

# GRACE

## STORY

VOL. 39, ISSUE 1 / SPRING 2019

### ALUMNI PROFILE

## Chet Kammerer

(BA 64), senior adviser of basketball operations for the Miami Heat, will be inducted into The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the NCCAA Hall of Fame in 2019.

### COVER STORY

## Dr. Rick Blackwood

(DMin 97) serves as lead pastor of Christ Fellowship, a multicultural and international church with nearly 10,000 people attending on the weekends. It's been anything but easy.

### HOMECOMING 2019

## October 4-5

Join us for Homecoming and enjoy a variety of gatherings including: the Grace Theological Seminary reunion; the inaugural Library Reunion; the third annual Homecoming Parade and more!

[WWW.GRACE.EDU](http://WWW.GRACE.EDU)



S U F F  
I C I E  
N C Y





With an economy of words, the Holy Spirit, through King David, gives us a comprehensive catalog of the characteristics and benefits of Scripture. Each of his six statements in Psalm 19:7-10 highlights a characteristic of God's Word and describes its effect in the life of one who embraces it.

"The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."

"Perfect" is the translation of a common Hebrew word meaning "whole," "complete" or "sufficient." It conveys the idea of something that is comprehensive, so as to cover all aspects of an issue.

The late Bible commentator and theologian Albert Barnes said it this way: "The meaning of 'perfect' is that Scripture lacks nothing for its completeness. It is complete as a revelation of Divine truth; it is complete as a rule of conduct. It is absolutely true ... it is an unerring guide of conduct. There is nothing there which would lead [humans] into error or sin; there is nothing essential for [humans] to know which may not be found there."

The Bible is permanent, unchanging and therefore relevant to everyone in every age of history. It has always been and will always be sufficient.

At Grace College & Seminary, the sufficiency of Scripture is part of our bedrock understanding about God's self-revelation to humankind. Throughout this magazine, every story uses different language to describe the sufficiency of Scripture. I invite you to find it in the stories of Dr. Freddy Cardoza, who finds his purpose in it; Kim Kroll (MDiv 14), who stakes her future on it; Dr. Rick Blackwood (MDiv 97), who anchors his life upon it; and Lonnie Anderson (MDiv 12), who uses it as his life compass.

When I read these Grace stories, I am reminded that though we are among a dwindling group of colleges and universities who maintain such strong claims to truth, inerrancy and biblical fidelity, our commitment to the sufficiency of Scripture resurfaces again and again in the lives of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. Be encouraged. We are still on mission. ▼



*Bill Katip*

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



# inside

VOLUME 39 | ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2019

5

## All Revved Up

Pastor Lonnie Anderson (MDiv 12) chats with *Grace Story* about some of the insights God has given him over his decades-long tenure in church ministry. It's no wonder so many Grace students make the three-hour round trip to hear Anderson preach at the multicultural church he pastors in Kokomo, Indiana.

11

## Seeking Sufficient Answers

After spending six years earning two master's degrees, God led Kim Kroll (MDiv 14) to continue her education and pursue her doctorate at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Through it all, read how God revealed to her that following His leading is the only fruitful option, and life in Jesus is the reward.

17

## Of Rocks and Roots

What makes Dr. Freddy Cardoza the perfect leader for Grace Theological Seminary is more than his professional experiences. Not only has he spent the last two decades serving churches and teaching at universities all over the U.S., but he's done so after breaking out of the literal and figurative wilderness of his youth through the far-reaching hand of God.

21

## Miami Vices & Ministry Virtues

Over the past 20 years, Dr. Rick Blackwood (DMin 97) has pastored one of the fastest growing churches in America. He's also a recent colon cancer survivor. No matter what challenges he's faced, discover why Blackwood is convinced that holding fast to the Word of God is the only way to live at peace.







# GRACE STORY

## Institutional Mission

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

## Grace College & Seminary Administration

**President:** Dr. Bill Katip BA 74

**Vice President of Advancement & Marketing:** Dr. Drew Flamm

**Director of Alumni Engagement:** Denny Duncan BS 80

## Grace Story Creative Team

**Creative Director / Editor-in-Chief:** Kevin Sterner C 94

**Managing Editor:** Kerith Ackley-Jelinek

**Art Director / Designer:** Scott Kramer

**Contributing Writers:** Amanda Banks, Josh Neuhart BS 11, Bryan and Chelsea Thompson

**Photography:** Samantha Baker, Andrew Palladino

**Alum Notes Editor:** Collette (Lehman BS 90) Olson

**Copy Editors:** Mary (McNally BS 78) Polston, Sarah Prater BS 10, Dr. Paulette (Macon BA 64, CERT 77) Sauders

## On The Cover

Dr. Rick Blackwood (DMin 97), lead pastor of Christ Fellowship in Miami, Florida, preaches at the University of Miami Watson Center during a Christ Fellowship revival event in October 2017. Photo by Enamarie Montero, courtesy of Christ Fellowship.

Comments may be sent to [gracestory@grace.edu](mailto:gracestory@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.

**GRACE**  
COLLEGE &  
SEMINARY

200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, IN 46590  
800-544-7223, [www.grace.edu](http://www.grace.edu), [gracestory@grace.edu](mailto:gracestory@grace.edu)



# All Revved





*Longtime preacher Lonnie Anderson (MDiv 12) is a masterful communicator. Even his stream of consciousness is eloquent.*

# ed Up

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK

*His depth and warmth convey profound truths with an authenticity and humility that need to be experienced in his own voice.*



*As the senior pastor of Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church in Kokomo, Indiana, Anderson has been growing a thriving multicultural church over the last two decades. It's the kind of place where nobody can quietly slip in and out. "We sing a welcome song to every visitor," Anderson laughs.*

About a decade ago, Anderson decided — at the age of 35 and as a seasoned pastor of 15 years — to enroll in Grace Theological Seminary and earn his Master of Divinity. Since graduating in 2012, and while pastoring full time, Anderson drives three hours round trip every Monday night to teach “Exploring the Bible” to about 50 Grace freshmen. They affectionately call him “Revvie-Rev,” and many of them drive that same three-hour round trip to hear “Rev” preach in Kokomo.

*Grace Story* recently caught up with Revvie-Rev Lonnie Anderson for an interview. Enjoy some of the highlights.

▼ **Grace Story:** If you could identify three principles that have impacted you and your ministry the most, what would they be?

▼ **Anderson:** “Never make God prove that He can do this without you.” We have to stay humble, and give Him the glory. We cannot ever assume any of His glory or recognition; the spotlight remains on Him at all times. God is not going to share His glory, and I do not want to come into any conflict with God.

Second, as a pastor, “Before you try to lead them, love them.” We have to recognize that as pastors, we’re called into a life of service. I pray we never lose focus that we’re to love the people we lead. If people know that you love them, they’ll let you lead them — even if they don’t agree with you.

Finally, “It’s OK to get out of the box, but stay in the Book.” Tradition is nothing more than frozen success and the church being in love with who she used to be. It’s OK to be innovative and progressive but never OK to be doctrinally incorrect. The key to staying out of the box is keeping the Bible as our guide. It’s the Gospel and genuine and authentic love that the dying and lost world needs.

▼ **Grace Story:** What’s been the hardest season of your life, and how did you get through it?

▼ **Anderson:** I hope I don’t cry ... It was the passing of my father who was my greatest role model. He died April 11, 1999. I was 25 years old. I was preaching in Alabama when I got word he died of a heart attack. I had just talked to him on the phone the night before, and he was completely fine. I was scheduled to fly to Sacramento, California, to preach two days later, and I was going to see him then.

I went through a period of being angry at God, myself and my father. I didn’t understand why God would take my father, my hero, when there were other fathers who were bums — why didn’t He take them? I was also angry at myself, knowing I was supposed to arrive to see him on April 13 — how come I didn’t go a few days earlier? And I was angry at him [my father]: “You knew I was coming, and you left me.” It was a numbing period in my life where I experienced the full measure of grief.

*“In this Christian walk there are low moments, but you never have more mess or guilt than God has mercy and grace.”*

— REV LONNIE ANDERSON



# *“It’s OK not to be strong, but it’s not OK to be faithless.”*

— REV LONNIE ANDERSON

But because of the grief, I learned how to be a better pastor, especially to those who have lost loved ones. It was a period of pain and at the same time, experiencing God’s presence. He told me something: “It’s OK not to be strong, but it’s not OK to be faithless.” In my weakness and sadness, I found that God is a keeper of His word, that God’s presence is what you need. If it weren’t for the fact of eternal life through Jesus, I wouldn’t have made it. I had to wrestle, and I do mean wrestle — WWF-style wrestling — with my peace and my joy.

I had to believe God is sovereign. I just heard a quote: “It’s His world and His rules.” I got peace when I accepted that.

▼ **Grace Story:** You were already doing what you wanted to do. Why did you go back to school to get an MDiv?

▼ **Anderson:** The Lord had to work through a lot of my excuses: I’m too old, I already have two bachelor’s degrees and a master’s degree. But the Lord kept harassing me. I told Him I couldn’t find any schools that still believed in the Word of God. But the Lord just kept at me.

I was born and raised in California where there were different nationalities, origins and skin colors. When I moved to Selma, Alabama, things were still black and white. I couldn’t believe it. The West Coast was a melting pot, but Alabama was so polarized along racial

boundaries. It wasn’t what I was used to. So when God called me to Grace, which He showed me was a Bible-believing institution, I was hesitant because there weren’t too many people who looked like me. But it was so refreshing because even though I was one of only a few African-Americans, there were a lot of people who believed like me and loved like me. He also introduced me to some of the greatest minds on this planet. The professors were in line and in touch with the Scriptures. They literally poured into us and modeled being a vessel: not a bucket where blessing is stored but a pipe that blessings pour through.

▼ **Grace Story:** If you were able to ensure your students at Grace understood just three things, what would they be?

▼ **Anderson:** The Bible is still the unadulterated voice of God and still relevant. The Bible doesn’t *contain* the word of God, it *is* the word of God. God’s Word is still as real and relevant and rich as it has ever been; even though our culture changes, His Word stays the same. Secondly, I want them to know God has a plan and design for their lives. They are not here by accident. Yes, get your bachelor’s or master’s degree, but leave class knowing God has a plan, and He loves you. Thirdly, in this Christian walk, there are low moments, but you never have more mess or guilt than God has mercy and grace.

▼ **Grace Story:** What do pastors and leaders need to do to build and sustain a multicultural church?

▼ **Anderson:** Rule No. 1: Keep politics out of your pulpit. Especially with this political climate. Two, you have to teach. You can’t assume people get it. Since Sunday is still the most segregated hour of the week, God is calling for pastors to teach and set the climate in such a way that other cultures will feel comfortable coming into it. If pastors want a multicultural church, they must teach like it, love like it, invite like it. They must make the effort. It’s real work. Pastors need to ask: What are we bringing them into? What attitude will they be met with? What is the acceptance level here? Pastors need to look at what is happening in their congregation now. When other nationalities and races come into church, how embracing are we? Are we going to be inclusive in our fellowship? Start there. ▼





## Chris Singleton, Son of Charleston Shooting Victim, Addresses Grace Community



Singleton speaks at the annual MLK Day Community Event at the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center.

The Committee to Commemorate Martin Luther King (CCMLK) invited Chris Singleton to be its keynote speaker for its 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Event. Singleton is a professional baseball player for the Chicago Cubs and inspirational speaker. CCMLK hosted the event on Jan. 21 at the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center on Grace College & Seminary's campus.

Singleton's role as an inspirational speaker has led him to appear on ESPN's E:60, Sports Illustrated magazine and USA Today. His mother, Sharonda Coleman Singleton, was murdered along with eight other victims at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17, 2015, by a white supremacist. Singleton inspired his city and the nation by forgiving the man who murdered his mother.

During his address at Grace, Singleton shared about how he endured the atrocity through God's strength. Less than 24 hours after his mother was killed, Singleton says God gave him a singular message: "Love is stronger than hate." Singleton told the audience that it is "up to each and every one of us — not the people up top — to unite our cities," and that unity is only possible "when we teach our peers and youth to love based on character — not skin color."

Over the next two days, students continued to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. through "React Week," an

annual series of events designed to give students opportunities to reflect and respond to the purpose of King's life and teachings.

### About the CCMLK

Founded in 1987 by Joe Banks, Lynn Pulliam and Durell Hoskins, the CCMLK of Warsaw, Indiana, exists to provide a forum in which Martin Luther King Jr. is commemorated in the county. The CCMLK has honored the efforts of students for many years through Academic Excellence Awards, which give students of minority backgrounds scholarships to continue their education to the post-secondary level. The committee provides motivation to implement nonviolent social change through caring for others, strengthening the family, personal involvement in the suffering of others and civic participation. Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74) and Dr. Rachael Hoffert, Grace associate professor of education, serve on the committee. ▼







After Josh Sundquist inspired students at Career Week Chapel, he met and enjoyed lunch with a group of Grace students.



# Grace Welcomes Bestselling Author, Comedian and Paralympian Josh Sundquist

Josh Sundquist was the keynote speaker at Career Week Chapel on Feb. 21. Sundquist is an international motivational speaker, blending humor with life experiences to inspire audiences everywhere. He has authored two memoirs: National Bestseller “Just Don’t Fall” and “We Should Hang Out Sometime,” currently being developed into a movie. His first novel, “Love and First Sight,” was published in 2017.

Sundquist’s material is his life. As both an author and a comedian — he performs a one-man show weekly in Los Angeles, California — Sundquist communicates the lessons and humor of his unique life story. Sundquist was diagnosed with

bone cancer at age nine. He underwent chemotherapy and the amputation of his left leg before being declared cancer-free at age 13. Three years later, he began ski racing, and in 2006 Sundquist competed as a member of the U.S. Paralympic Ski Team. He continues to excel in athletics, now playing on the U.S. Amputee Soccer Team.

“We were thrilled to welcome Josh to campus,” said Denise Terry, director of the Center for Career Connections at Grace. “His is a remarkable story of overcoming obstacles and demonstrating true grit in the face of incredible life challenges.”

Sundquist’s appearance took place during Career Week, a week organized annually by the

Center for Career Connections to equip students with information and perspectives to guide the trajectory of their education. The event was made possible in part by Lippert Components. ▼

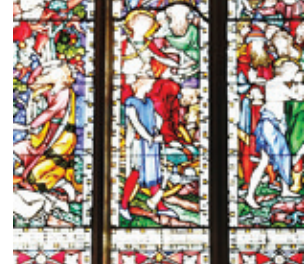




# Seeking Sufficient Answers

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK & CHELSEA THOMPSON





“THE CREATOR GOD HAD JUST COMMUNICATED WITH ME, AND  
I KNEW MY LIFE WAS NEVER GOING TO BE THE SAME.”

— KIM KROLL

St. Andrews is a small seaside town on Scotland's east coast. It's home to the University of St. Andrews, one of the top three universities in the United Kingdom, jockeying with Oxford and Cambridge. Although St. Andrews' latitude is roughly the same as Anchorage, Alaska, you can often find a bundled Kim Kroll (MDiv 14) scurrying the 1½ miles home from the School of Divinity.

In 2016, Kroll was awarded one of seven doctoral spots in the prestigious Logos Institute of Analytic and Exegetical Theology. She's writing her cross-disciplinary (philosophy and theology) dissertation on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

But just 10 years ago you would have found Kroll in New York, armed with a philosophy degree from Queens College, working at a community college and partying with friends in the evenings. From the outside, her life looked complete. But her innate drive to know the truth was splintering the reliance she placed on philosophy. She remembers feeling disgusted with the erosion of morality that shows up in the discipline over time. “I realized the answers weren't sufficient.”

A non-believing co-worker, who noticed Kroll's devotion to philosophy, happened to give her a copy of Soren Kierkegaard's Christian discourse “Purity of Heart to Will One Thing,” which takes on the topic of double-mindedness from the biblical book of James. For the first time in her life, Kroll read something that caused an intellectual crack in her worldview. “I had always understood that the world was broken,” she explains, “but didn't understand that I was broken.”

That brokenness led her to a class at a local church about the fundamentals of faith. Kroll approached the class from a philosophical angle, asking countless questions about free will, sovereignty, the problem of evil. One of the pastors began meeting with her every week to discuss

her questions and train her in studying the Scriptures for herself. She dove deep into her study, determined to discover the wisdom that had eluded her for so long.

After nine months of this discipleship training, Kroll experienced God in a personal way for the first time while attending her church's women's retreat. “I had been praying to understand what the fear of the Lord was, but I wasn't praying it for the right reason,” says Kroll. She remembers standing on the beach at the end of a rainy day, when the sun suddenly came out, and with it, a sense of God's love poured into her heart. “I started weeping,” Kroll says. “The creator God had just communicated with me, and I knew my life was never going to be the same.” She sees it now as her first encounter with the Holy Spirit — it brought a true understanding of what it meant to fear God, and with that came the beginning of the wisdom she craved.

“That was when the spirit of God came to indwell me. Now that I had found the truth, all I wanted to do was study Scripture.”

Kroll was baptized a month later and began weighing her options for graduate school when she received a chance invitation to travel with a Word of Life mission to Argentina. After three months immersing herself in the Word during this journey, Kroll was determined to attend seminary, though she wasn't entirely sure what that meant. An internet search, coupled with a recommendation from her pastor, led her to visit Grace Theological Seminary. Doors opened unexpectedly for Kroll — not only did she successfully apply, but she was given a significant scholarship, as well as a job offer that came straight from the provost himself.

Kroll says people often marvel at the faith that takes her from one major life transition to the next. From her perspective, however, these bold moves are marked by obvious leading from the Lord. “It almost feels like I don't have an option — like the disciples said, Where else would I go?”





Earning her Master of Divinity at Grace gave Kroll a firm foundation in biblical exegesis, thanks to the training of faculty such as Dr. Matt Harmon and Dr. Tiberius Rata. But as much academic value her studies at Grace gave her, the experience working and living in Grace's community was still more profound. "It's where I saw more tangible Kingdom work: people being saved and growing in their faith. I was a new Christian and a New Yorker," laughs Kroll. "I was rough around the edges, but they were kind and patient."

Kroll had the garage passcode to the Harmons' house and could show up without warning at Dr. Christy Hill's home. She remembers weeping in Dr. Roger Peugh's (BA 65, MDiv 68, DMin 06) prayer class. "And *he* would weep! The purity of his heart and vulnerability in front of the class, the way we were all pilgrims on this journey, that no one had better access to the Lord than another — I saw these truths lived out so purely in him."

The faculty at Grace saw Kroll's capacity to think deeply and critically about her faith and encouraged her to continue her education. She continued to shine as a member of the community, revolutionizing the Learning Center at Grace, mentoring students and establishing the Women's Ministry at Grace whose legacy continues to this day.

After graduating with her Master of Divinity

from Grace, she went on to earn her Master of Arts in Philosophy from Biola University. At that point, after six years of graduate work, Kroll felt ready for a break from academia. She loved her teaching job, her local church and the California weather. But again, God's hand intervened, leading her to pursue her doctorate. The St. Andrews offer appeared unexpectedly, involved three unlikely factors: full funding, a cross-disciplinary approach and the opportunity to go straight into research rather than repeating studies

she had already completed. With almost no scholarship done on the Holy Spirit's indwelling, Kroll now has the unique opportunity to explore it within one of the world's most renowned academic settings.



Nevertheless, the privilege comes with challenges. The work is often lonely, and the school's highly traditional culture can be difficult to navigate, to say nothing of adapting to life in a different country. Moreover, Kroll often wrestles with the time she continues to spend in academia, since she believes that Kingdom work often happens best outside of the four walls of an institution. But God has shown her that no matter where He places her and the work He asks her to do, it's only her job to follow.

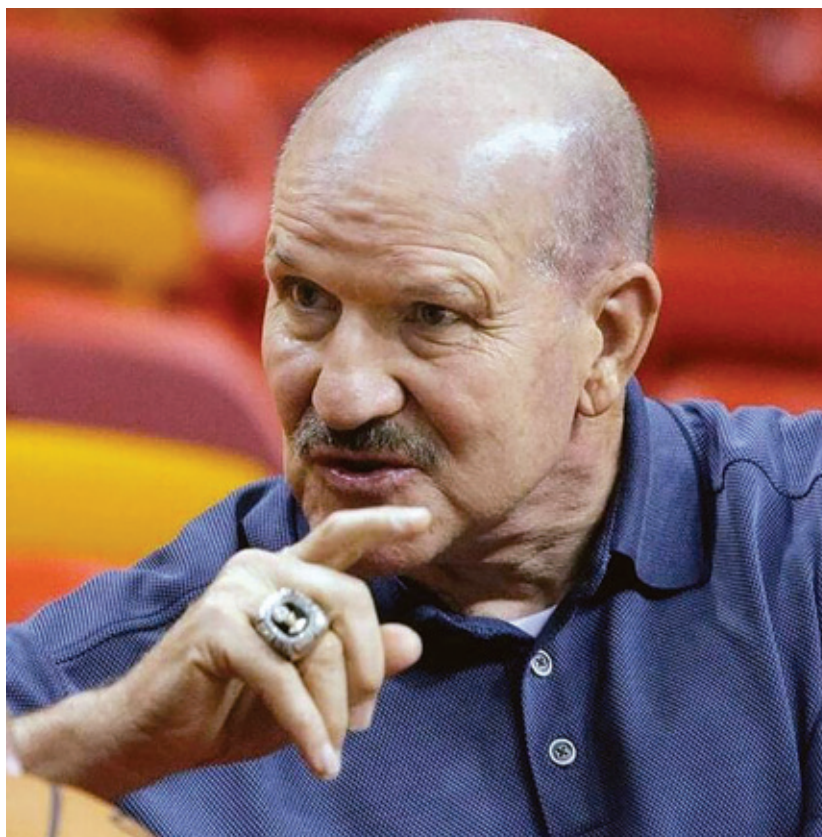
She recounts the story of Baruch in Jeremiah 45 where he is assigned the role of writing down the words of God as directed by Jeremiah. Baruch is feeling sorry for himself and the burdensome work he must do when the Lord speaks to Baruch, calling him out by name through Jeremiah. The Lord asks Baruch why he is seeking great things for himself and instructs him, saying, "Do not seek them. I am bringing destruction on this whole land but I have given you your life as a prize of war." (Jeremiah 45:5) "Perhaps it's an obscure chapter to find such meaning in," admits Kroll, "but what it underscores for me is that I've been given life in Christ, and *that* is the prize."

Whether she's in New York or Indiana, southern California or northern Scotland, "It's always about Jesus," she insists. "No matter what He has me do or where He has me go, it's His way. I trust Him." ▼



*I've been given life in Christ.*





Chet Kammerer (BA 64) begins his 23rd year with the Miami Heat in the newly created role of senior adviser of basketball operations. Kammerer, who spent the previous 14 seasons (2004-18) as vice president, will continue to scout for the NBA team and serve as an adviser to President Pat Riley and Senior Vice President Andy Elisburg.



Pictured above and below is Kammerer during his coaching career at Grace (1965-1975).



## Kammerer to Become Two-Time 2019 Hall Of Famer

Grace basketball legend Chet Kammerer (BA 64) will join not just one, but two, halls of fame in 2019: The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the NCCAA Hall of Fame. Previously, Kammerer was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2000 and became a member of Grace's inaugural Lancer Hall of Fame in 2008.

Kammerer was inducted into The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame at its award banquet on March 20, 2019. The Hall encompasses success on the Indiana basketball landscape including high school state championship players, Indiana All-Stars, All-Americans, international professional careers and outstanding contributions to the sport and the state of Indiana.

Additionally, Kammerer will be inducted into the NCCAA Hall of Fame at its banquet on May

30, 2019, during the NCCAA Annual Convention in Greenville, South Carolina. The Hall recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding leadership to the NCCAA, display Christian integrity, make a positive contribution by serving the Lord and maintain a continued interest in Christian higher education and intercollegiate athletics.

Kammerer played four years of basketball for the Lancers, setting the school and intercollegiate career scoring record of 2,504 career points — still the most points ever scored in a Lancer uniform.

He began his coaching career at Grace in 1965 and went on a stellar 10-year run. He won 183 games, second-most behind Jim Kessler (BS 70), and helped Grace reach four NCCAA national tournaments. Kammerer's coaching success propelled him to the ranks of Westmont College (California),

where he won another 359 games over 17 seasons. Kammerer, who was a pioneer in the NCCAA, also served as the NCCAA president from 1974 to 1976.

In 1992, following his tenure at Westmont, Kammerer became the assistant coach for the Los Angeles Lakers and then served as head coach of the Division I Professional Basketball Team of Braunschweig, Germany. Kammerer has spent the last two decades working as a vice president for the Miami Heat, winning multiple NBA championships during his time.

His consistent Christian testimony continues to invite others to become strong followers of Christ. ▼





ATHLETICS NEWS ON AND OFF THE COURT

# Winona Lake: Aka Tourney Town



Spring time means tourney time for Winona Lake! From **March 16-19**, Grace hosted the men's and women's NCCAA Division I Basketball National Championships. This marked the 11th straight year that Grace hosted a basketball championship.



On **May 8-10**, Grace will host the NCCAA Track and Field Championships for the second consecutive season. The event is held at the Bernard and Linnie Key Track and Field Complex, which was completed in 2016.



# Grace Enjoys Record-Setting Fall



Grace's men's and women's soccer teams boasted seven All-American honors: (left to right) Kurt Hamlin, Aubrey Feipel, Jenni Phillips, Bethany Blackwood, Allison Vroon and Cody Boerema.



Lancer Caylie Teel (center) was named the Crossroads League Player of the Year and was the only player in the U.S. to record 500 kills and 500 digs.



Pictured are tennis players Jayna Armstrong (left) and Morgan Mast celebrating a point for the Lady Lancers during the fall season.



Grace's women's soccer team was recognized on Feb. 9, 2019, as the 2018 Crossroads League champions. The Lady Lancers gathered around their conference championship banner which will hang in the rafters of the MOCC, the first in program history.



Golfers Noah Wright (left) and Olivia Shaw competing in the fall.

Grace Athletics enjoyed a wealth of success during the fall, marking arguably the finest fall season in school history. For starters, Grace's **women's soccer team** won its first conference championship in program history. The Lady Lancers finished the year with 20 wins (another program record) and hosted an NAIA Opening Round match for the national tournament.

Grace's **men's soccer team** reached the NCCAA semifinals for the first time since 1976. The Lancers had five All-American honors, including First Team nods to Kurt Hamlin and Cody Boerema. Both athletes were honored at the United Soccer Coaches Convention in Chicago, along with Lady Lancer All-Americans Allison Vroon, Bethany Blackwood, Jenni Phillips and Aubrey Feipel.

The **volleyball team** had two outstanding honors. Caylie Teel was named the Crossroads League Player of the Year; she was the only volleyball player in America this year to record at least 500 kills and 500 digs, including NAIA and NCAA Division I, II and III. Alexa Hill was given the prestigious Susan R. Hellings Award from the NCCAA, the highest individual honor handed out to volleyball student-athletes by the NCCAA, recognizing one individual each year for outstanding Christian character, athletic and academic achievement and community service.

Grace's **women's tennis team** rewrote its own record book as well. Coach Marcus Moore led Grace to its best season in team history. The Lady Lancers

won a program-record 14 matches and advanced to the semifinals of the Crossroads League Tournament.

Grace's **men's and women's golf teams** both competed at NCCAA Nationals for the first time in school history. Grace women's coach Denny Duncan (BS 80) led the Lady Lancers to the national tournament in just the fourth year of the program's existence.

**GRACE**  
— LANCERS —



BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK



# OF ROCKS & ROOTS





---

# GRACE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S NEW DEAN, DR. FREDDY CARDOZA, HAS A SURPRISING HERITAGE.

During his earliest days, Cardoza was raised by a single mother in a home with no indoor plumbing. He grew up rooted in the remote Appalachian hills of Eastern Tennessee — the grandson of a Portuguese immigrant.

Cardoza and his twin brother Teddy were the only minorities within three counties. “We got beat downs and jumped constantly. Picture ‘The Dukes of Hazzard,’ and you’ll get the idea,” Cardoza explains.

But even in the middle of nowhere, with nothing to his name, 13-year-old Cardoza was never outside the gaze of Jesus. He was invited to hear NFL football star Reggie White, who at the time was playing for the University of Tennessee, share the Gospel. Jesus saved Cardoza on the spot. By the time he was 16, he knew God was calling him into ministry.

“My life is a case study on existential meaning,” observes Cardoza. “When you have tragedy and pain and struggles and obstacles in your life, you look for an anchor. I was looking for something that matters and something that was real.”

Now, with two graduate degrees, more than 26 countries stamped in his passport and 20 years of experience in churches and higher education, Cardoza isn’t trying to compensate for his past. Rather, he says, “Out of the health and wholeness and happiness and holiness that Jesus has given me, I want my life to be an offering to the Lord.”

When Cardoza celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary with his wife, Kristin, in the summer of 2018, it was a watershed moment for him. “My mom divorced twice. I couldn’t even conceptualize what a healthy family was,” confesses Cardoza. Reaching 25 years of marriage was not only proof of God’s undeserved, lavish blessing on his life but that nothing is too hard for God. “God’s grace can redeem any dysfunction and uncertainty and spoil,” he says.

Besides breaking the cycles of poverty and divorce, Cardoza was the first in his family and extended family to graduate from college. After earning his bachelor’s degree in ministry from Liberty University and his master’s degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, he began teaching part time at a college and working at a church. God moved him and his family to multiple churches situated in rural, suburban and urban environments in eight different states where he served in a variety of roles including ministry leader, equipper and consultant. Simultaneously, Cardoza taught at regional higher learning institutions, including John Brown University (Siloam Springs, Arkansas), the former Chicago Extension of Southern Seminary and Midwestern Seminary (Kansas City, Missouri).

While honing his ministry and teaching skills, Cardoza earned his doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and for the past 10 years, Cardoza served in the Office of the Provost and as chair of the Christian Education programs at Talbot School of Theology of Biola University. Concurrently, he served as executive director of the Society of Professors in Christian Education, an academic society serving ministry professors in 150 colleges and seminaries.

In the midst of his successful career, where he was also investing heavily in Saddleback Church (Irvine South Campus), God clearly called him from sunny Southern California to, well, sometimes less sunny, Northern Indiana. When Cardoza fielded the call from Grace to consider applying for the dean of seminary position, he felt an overwhelming sense of peace and certainty. Grace’s biblical fidelity and its roots in Pietism coupled with its innovative spirit and strong team made Grace a compelling opportunity. “The character of the people at Grace is so genuinely holy, and that is not a word I use lightly,” he remarks.

Cardoza is most excited by the ways Grace has been investing in new, effective methods to deliver theological training to ministry leaders. Grace’s new Deploy program



brings Grace Theological Seminary to churches, and it's the only one of its kind in the U.S. that has The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accreditation and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation. "If you're a church doing great things, it is possible to host Grace in your spiritual community," says Cardoza, "and instead of sending your team to us for training, we'll come to you."

"The DNA of your church that has made you so successful — your philosophies, relationships, ways of doing ministry, that whole collective trust — remains intact," adds Cardoza. Not only do participants enrolled in Deploy get personal academic, spiritual and ministry mentors, but they also move through the degree program only as they successfully demonstrate competencies in each required area. That means churches are guaranteed that their leaders are in fact competent. "It's truly unique and innovative," says Cardoza. "I tell you that because I've been to institutions everywhere — and this program is one of a kind."



**"THE CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE AT GRACE IS SO GENUINELY HOLY, AND THAT IS NOT A WORD I USE LIGHTLY."** — DR. FREDDY CARDOZA

Cardoza hopes to expand Grace's reach by becoming a primary training hub for the most influential church leaders in the nation. "We want to partner with churches to provide their people with the training they need. So many churches are getting their staff from the corporate world because seminaries aren't producing the type of leaders they need. That's why we've created and implemented the competency-based program with Deploy."

Even as Grace Theological Seminary varies its educational delivery methods, including residential and online options, accelerated programs and Deploy, Cardoza says, "Biblically, we haven't budged an inch." Those deep roots and bedrock-firm foundation allow Grace to explore and expand with confidence.

"It's all theological education," explains Cardoza, "but different delivery systems for every student who has different needs and circumstances." It's not unlike how God met the needs and circumstances of a young boy growing up in Appalachia. "For he will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, which will yield its fruit in season; his leaf shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper." (Psalm 1:3) As Cardoza knows, it all comes down to roots and the rocks we cling to. ▼

# Q&A with DR. CARDOZA

## WHAT ARE YOUR "TRAPPED ON A DESERT ISLAND" BOOK AND MOVIE?

"Celebration of Discipline" by Richard Foster and "The Lord of the Rings" movies, which are like my other children.



## WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR FREE TIME? I'm a travel fanatic.

I love listening to the blues, and I'm fascinated by technology and its possibilities.

**A RECENT TRUTH GOD HAS TAUGHT YOU:** God can see you even when you can't see Him. Satan would trick us into believing that God isn't there, in order to demoralize and discourage us. But don't make the mistake of believing that just because you don't see God, He doesn't see you. He is faithful, and His mighty arm will save you.



**GO-TO STARBUCKS ORDER:** The Strawberry Frappuccino with whipped cream. They always ask me if I want whipped cream. Why do they ask me that? Who does not want whipped cream?

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** Always work before you play. I always get my work done before I allow myself to be free to do other things. Always.



**WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?** My Eagle Scout award. It means more to me than my doctorate. The area I lived in growing up was so economically depressed. There had been no Eagle Scouts in that community for about two decades. I was a new believer when I earned it, and it taught me early on that God can help me earn something substantial against all odds.

**MUST-HAVE SMARTPHONE APP:** Wunderlist. You've got to have it.



**WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN FOR?** Probably my vitality or drive. I'm tireless. I will give any amount of energy to anything that's important. And that energy is limitless and directed with exacting purpose.

**FAVORITE PERSON IN THE BIBLE:** Nehemiah. He was shrewd. Street smart. He anticipated potential opposition and was strategic. He did the unthinkable — rebuilding a wall in 52 days — and he did it in confident humility.





HEAR MORE FROM DR. CARDOZA  
ON **GRACE STORY PODCAST'S**  
INAUGURAL EPISODE AT:

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

Keep an eye out for Winston, the D.O.G. dog.

GRACE COLLEGE & SEMINARY  
DAY OF  
**Giving**  
04.25.2019  
#YouMakeADifference

You know Grace makes a difference in the lives of its students. Help make a difference by giving on April 25.

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



# *Miami Vices & Ministry Virtues*

## DR. RICK BLACKWOOD

---

BY BRYAN AND CHELSEA THOMPSON





**WHEN DR. RICK BLACKWOOD (DMIN 97) ARRIVED ON THE DOORSTEPS OF CHRIST FELLOWSHIP CHURCH AS ITS NEW PASTOR, HE WAS FULL OF ANTICIPATION. THE FAST-PACED CITY LIFE OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, EXCITED HIM, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE NEW CONGREGATION THAT AWAITED HIM.**

Miami was a far cry from Winona Lake, Indiana, where he was finishing his final year as a doctoral student at Grace Theological Seminary (GTS). You can hear the smile in Blackwood's voice as he recalls the first time he drove into the small, idyllic lake town. "I remember looking at this quaint college and thinking, 'This is the perfect place to study.'"

It also prepared him for the unforeseen uphill battle he would face during his first few years as a new pastor. While most of the congregation welcomed him, there was a group of leaders who made it clear to Blackwood, right from the beginning, that they ran the church, not him.

"I did not have the ability to overpower them," Blackwood admits. "I'm just not that strong a personality. But what I found was that I could get behind the Bible, and it had the power to do it for me. I could lead from the pulpit! I learned that at Grace — that's where I got my energy to move us forward."

Dr. Rick Blackwood (DMIN 97) is lead pastor of Christ Fellowship in Miami, Florida, and author of the book, "The Power of Multisensory Preaching and Teaching: Increase Attention, Comprehension and Retention."

Photos courtesy of Christ Fellowship.



## THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE FOR CHANGE

Blackwood remembers his experience at Grace as being incredibly peaceful, surrounded by good people and professors who invested personally in the lives of the students. “I’d been to other schools, but never one that was as personable as Grace,” Blackwood says. He also remembers the indelible lesson he received in his studies about the power of expository preaching. “The confidence I got from Grace is that Scripture is accurate, inerrant and powerful,” he says. It positioned him well when he arrived in Miami, where he saw, right from the beginning, that he was in for a battle.

“I found Miami to be a city like few others — spectacularly beautiful but pervasively lost,” Blackwood remembers. “I knew the city was extremely lost at that time — about 90 percent unchurched. After about two months, this pastor came up to me and said, ‘You need to get the hell out of here. This place is awful. It will kill you. It will kill your kids.’”

Blackwood found out later that church leaders were fleeing the city in droves. In fact, he was told that the Baptist Convention had given up on the city altogether. “It scared me. I started thinking ‘God, where have I come? What does all this mean?’ I remember God saying to me, in my heart, ‘Rick, I need you to stay. I need somebody to start a movement in this city, and you’re the one to do it.’”

“I wasn’t even sure what ‘a movement’ meant. So I decided to just pick a book [of the Bible] and go.”

Blackwood launched into a series of sermons on 1 Peter, building his messages around application of Scripture to their life as a church. “A lot of times, expository preaching is just information dumping, without pushing people to do something about it. So as I preached expositionally, I pushed people to be more than mere hearers of the Word; I pushed them to be *doers* of the Word. There were a lot of changes that had to be made in terms of the governance and traditions of the church. It was very stuck in the past; it was not poised to grow. I would say things like, ‘Our constitution and bylaws say we can’t do this. So what’s the authority — the bylaws or the

Bible?’ I remember people shouting, ‘The Bible! So we’d change it.’”

The shakeup didn’t sit well with the group of leaders who felt they ran the church. As Blackwood remembers it, “150 of them wanted to kill me.” He laughs. “Or at least fire me.” But he believed in the power of preaching the Bible to win the battle, and it’s what he committed to, in order to lead the church to make necessary changes.

“When the church interviewed me, they asked what I thought I could bring to the church that would help. I remember saying, ‘Not much. But I do have the Bible, and I believe it’s sufficient.’ And that was drilled in me at Grace.”

The Bible proved to be absolutely sufficient. Today, under Blackwood’s leadership, Christ Fellowship is known as one of the fastest growing and largest churches in America, with a membership of nearly 10,000 people and campuses in Cuba, Colombia, El Salvador and Jamaica. To an outside observer, it would seem that Blackwood’s greatest battle was behind him. But the future held another, far more personal battle for which he’d once again need the assurance of Scripture.

## ‘IT’S GOING TO BE AMAZING’

In 2011, terrible chest pains woke Blackwood out of bed at 3 a.m. “I was pouring sweat, my color was gray. I started to wake up my wife and realized I’m not going to make it.”

Blackwood’s wife woke up and immediately identified what was happening: He was having a heart attack. As she ran downstairs to let the paramedics inside, Blackwood lay alone in the bed and watched the room go dark around the edges. He was surprised by how he felt — not afraid, but sort of excited. “I remember thinking, ‘Everything I worried about today is about to not matter. I started thinking about that scene in Revelation 5, where everybody’s around God’s throne — I thought

‘I’m about to be in that crowd, and it’s going to be amazing.’”

Just then, he heard someone calling him, the darkness cleared away, and the paramedics rushed around him. Blackwood remembers thinking, “Oh, all my problems are back.” He laughs. “I was actually looking forward to going to heaven.”

He had a chance to revisit that same perspective again in 2016, when a minor pain sent him to the doctor, only to discover that he had stage 3 colon cancer. After battling through six months of hard chemotherapy, while continuing to preach and lead the church, Blackwood was declared cancer-free and has remained that way in the two years since. But he’s never forgotten the perspective on heaven that his close brushes with death taught him.

“I remember one class at Grace where we talked a lot about heaven. A lot of my excitement about the hope of heaven came from those classes. Why are we afraid of heaven? Why are we hanging onto this place, when that’s the future?”

Typically, Blackwood says, we only think about heaven when we or our loved ones are facing physical challenges. But in fact, it can inform every battle we face in our lives. For anyone facing relational challenges, financial issues or anxieties about the future, the thought of heaven can infuse our situation with hope.

“One of the things that has helped me, more than anything, is that if your hope is genuinely in heaven — if you think ‘my greatest days are there, not here’ — you’ll never really dread anything in this life,” Blackwood says. “The worst that can happen to me is that I die and go to heaven, and that’s the best that can happen to me! Once you really get your arms around it, the future is so much brighter.” ▼





*“I found Miami to be a city like few others — spectacularly beautiful but pervasively lost.”*

— DR. RICK BLACKWOOD



*“The worst that can happen to me is that I die and go to heaven, and that’s the best that can happen to me!”*

— DR. RICK BLACKWOOD



# ALUM NOTES

CONNECTING WITH OUR FAMILY OF FRIENDS

## CLASS NOTES

**1971**

**William Rudd** (MDiv 71) recently published his first book, "Should Women Be Pastors and Leaders in Church? My Journey to Discover What the Bible Says About Gender Roles." [drbrudd@msn.com](mailto:drbrudd@msn.com)

**1975**

**Ron Minton** (BA 75, MDiv 79, ThM 80) and wife Nancy moved to Ukraine as full-time missionaries in 2006 where they started International Baptist Bible College ([www.ibbc.info](http://www.ibbc.info)). The college has grown beyond all expectations, never decreasing in the number of classes held. [ronminton@gmail.com](mailto:ronminton@gmail.com)

**1976**

**01** Daughters of the late **Dr. E. William** (BDiv 55) and late **Ella Male** visited the Grace campus in October 2018 to tour the William Male Center for Seminary and Graduate Counseling, named in honor of their father. **Martha** (Male C 76) **Hines**, **Mary** (Male C 78) **Smith**, **Dr. Ruth** (Male BA 80) **Markham** and **Becky** (Male BS 83) **Colman** enjoyed seeing the tangible way their parents blessed Grace through their generosity. Becky shared, "It is exciting to see how God is continually blessing the work at Grace!"

**1999**

**02** **Deborah** (Jones BA 99) **Dunlevy** has published her sixth book, "Twin," a science

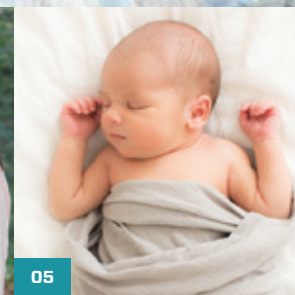
fiction novel about survival, family and the unpredictable nature of the universe. Her previous works include the five-book fantasy adventure series, "The Book of Sight," written for teens. Her books can be purchased on [madisonhousepublishing.com](http://madisonhousepublishing.com) or Amazon.

**2001**

**03** **Matt** (BS 01) **Groen** works as a supply manager for a large copper plant in the Detroit area, and his wife **Jori** (**Janigian** BS 01), is a high school math teacher at the Christian school that their daughters, Kari (16), Kelli (14) and Clara (10), attend. They have hosted a high school girl, Christina, from China who has lived with them for the past two years. What a blessing that Christina accepted Christ last year! The Groen family resides in Novi MI. [groenmj@yahoo.com](mailto:groenmj@yahoo.com)

**2006**

**Crystal** (**Ludwig** BA 06) **Schilthuis** graduated from Grace with a BA in English and went on to teach English overseas (prompted by a poster on Dr. Sauders' bulletin board!), earn her MA and then teach developmental writing for ESL students at Reading Area Community College (PA). Because of significant growth and increased student success from 2012 to 2017, its academic ESL program recently received national recognition as a finalist for the Examples of Excelencia award. [crystalynn84@hotmail.com](mailto:crystalynn84@hotmail.com)





## 2012

**04** Caleb and **Sherilyn (Troyer BS 12) Yoder:** Kieran Elliot, June 13, 2018. Kieran joined brother Theo (4) at their home in Partridge KS.

## 2013

Jared and **Sarah (Olson BA 13) Baergen:** Oliver James, Dec. 6, 2018. The family calls Union Grove WI home.

## 2014

**05** Michael (BA 14) and **Sydney (Pritchard BS 14) Humphrey:** Grayson Scott, Oct. 31, 2018. The Humphreys reside in Avon IN. sydneylizbeth.humphrey@gmail.com

**06** Drew and **Jacquelyn "Jackie" (Seal BA 14) Meadows:** Married on Sept. 9, 2018. The couple resides in Washington DC. sealj20@gmail.com

## 2015

**Brandon** (BA 15) and Claire **Knight:** Married on Sept. 8, 2018. The couple resides in Crown Point IN.

**07** Benjamin and **Kathleen (Graham BA 15) Philip:** Married on Aug. 18, 2018. The Philips now reside in Noblesville IN.

## 2016

**08** **Brandon** (BA 16) and **Natalie (Ferry BA 16) Shields:** Married on March 10, 2017. The couple calls Nappanee IN home.

**09** **Eric** (BS 16) and Chantel **Sorensen:** Married on Sept. 14, 2018. The couple is at home in Warsaw IN.

**10** Michael and **Alissa (Clemens BS 16) Wyrick:** Married on Aug. 25, 2018. The couple calls Bourbon IN home.

## IN MEMORIAMs

**11** **Reverend Glenn Byers** (BA 57, BDiv 60) passed away quickly and peacefully at the age of 83 in the midst of family on Aug. 11, 2018. On May 26, 1956, he married **Dolores M. (Jordan BA 56) Byers**, who survives. Upon completing his MDiv training at Grace, he began his pastoral ministry serving at the Singer Hill Grace Brethren Church (Johnstown PA) and returned to Warsaw in 1966. He also received his Master of Science in Education degree from St. Francis College (Fort Wayne IN). Glenn entered the education field in 1966 and retired in 1994 from Wawasee Middle School (IN). While teaching, Glenn pastored in several area churches. Glenn's most recent vocational ministry was chaplain for 18 years at Grace Village Retirement Community (Winona Lake IN); he retired in 2015. Glenn was a member of Lakeland Conservative Grace Brethren Church, where he served as an elder and deacon. He was a member of the Indiana State Teachers Retirement Association, Kosciusko County Retired Teachers Association, District Ministerium — Midwest District and the National College of

Pastors. Glenn also served in many interim pastorates, including New Salem Church of the Brethren (Dewart Lake IN) and Sidney Grace Brethren Church (Sidney IN). Glenn had a heart for people and for showing them how to know the Savior that he knew and loved. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 62 years Dolores M. Byers (Warsaw IN); daughters **Valerie (Byers BA 82) Brown** (Fort Wayne IN) and Noreen (Michael) Pollock (Fishers IN); sons **Brent (BS 83) (Brenda (Kent BS 82)) Byers** (Warsaw IN) and **Craig (BS 85) (Marlene (Cundiff BS 87)) Byers** (Piercetown IN); five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. Also surviving are his sister Eleanor McConaghy (Georgia) and brother William "Bill" (Betty) Byers (Georgia).

**Reverend John A. Rathbun** (MDiv 57) met Jesus face to face on Aug. 14, 2018. He grew up working at the Rathbun Dairy in Glen Ellyn IL. John graduated from Bryan College (Dayton TN) in 1954. While in college, he met Joyce Johnson, whom he married Aug. 20, 1954. He graduated from Grace Theological Seminary in 1957 and from Indiana University in 1960. After pastoring Pious Chapel (Idaville IN), John and Joyce went to Korea as missionaries with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) from 1961 to 1982 where John served in many leadership capacities, including president of Kwandong College and director of HLKX Christian radio. Returning to the U.S. in 1984, John served as a TEAM regional representative while living in Texas. He retired in 1998 and volunteered for Child Evangelism

Fellowship, Insight for Living and the Gideons. Following his stroke in 2014, he and Joyce moved to Kokomo IN in 2015 to be closer to his son Joel and family. John is survived by his wife Joyce; sons: John Mark (Debbie) (Fairbanks AK), Joel (Katrina) (Kokomo IN) and James (Kimberly) (Wheaton IL); daughter Joanna Rathbun (Cabo San Lucas, Mexico); four sisters; and eight grandchildren.

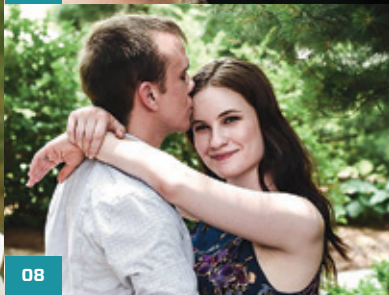
**12** **Raymond Gerald Maurer** (BA 58, S 61) went home to be with the Lord on Jan. 6, 2019. He was born on March 10, 1933, in Altoona PA to Raymond Gerald Maurer, Sr., and Elsie Grace (Sipes) Goldberg. Raymond was raised by his mother and stepfather Louis Goldberg. On June 2, 1956, he married Carol Margaret (Sell) Maurer, who survives. He was a member of the Golden Graduate Class of 1958. Ray was a resident of Kosciusko County (IN) for the past 49 years where he worked for 13 years in the print shop for United Telephone Company, later working at Mid-West Rake Company (Warsaw IN) until his retirement. He was a member of Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church and enjoyed photography, wood working, reading his Bible and most of all his grandchildren. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 62 years Carol (Winona Lake IN); sons **Stephen (C 79) (Mary) Maurer** (Fayetteville AR) and Mark (Kathy) Maurer (Mesa AZ); and daughter Susan (**Bill BS 89) Lehman** (Warsaw IN). Also surviving are five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



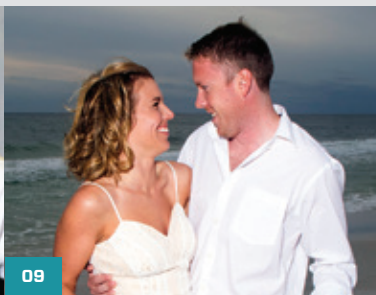
06



07



08



09



10



11



12



**13 Reverend George Raymond Christie** (BDiv 62) went to be with the Lord on Oct. 7, 2018. After marrying Phyllis McCarry on March 1, 1952, he transferred to Michigan State University, where he earned his BA in Geography. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army for a two-year stint in Germany. After sensing God's leading to prepare for vocational Christian ministry, he attended Grace Theological Seminary. George's entire 44-year career of pastoral ministry was spent in Washington State, where he served four established Grace Brethren churches and was used by the Lord to plant three other churches. He continued in full-time pastoral ministry until the age of 76. George and Phyllis retired in Yakima WA in 2006. George is survived by his wife of 66 years, Phyllis; sons **Randy** (C 72) (Teresa) **Christie** (Henderson NV) and **Vance** (BA 83, MDiv 86) (**Leeta** (Hale ASN 84, BS 84)) **Christie** (Aurora NE); daughters **Debbie** (**Christie** C 77) **Corning** (Yakima WA) and **Vicki** (**Christie** C 82) (**Bryan** C 83)) **Futch** (New Pekin IN); 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**14 Donalene "Donna" Houtby-Werker** (BS 65) passed away peacefully on Dec. 20, 2018, surrounded by her loved ones. Donna loved watching sports and crime shows. She loved traveling and going out on Wednesday nights with her friends from Target. Donna spent her spare time volunteering for Parkview Hospital (Fort Wayne IN) and teaching summer school. She was a member of the Grace College Golden Graduate Class of 1965 and then went on to Indiana University for her master's degree, graduating in 1976. She had worked as an elementary school teacher for 28 years at Wolf Lake Elementary School. She recently retired from Target (Fort Wayne IN) after 25 years. She is survived by: son Troy Eugene Werker (Fort Wayne IN); brother **Jim Houtby** (BS 68) (Hesperia CA); her dearest friend

and travel buddy, Donna Stinson (Fort Wayne IN); grandchildren: Troy Michael Werker (Fort Wayne IN), Nikki McCoy and Caden Clifford (both of Columbia City IN); stepdaughter Kris Werker Clifford (Columbia City IN); niece Lanette Houtby Zubro; nephews Jimmy Houtby and Eugene Houtby; and numerous other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

**15 Karen Lee** (Grove BS 70) **Bowling** passed away on Sept. 18, 2018, at her residence. On June 14, 1969, she was married to **James** ("Jim") **Edward Bowling** (BS 70). After graduating from Grace with a degree in elementary education, Karen taught at public schools in Troy (OH), Athens (OH), Miami (FL), and Toccoa Falls (GA). In 1986 she came to Winona Lake (IN) and taught at Warsaw Christian School and Lakeland Christian Academy, retiring in 2010. She was a resident of Kosciusko County (IN) for the past 32 years where she was a member of Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church. Karen was an active member of Blood Bought Bikers of the Christian Motorcyclists Association along with her husband Jim. She enjoyed reading, sewing and baking. Most of all, she loved her family, especially her grandchildren. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 49 years Jim (Winona Lake IN); son **Eric** (BS 95, MAIR 97) (**Kristine** (Gunsolley AS 97)) **Bowling** (West Chicago IL); and daughters Serena Nelson (Tampa FL) and **Susan** (C 98) (**Nate** (BS 00, MACMHC 12)) **Wessels** (Fort Wayne IN). Also surviving are six grandchildren, her sister and sister-in-law.

**16 Craig Allen Byers** (BS 85) passed away Oct. 25, 2018. He married **Marlene** (**Cundiff** BS 87) **Byers** on Aug. 24, 1985. Craig was a resident of Kosciusko County (IN) for the past 53 years where he was a 1981 graduate of Lakeland Christian Academy (Warsaw IN) and then earned his bachelor's degree

in psychology at Grace. Craig ministered at Grace Brethren Navajo Missions in New Mexico from 1990 to 1992. He worked in construction and for the past 17 years was a self-employed home renovations contractor. He enjoyed fishing and restoring Volkswagen Beetles. Craig never knew a stranger, was good hearted, always had an eye for the needy and most of all, he was very bold with his faith. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 33 years Marlene (Pierceton IN); sisters **Valerie** (**Byers** BA 82) **Brown** (Fort Wayne IN) and Noreen (Michael) Pollock (Fishers IN); brother **Brent** (BS 83) (**Brenda** (Kent BS 82)) **Byers** (Warsaw IN); mother **Dolores M.** (Jordan BA 56) **Byers**; and many nieces and nephews.

**17 David Ray Hinkel** (BS 87, S 88) died peacefully at home on Nov. 3, 2018. After graduating from Grace, he received a Master of Science in Education from Western Oregon University and a Master of Business Administration from Davenport University. Dave taught economics, psychology and sociology for 21 years in Mattawan Schools (Mattawan MI) "graduating," not retiring, in 2017. He became a certified financial adviser, working for Prudential. Surviving are his wife of 32 years **Cindy** (**Wagner** ASN 86) **Hinkel**, and children: **Jay** (BS 13) (**Mary** (James BS 13)) **Hinkel**, Elley Hinkel, **Sarah Hinkel** (BA 15) and Claire Hinkel.

**18 Dr. Musa Asake** (BA 88) passed away of an extended illness on May 11, 2018. Musa was born in southern Kaduna, Nigeria. After attending his primary school, he proceeded to Bible College, (Kagoro Kaura Local Government Area of the state) and then to Kagoro Teachers College. After returning to his home church (Evangelical Church Winning All, formerly Evangelical Church of West Africa), he served as assistant pastor and then pastor, and upon further theological training, he returned again

to his home church and was ordained as reverend in December 1984. Musa continued to pursue further education by enrolling at Grace College in 1986 and received his degree in biblical studies. He attained a Master of Theology with specialization in historical theology at Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) in 1991 and later completed his education (also at DTS) with a Doctor of Philosophy in Bible Exposition in 1996. Musa served in various leadership roles including chairman of the Willow Creek Association's Global Leadership Summit (South Barrington IL) and chairman of the Ministers Development Initiative (Jos Nigeria). Musa, "fearless in conviction and humble in approach," began his appointment as general secretary of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in 2012 where he had called on the federal government to intervene in defense of Christian victims who were murdered. Musa is survived by his wife of 41 years Tabitha; children: Aminchi, Abasa, Linda and Anan; adopted daughter Alheri; and foster children: Priscilla, Blessing and Simon.

**Shirley A. Bathgate** (MAIM 00) went to be with her Lord on May 11, 2018. In retirement, Shirley enjoyed serving the Lord as an ordained chaplain at McLaren Macomb Hospital and various other places. She was also active at her church, and missions held a special place in her heart even after her health kept her home. Shirley was loving mother of Gail (Darius) Preisler, Kathy (Art) Lattanzi and Jennifer Bathgate (John latonna), and she was grandmother of Kayleigh, Kira, Katarina and David. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Richard, her parents and brother.



13



14



15



16



17



18



## ALUM HAPPENINGS



### Dr. Ron Manahan Marries Ms. Lisa Sand

**Dr. Ron Manahan** (MDiv 70, ThM 77, ThD 82) married Lisa Sand on Jan. 26, 2019. They became close friends when they began visiting those who were sick in their church. Lisa has a remarkable story of coming to faith in Christ. Although she grew up in a Christian family and attended church, subsequent circumstances and choices in life drew her away from church and family. However, later in life, Lisa surrendered her life to Jesus, and God began changing her. Ron remembers hearing a dear friend describe Lisa's life as, "one of those trophies of God's great grace." Ron says his late wife, **Barbara** (C 86), knew Lisa before he did. "Thirteen years ago, Lisa met Barbara when Barbara started playing piano twice a month at our church. Lisa told me, 'I loved Barbara before I loved you,'" laughs Ron. Ron and Lisa live in Winona Lake, IN.



### Jim Hocking Meets with Prime Minister of CAR

**Jim Hocking** (BA 77, MDiv 84) attended a special meeting with Central African Republic (CAR) Prime Minister Simplicie Sarandji in November 2018 in Bangui, CAR. Jim and his team shared about Water for Good's mission to provide 100 percent of the people in the Mambéré-Kadéï region access to water. Jim founded the nonprofit Water for Good to address water poverty in the Central African Republic by drilling, servicing and rehabilitating wells alongside local government and entrepreneurs. During his visit, Jim gifted the prime minister a bracelet from MudLOVE, a Winona Lake-based company that creates handmade items and donates a portion of every sale to support Water for Good's efforts.



### Clint Johnson Honored with Bobblehead

At the Lancers' opening season basketball game on Nov. 2, **Clint Johnson** (BS 05) (aka Clint Dawg) was presented with his very own bobblehead, recognizing him as Grace College's biggest fan. Johnson's bobblehead is adorned in Duke shorts and a Grace cap and holds the Grace No. 1 foam hand. The first 100 fans at the game received a free Clint-Dawg bobblehead along with a commemorative poster, and the remainder of the bobbleheads available for sale that night sold out in minutes. Clint also signed hundreds of bobbleheads and posters at halftime for Lancer fans in attendance. When not attending (or tweeting about) Grace athletic events, Clint can be found working the front desk of Grace's Gordon Recreation Center, where he's never met a stranger. Grace Athletic Director Chad Briscoe was thrilled to honor Clint. "Clint is synonymous with Grace College. When you think of Grace College, you think of Clint-Dawg," said Briscoe. "There is no greater encourager that you'll find besides Clint. His attitude is infectious, and he has a tremendous impact on our students and in our community."



### Alumni Ark Encounter Trip

In November 2018, 44 alumni and friends gathered together in Williamstown, Kentucky, to experience the Ark Encounter, which features a full-size Noah's Ark built according to the biblical dimensions — spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 51 feet high. Be on the lookout this fall for an upcoming alumni trip to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AT ONE  
OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.

For more information, contact Olivia Kmiecik, coordinator of alumni engagement, at 574-372-5100, ext. 6127 or [alumni@grace.edu](mailto:alumni@grace.edu).

▼ **June 2019 | Campus Tour**

Winona Lake, IN: Join us for lunch and a tour of the campus. More details to come.

▼ **July 8, 2019 | Dr. Custer Gathering**

Columbus, OH: Hear a message from Dr. Jim Custer and enjoy a catered meal following.

▼ **July 8-10 | Sight & Sound Trip**

Lancaster, PA: Join the Columbus Gathering group to attend the musical stage production, "Jesus," at the Sight & Sound Theatre.

▼ **November 2019 | Creation Museum**

Petersburg, KY: Watch for more details about an upcoming trip to the Creation Museum.

# SAVE THE DATE

GOLDEN GRAD REUNION | 1969

If you graduated in 1969, get ready to celebrate your golden graduation reunion – we're rolling out the red carpet! Come back to campus, **May 9–11, 2019**, to tour the campus, share a great dinner together and be a part of Commencement 2019.





# REACHING OUT

I know so many of us read *Grace Story* by starting from the back. It's where we find updates about our beloved classmates and hopefully glimpse a photo or two of a friend's wedding or family or new book cover. But don't miss out on the rest of this edition, which highlights the stories of some of our seminary graduates and showcases a great piece on the new dean of the seminary, Dr. Freddy Cardoza. On that note, I'm excited to share with you a new set of annual alumni awards we'll begin giving out this year to our seminary graduates. They include:

- ▼ **Alumni of the Year Award:** Recognition of alumni who have enhanced Grace Seminary's mission, reputation, or campus morale, and represents the schools with professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication.
- ▼ **Alumni Distinguished Service Award:** Recognition of alumni who have exhibited leadership displayed through extraordinary service to the increased welfare of Grace Seminary.
- ▼ **Young Alumni of the Year Award:** Recognition of Grace Seminary alumni who have made significant contributions to society and/or have made significant professional advancements in their career (less than 10 years since graduation).
- ▼ **Honorary Alumni Award:** Recognition of a non-alumnus (a) who has demonstrated a genuine interest in the cause of theological higher education as represented by and through Grace Seminary and (b) who has demonstrated his or her commitment to the mission of Grace.

We invite you to nominate someone for each of these awards at <https://www.grace.edu/alumni/awards>.

Finally, one more invitation: July 8-10, we're inviting all alumni to gather in Columbus, Ohio, to fellowship with Dr. Jim Custer (BA 60, BD 63, MATS 77, DD 91) and attend the Sight & Sound show "Jesus," which is a musical stage adventure featuring the journey of Jesus. A bus will begin in Winona Lake on the Grace campus to pick up alumni and friends and then make its way to Columbus for a catered dinner and presentation from Custer that will complement the "Jesus" production. The following morning, on July 9, the bus will take everyone to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to see the show. You can watch for more details on our "Grace Alumni Community" Facebook page.

As always, I'd love to hear from you. You can find me in the Office of Alumni Engagement (in the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center) or reach me at 574-372-5100, ext. 6129 or at [duncandl@grace.edu](mailto:duncandl@grace.edu).



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



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.  
[facebook.com/GraceAlumniCommunity](https://facebook.com/GraceAlumniCommunity)

## WHAT'S NEW? SUBMIT AN ALUM NOTE



Tell us the latest news in your life at [www.grace.edu/alumnnotes](http://www.grace.edu/alumnnotes) and choose to publish it as an Alum Note in an upcoming issue of *Grace Story*.

## TELL US YOUR STORY



If you're a Grace graduate, completed a certification or attended classes, we want to hear from you. Tell us about your career history, accomplishments, how Grace influenced you, what you are doing with your college or seminary education today and/or how God is using you for His purposes. If you have a former classmate or alum you know who has a story you think *Grace Story* should feature, go ahead and share his/her story! Visit [www.grace.edu/gracestory](http://www.grace.edu/gracestory).







# GRACE

## HOMECOMING / 2019

### OCTOBER 4-5

#### FEATURED EVENTS:

Inaugural Library Reunion: Calling all past library staff and student workers!

Grace Theological Seminary Reunion

3rd Annual Homecoming Parade

---

**REMINDER:** We invite you to submit nominees for the 2019 Alumni Awards, now including seminary-specific awards. Visit [www.grace.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.grace.edu/alumni/awards) to propose your nominees.

**GRACE**  
COLLEGE &  
SEMINARY

200 Seminary Drive  
Winona Lake, IN 46590

(Address Service Requested)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GRACE COLLEGE

# ***WE BRING SEMINARY TO YOU.***

Deploy™ is designed to maximize ministry potential while minimizing disruption to life, work and family priorities. And the best part? It prepares leaders within the church while allowing them to stay engaged in ministry. It's where a deeply theological education meets the practical learning laboratory of the local church.

888.790.8754  
[www.grace.edu/deploy](http://www.grace.edu/deploy)

**DEPLOY**™

**GRACE**  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY