBT and SIL to the Solomon Islands where she served as hostess for Solomon Island Translation Advisory Group from 1979 to 1994. From 1994 to 2000 Lois taught literacy, family relations and sewing (using hand-powered machines) to the wives of students at the Anglican Theological College. Lois retired from Wycliffe in 2001 to devote her time to Montagnard refugees from Vietnam while also serving as pianist and bookkeeper for Grace Montagnard Fellowship Church (Ovilla TX). She was a member of Cliff Dwellers square dance group and continued teaching piano to her grandchildren and children from the Jorai Church. Lois is survived by her husband, one brother, their five children, 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Kenneth G. Moeller** (S 56) passed away on Sept. 29, 2015, in Wooster OH. He graduated from Bryan College in 1954 prior to attending Grace Theological Seminary. Kenneth worked in bookkeeping and accounting for Foreign Missionary Society of the Brethren Church from 1957 to 1972. He was active in his local church and served on the business committee of Grace Journal. He later worked in accounting in the Elkhart IN area and was a member of Grace Brethren Church (Elkhart) where he served in many capacities. Kenneth was married to Violet Grace Ringler for 65 years. He is survived by his wife; children **Daniel** (BA 76, MDiv 81) (**Mary Lou Steiner** C 80) (Wooster OH), Dr. James (Bobbie) Moeller (Seymour IN), **Helen** (Stan) **Kilmer** (C 72) (Milford IN) and Mary (Kim) Kucela (Elkhart IN); 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers Ted (Bonnie) (Johnstown PA) and **Reverend Bob** (BA 64,

BDiv 67) (**Donna Boyer** BS 66) (Sterling OH); and sisters **Florence** (C 58) (Bill) **Figert** and **Esther Moeller** (BA 58, BDiv 62), all of Winona Lake IN.

**Waneta Dawn Rodes** (BSN 08) died in a tragic car accident in Goshen IN on Nov. 18, 2015. She lived in the Nappanee (IN) area all her life and enjoyed her work as a nurse as well as baking, gardening and taking trips to the ocean. She was married to Titus Rodes. Together they were parents of sons Austin (Milford IN), Houston (Goshen) and Jackson (Cromwell) and daughters Eleaya (Lahaina, Maui HI), Eleacia (Chet) Los (Syracuse) and Emily (Denver CO). All children survive along with grandson Chester Los, parents, brothers, sisters and maternal grandparents.

**28 Reverend John J. Sholly** (DipTh 72) went to be with the Lord on April 9, 2015. He graduated from Western Michigan University with a bachelor degree in industrial arts and engineering prior to his years at Grace. He married Jennie Joy Shaw on June 6, 1964. John served in a variety of careers as adult vocational instructor, fireman, draftsman for a silo company and teacher of high school shop. After moving to Winona Lake IN in 1968 to attend seminary, John worked as an engineer at Zimmer, managed the Billy Sunday museum and pastored a church in Tippecanoe. After his seminary graduation, John and Jennie served as the first house parents at newly formed Riverwood Ranch (Warsaw IN) and later at Manor Foundation (Jonesville MI). John then worked as draftsman for Gatke Corporation. He pastored Grace Brethren churches in Indiana, Kentucky and Iowa as well as churches in Michigan. While in Kentucky, John had a unique ministry of buying and repairing bicycles and giving them away to children as well as forming "Brethren Bunch," a group of young people who memorized Scripture chapters and sang in many churches across several states and on the Capital steps in Washington DC. He received a Carnegie Hero Award in 1983 for diving into the Des Moines River to rescue a 75-year-old drowning man. In 1984, John also started a computer business from which he retired in 2002. He is survived by wife Jennie and daughters **Patti** (Eric) **Taylor** (C 84) and Jeannie Sholly, all in Warsaw IN. Also surviving are six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



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**Pastor Howard Max Snively** (DipTh 62) went to be with the Lord on Sept. 27, 2015, in Fort Wayne IN. He was married to Evelyn Marie, who preceded him in death on Jan. 28, 2014, for 66 years. He was a 26-year resident of Kosciusko County (IN) where he was a member of Dutchtown Brethren Church (Warsaw). Upon enlisting in the US Navy in 1944, he served as seaman first class until his honorable discharge in July 1946. He pastored several Grace Brethren Churches in Ohio, Washington, Alaska and Warsaw, retiring in 1988. He then became a bus driver for Warsaw Community Schools from 1989 to 1999. Surviving are sons **Dan** (BA 72, S 84) (**Joan Ogden** BA 73, S 84) (Indianapolis IN) and **Michael "Mike"** (C 71) (Beth) **Snively** (Warsaw IN); daughters **Dianne** (C 73) (**Joseph "Joe"** BA 72) **Lund** (Warsaw IN), and **Janice "Jani"** (C 76) (Ed) **Strang** (Pierceton IN); twin brother Harold Max (Peggy McBride) (Sun Lakes AZ); 12 grandchildren; and 30 great-grandchildren.

**Mary Annette** (Schultz C 79) **Thompson** went to be with the Lord on Dec. 5, 2015. Mary was married to **Raymond "Bud" Thompson** (BDiv 53) for 46 years until his passing in September 1993. Mary attended the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (Biola University) and was an insurance company secretary. As a young family, they moved to Winona Lake IN where Bud earned a Master of Divinity from Grace Theological Seminary. Upon Bud's graduation, they served at churches in Modesto and Bellflower CA before returning to Winona Lake in 1967 when Bud began work with Grace Brethren Foreign Missions. During the next few years, Mary served as writer and editor for Free Methodist Headquarters. They completed their careers by serving eight years with Grace Brethren Navajo Mission in Counselor NM before their retirement and return to their Winona Lake home. Mary was always involved with children and was a mentor, friend and faithful example to all who knew her. Mary was a member of Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church since 1967. She will be lovingly remembered by sons **Paul** (BS 81) (**Kandy Moore** BS 83) (Westfield IN) and **Dr. Don** (BS 85) (Dale) (Birmingham AL); daughters **Judy Rae** (BA 70) (**Glenn** BA 70, S 72) **Firebaugh** (State College, PA), **Alice** (BA 71) (**Ron** BA 70) **Kinley** (Portland OR), **Susie** (BME 73) (**Dave** BA 74, MDiv 80) **Hobert** (Paray-le-Monial France and Winona Lake IN) and **Janice** (BS 75) (**Mark** BS 77) **Workman** (Winona Lake IN); 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and brother John (Willi) Shultz (Temecula CA).

**Janet Varner** (S 80) passed into the presence of the Lord on Nov. 6, 2015. After she graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Janet taught fifth and then sixth grade for the next 10 years. During this time, a fellow teacher invited her to go to church. After seven years of invitations, Janet agreed and soon reconfirmed her stand and began to seek God's will for her life. Miss **Ruth Snyder** (MDiv 40), now deceased missionary to the Central African Republic, played an integral part in Janet's introduction to Africa where Janet eventually spent an educational sabbatical. Upon seeing the need for missionaries in the CAR, Janet returned to the States and attended Grace Theological

Seminary. Janet then went to language study in Albertville, France, and arrived in the CAR in 1981. She primarily worked with women and girls in a teaching and discipleship ministry as well as cared for various financial responsibilities. Janet was medevaced to the States in November 1997 for cancer surgery, radiation treatments and chemotherapy. She had also served in Yaoundé, Cameroon, due to political instability in the CAR. In her 40 years of ministry, Janet most recently served her Savior as a missionary in Bangui, and after being protected from the violence and unrest in the CAR for many years, the Lord welcomed her home after a sudden illness in the weeks leading up to her passing. Her Encompass World Partners family grieves the loss of this dear friend and will miss her selfless commitment to her Lord and to others.



#### Golden Grad Reunion | 1966

Congratulations, Class of 1966. It's your Golden Graduation! Plan on returning to campus **May 5-7, 2016**, to celebrate! Over the past 50 years, a lot has changed: We've built new facilities, added new programs and hired some new faculty. But the Grace family bond is as strong as ever, and we know you'll be encouraged and inspired by what God continues to do through Grace College & Seminary. You are an essential part of our history, and we want to honor your place in our family. Don't miss it!



## CALL FOR ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Alumni Advisory Council invites you to submit your nomination(s) for the 2016 Grace College & Seminary Alumni Awards. To find the list of awards (We've added a new one: Parent Distinguished Service Award!) and submit your recommendations, visit [www.grace.edu/alumni-awards](http://www.grace.edu/alumni-awards). Nominations should be submitted by Monday, May 2, 2016. Any nominations received after May 2 will be considered for our 2017 Alumni Awards. All 2016 awards will be presented over Homecoming and Family Weekend. Thank you for helping us honor Grace College & Seminary alumni.

# JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

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[www.facebook.com/GraceAlumniCommunity](http://www.facebook.com/GraceAlumniCommunity)

Join us on Facebook to stay connected with former classmates and friends, share your news, find out what's happening at Grace and get the latest on upcoming alumni events.







## Stephen Copeland Places in the Top 10 for CCCU Award

The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) launched a new Young Alumni Award in October 2015 to highlight the significant impact of alumni from Christian colleges and universities. The award is given to an individual who has graduated within the last 10 years from a CCCU member institution and has achieved uncommon leadership or success in a way that reflects the values of Christian higher education.

Thirty CCCU institutions participated in nominating a candidate for the 2016 CCCU Young Alumni Award. Grace College nominated **Stephen Copeland** (BS 11) who received the 2014 Grace Young Alumni of the Year Award. Thousands of people cast their votes for the 30 nominees, and Copeland earned a spot as one of the top 10 finalists in the competition, each of whom will be featured in an upcoming issue of the CCCU publication.

Copeland is a nationally recognized sports writer for Sports Spectrum magazine. He is a co-author for notable books on sports and faith, including "Finally Free" with NFL quarterback Michael Vick, "Raising Boys The Zeller Way" with Steve and Lorri Zeller (parents of Luke, Tyler and Cody Zeller) and "Fall To Grace" with former NCAA Division I basketball coach Dave Bliss.

### ANY NEWS?

SUBMIT AN ALUM NOTE TO 2|8|9

Maybe it's a new job, ministry or retirement. Maybe you've written a book or received an award. Maybe you've found the love of your life or you've become a parent for the first time (or the seventh time)! Tell us the latest news in your life at [www.grace.edu/alumnotes](http://www.grace.edu/alumnotes) and choose to publish it as an Alum Note in an upcoming edition of 2|8|9. You can also submit a note by emailing it to [alumni@grace.edu](mailto:alumni@grace.edu).

[www.grace.edu/alumnotes](http://www.grace.edu/alumnotes)

## REACHING OUT FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

When our team decided to focus this 2|8|9 edition around the idea of "grafted," it resonated with me deeply. So many Grace alumni have adopted children of their own. Many of you have a firsthand understanding of what it means to invite someone else into the unconditional love of your family. Before we even had a theme for this issue, the Alumni Engagement Office was planning to host a banquet at Homecoming and Family Weekend 2016 for those who have been adopted or have adopted.

The other reason I was so vested in this theme is because my wife, Glenda (Hoskinson C 80), and I adopted two of our five daughters. We were not looking or planning to adopt. In fact, we had three young daughters already when God opened the door in the most surprising way for us to welcome Natalie (BS 13) and Daphne (BS 11) into our family. I've witnessed in a whole new way how God exchanges ashes for beauty — and not just in my daughters' lives, but in my own too.

The truth is, we all have an "ashes-for-beauty" story. Adoption has been a part of God's plan for each of us from the beginning. In His love, God predestined us for

adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:4-5). We have been grafted into the family of God and are co-heirs with Christ.

My daughters, who are also fellow Grace grads, agreed to share a little of their own physical and spiritual adoption with you, and I hope as you read it, you'll sit in wonder at how good our Father God is.

**We want to collect and share your stories of adoption and foster care too. Head over to our Facebook page "Grace Alumni Community" ([www.facebook.com/GraceAlumniCommunity](http://www.facebook.com/GraceAlumniCommunity)) and post your experience there.**



Dennis

**Dennis Duncan** (BS 80)  
Director of Alumni Engagement





Pictured is the Duncan family in Winona Lake, Ind. (left to right): Silas Gaff, Elliot Gaff, Daphne (Duncan BS 11) Gaff, Natalie Duncan (BS 13), Naomi Gaff, Denny Duncan (BS 80), Glenda (Hoskinson C 80) Duncan, Elena Duncan, JJ Hornaday, Emily (Duncan) Hornaday, Josie Hornaday, James Hornaday, Jonah Hornaday, Erika (Duncan) Lewis and Alex Lewis.

## The Weekend of a Lifetime

by Kerith Ackley-Jelinek

Before becoming Grace's director of alumni engagement, Denny Duncan served as principal of Jefferson Elementary (Warsaw, Ind.) for 18 years. It was on a Friday afternoon in 1996 when one of his first-graders, Daphne (Duncan BS 11) Gaff, and her 4-year-old sister, Natalie (BS 13), were brought to his office. Their mom had driven them back to school, and told the school office that she just couldn't take care of them any more.

This wasn't the first time Denny had interacted with Daphne and Natalie's single mom. "I came to school with a bruised face," remembers Daphne. "My teacher asked me what happened, but my mom had told me to lie about it if I was asked." There had been a party the night before and everyone was drunk. No one had been supervising Daphne, and she had fallen. The teacher knew the signs. Daphne had come to school with indications of neglect before, and although Daphne didn't know it at the time, Denny had been working with her mom over the past year to get her help with an alcohol addiction and to maintain a job.

But on that Friday afternoon, Denny and his wife, Glenda (Hoskinson C 80), took Daphne and Natalie home for the weekend, assuming the stay would be temporary, while Child Protective Services figured out custody and the next course of action for the girls. That weekend eventually turned into a lifetime.

For the next couple of years, Daphne and Natalie were in and out of the Duncans' household as their mom would work to get healthy and then have a setback. During those years, Daphne and Natalie remember the Duncans doing everything they could to keep the girls in a healthy relationship with their mom. "They never intended to adopt us. They were like grandparents to us who would always be there for us no matter what," says Natalie.

By the time Daphne was in fourth grade and Natalie was in second grade, the Duncans asked the girls if they could adopt them. "I was excited," says Daphne. "It had been so much back and forth between them and our mom. By that point, we were spending more time with the Duncans than with my mom, and by the time they asked us, they felt like family." Daphne had been the one to suffer more of the physical abuse that resulted from her mom's alcohol and drug abuse, but Natalie had been more attached to her mom. "Daphne bore the brunt of her aggression," says Natalie. But even though Natalie doesn't remember much of the violence, she also wanted to live with the Duncans. "Any time we had visitations with my mom, I would cry. Daphne would take care of me. I remember when we were visiting our mom, we'd often end up going down to the pay phone in the trailer park to call the Duncans."

It took two more years before the girls were legally adopted. (Daphne was in sixth grade and Natalie was in fourth grade.) Those early years were difficult, says Daphne, because they didn't know how to behave appropriately. They weren't raised with any Christian values, and Natalie didn't speak any English because Spanish was their first language.

But even in the midst of the transition, the girls say that Denny and Glenda included them as full members of the family from the very first moment they began staying with them. "We never felt different or excluded. We were all cared for and disciplined in the same ways," says Daphne.

They still have daily reminders of their difficult childhood. They stand out in family photos; they don't know their medical history; and they grew up without access to their cultural heritage. Natalie also daily sees kids that were just like her where she

teaches at an inner-city school in Indianapolis. "Child Protective Services is called regularly on a lot of these kids," says Natalie. "I think about my adoption all the time because I see Daphne and me in these kids. I want every one of those kids to have parents like ours."

Daphne already has three kids of her own, but both she and Natalie hope to adopt. "I cannot imagine where we would be today if Glenda and Denny hadn't taken us into their home and taught us about God and to follow God," said Daphne.

"Our dad is a rock star," chimes in Natalie. "Imagine having three girls of your own, an established household, and saying, 'Sure, I'll take two more girls home with me.' I have so much gratitude for him and what he did; he did for us what Christ did for everybody. He's a perfect example."

"And can you imagine what Glenda went through for us?" adds Daphne. "As a mom now, I so clearly realize kids are born with sin! They are hard work and she already had three young children. To take on two more with all of the unknown baggage? All that extra work. It's one of the most selfless acts you can do — take kids who are not your own and raise them as your own."

Daphne and Natalie understand in an entirely different way what it means to be chosen to be loved unconditionally. "Our parents didn't have to love us. It's the most beautiful picture of Christ's love: He didn't have to choose us, but He did," says Daphne. "I always say I've been adopted twice, once by my parents and once by God. Like my parents, Jesus adopted us when we weren't worthy, when we had nothing to offer, and gave us the free gift of life. And both adoptions have forever changed the trajectories of our lives." ■



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The world-famous Harlem Globetrotters razzled and dazzled across Grace College's Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center on Jan. 20 as a part of their 90th Anniversary World Tour. The Globetrotters, whose last appearance at Grace was in 2011, entertained an estimated crowd of 1,650, displaying their universally recognized flair and style on the hardwood.

"We thoroughly enjoyed hosting the Globetrotters," said Grace Athletic Director Chad Briscoe. "They bring a world-class style of family entertainment, and we were thrilled to bring them back to the Winona Lake area."

The Globetrotters' star-studded cast included the likes of Ant Atkinson, Thunder Law and the 7-foot-4-inch Stretch. Spectators were treated to a number of thunderous alley-oops and several series of dribbling wizardry that gave fans both young and old a night to remember.



# The Harlem Globe Trotters Razzle & Dazzle