

# MOODY

ALUMNI  
& FRIENDS

FALL 2019

## ASK BOLDLY

Is your prayer life  
stuck in a rut?  
Try the ABCDs.

DON SHIRE, THE TRUMPET-  
PLAYING MISSIONARY p.12

FORMER ATHEIST EARNS  
A MASTER OF DIVINITY p.22

LEGACY ALUM BILL TAYLOR  
ON FINISHING WELL p.24



FEBRUARY 4-7, 2020



# FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



*with Kerwin Rodriguez '09, Bryndan Loritts '03, and Mark Jobe '84*

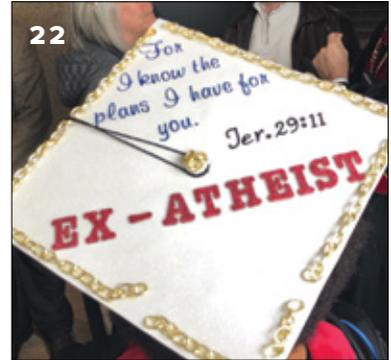
**Alumni Day: Friday, February 7 • [foundersweek.org](http://foundersweek.org)**

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# MOODY HIGHLIGHTS



## New Mural Honors Emma Dryer's Prayerful Persistence and Faith

**A** new 20-foot mural painted by Moody student Isaac McLaughlin is among several new campus tributes to preserve the legacy of Chicago Bible teacher Emma Dryer. The mural depicts Emma in prayer, then the people impacted by her prayers to establish a Bible school—D. L. Moody, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, and the world.

“It all comes down to her prayers,” says McLaughlin, a senior majoring in Evangelism and Discipleship. “She had a really strong passion for the Bible . . . and she wanted to make a school of evangelists.” McLaughlin hopes the new mural will give everyone on campus “a visual representation of Emma Dryer’s values and faithfulness.” ■

### More tributes:

The Alumni Auditorium was recently renamed Dryer Auditorium. An Emma Dryer exhibit opens in the D. L. Moody Museum in 2020.



## Moody Aviation Gets Flight Simulators, Plane



**Left:** A look inside one of Moody Aviation's new Frasca flight simulators. **Above:** The Cessna airplane arrives from MAF.

**T**hanks to generous donors, Moody Aviation recently acquired three custom-made flight simulators and a Cessna 185 airplane.

The new Frasca advanced aviation training devices simulate the three Cessna airplanes in Moody Aviation's fleet (172, 182, and 206), and are ideal for training during inclement weather in the Pacific Northwest.

"Dispatchability for training aircraft can be as low as 20 percent in December and January in Spokane, whereas the simulator lets us train inside whether it's raining, snowing, or sleeting outside, and at lower student cost," says **Jim Conrad '98**, Moody Aviation's program manager. "That helps tremendously."

"Our students fly 15 to 20 hours in the simulator before they move into the airplane," he adds.

The new devices replace aging simulators that Moody Aviation used for two decades. "The simulator is a computer," Conrad says, "and how many 20-year-old computers are still running well?"

While simulators have been used to teach instrument flying, the new simulators can also introduce students to visual attitude flying—navigating by looking at the horizon outside and determining the airplane's pitch and roll. They have a 210-degree, 10-foot-tall wrap-around projection display system. "It seems as if you're flying a real airplane," Conrad says. "So it's very realistic, and we're excited to be able to deploy this in training for our students."

Conrad expressed gratitude for the donors, who provided 87 percent of the funds needed to purchase the simulators. Moody's capital funding paid the rest.

### MAF Airplane

Moody Aviation is also grateful for the four-seat Cessna 185 donated by Mission Aviation Fellowship. The retired aircraft, which was flown in Indonesia by Moody Aviation graduates over the years, will be used initially as a maintenance training rebuild project. "Our students will take the airplane all apart and refurbish it. They'll rebuild the airframe, overhaul the engine, and install new avionics, as part of their maintenance training," says Conrad. "Then it will be released for service in our flight training curriculum."

The Cessna 185 is a high-performance tail wheel aircraft with a float conversion to take off and land in water. Moody Aviation will offer float training during parts of the year on the water runway at Felts Field and on the many lakes around Spokane.

With more than 100 students in the five-year program, Moody Aviation values the partnership with MAF, which loans instructors and has Moody graduates serving with MAF. Conrad says, "We're excited about what the Lord is doing in and through Moody Aviation's staff and students and looking forward to many years of continued ministry to our students." ■



## Moody Radio Chicago Named NRB Station of the Year

**M**oody Radio Chicago was named Station of the Year by the National Religious Broadcasters. Station manager Matt McNeilly accepted the award during the NRB's annual convention in Anaheim, California, on March 29.

"WMBI 90.1 FM has been broadcasting the truth of God's Word for 93 years, and we're as dedicated today as we were in 1926 to help our listeners take the next step in their journey with Jesus Christ," said McNeilly.

NRB, whose association includes more than 1,100 Christian broadcast organizations, annually awards a station that is "innovative, locally focused, and that effectively impacts its market through community service, promotions, outreach, ratings, and/or other means."

Over the last year, Moody Radio Chicago's morning show, *Karl and Crew*, has heard from more than 4,000 people who have dedicated or re-dedicated their lives to Christ because of the program's biblical, gospel-centered teaching. Programs such as *Money Wise Live*, *Open Line*, and *In the Market with Janet Parshall* are also reaching listeners with sound teaching. And Moody Radio Chicago and its listeners partnered with Bible League International to provide thousands of Bibles to people who lack God's Word in their language.

"WMBI remains a model for broadcasting excellence—a vital ministry that is richly deserving of this recognition," said Troy Miller, NRB's interim president and chief executive officer. ■

**Matt McNeilly** (center left) and **Doug Hastings '79** (center right) of Moody Radio receiving NRB's Station of the Year Award.



## Moody Radio Charleston Named for C. Donald Cole

Moody Radio's newest station, WCDC, is on the air and broadcasting in Charleston, South Carolina, via 107.7 FM and AM 950.

The station call letters, WCDC, were chosen to honor C. Donald Cole, the longtime Moody Radio pastor who hosted *Open Line*, a Bible Q and A broadcast, from 1982 to 2008. Pastor Cole was inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2006. He died in 2012.

"Pastor Cole's life and ministry left an indelible mark on this world for the gospel, and we are overjoyed by the opportunity to honor him through Moody Radio Charleston," said **Doug Hastings '79**, Moody Radio's vice president.

Moody Radio has grown to include more than 70 stations, six digital stations, and more than 1,500 affiliates that carry its programming. "We believe the great city of Charleston is a terrific fit for us, where listeners will connect with and embrace Moody Radio programming," he said. ■



## Retiring from Moody

**Dr. Larry Davidhizar '74** calls his retirement “sort of an end of an era.” Then he explains how he arrived on campus in the first grade (1960), when his parents left their Indiana farm so his dad could attend Moody. Larry enrolled as a freshman in 1971, and notes that there has been a Davidhizar on campus every year since then (so many, in fact, that the family will be an interesting story in a later issue of the magazine).

He later earned a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary and a PhD from Loyola University of Chicago. After returning to Moody in 1984, he served as associate dean of student leadership, dean of the undergraduate school, and then vice president and associate provost of faculty.

The Davidhizars are moving to Sarasota, Florida; they have parents and siblings in Texas, plus three children and nine grandchildren. Looking back on his 40-plus years at Moody, he credits “God’s faithfulness to the Davidhizar family and faithfulness to Moody under its new leadership.” ■



## O’Neal Promoted to Associate Provost

**Dr. Bryan O’Neal '87**, vice president and dean of Moody Bible Institute Distance Learning, has been promoted to vice president and associate provost of academic affairs and assessment.

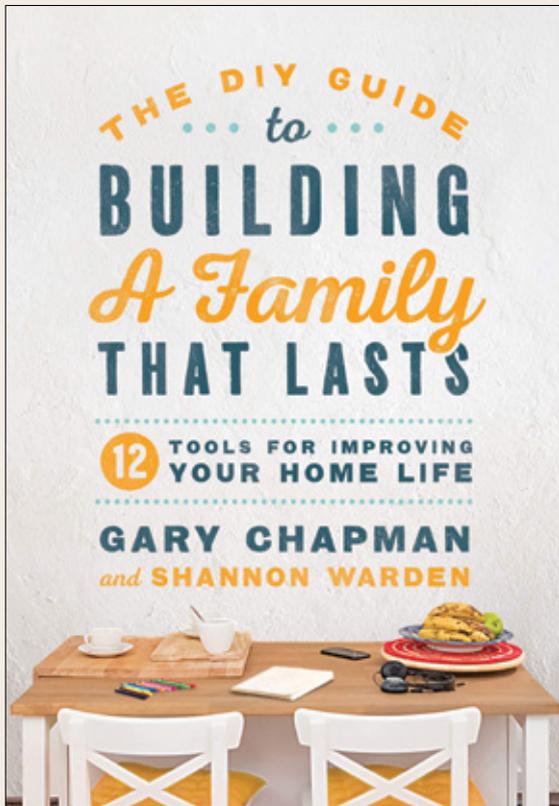
“Bryan has been a valued member of Moody Bible Institute for a number of years, both from the faculty side and the administrative side,” said Dr. Mark Jobe, Moody’s president. “He continues to bring to his leadership role a deep and abiding commitment to the Lord and His Word, as well as a vast amount of ministry experience and passion for our legacy as an alum.”

Dr. O’Neal will oversee all academic programs for undergraduate, online, and seminary programs. His appointment is part of a streamlined administrative leadership structure announced earlier this year that eliminated four vice president positions (associate provost and dean of faculty, dean of MBI, dean of MTS, and dean of MBIDL). Four newly appointed associate deans, already working in Education, are stepping into expanded roles and will report to Dr. O’Neal: Dr. David Woodall as the associate dean of academic affairs; Dr. Tim Sisk as the associate dean of faculty development; Doug Murphy as the associate dean of teaching, learning, and assessment; and Kevin Mahaffy as the associate dean for instructional design and development.

### ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**David Papendorf '10** is a special instructor in Theology while he finishes his PhD dissertation at Central Michigan University. Harry Shields returns from retirement to serve as the one-year program head for the Pastoral Ministries program, filling in while **Dr. Chris Rappazini '07** is on sabbatical. ■

# New Books from Alumni and Faculty



## *The DIY Guide to Building a Family That Lasts: 12 Tools for Improving Your Home Life*

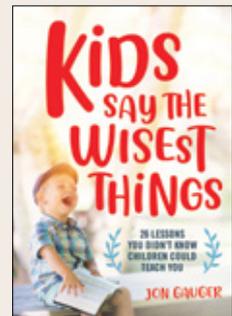
by Gary Chapman and Shannon Warden

The authors give practical tools to improve your home life, addressing real situations with wise advice for resolving struggles and helping families function at their best. Written by the author of *The 5 Love Languages*, **Gary Chapman '58**, and Shannon Warden, a professor of counseling, this book offers down-to-earth goals, guidance, and tools for developing compassion, getting organized, and creating a happier home.

## *Kids Say the Wisest Things: 26 Lessons You Didn't Know Children Could Teach You*

by Jon Gauger

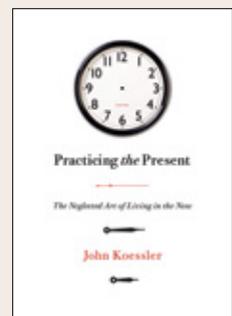
“Dad, how do you text the Lord?” In this thoughtful Moody Publishers book, **Jon Gauger**, a 1980 Moody graduate, ponders profound and often humorous sayings and anecdotes from kids’ and grandkids’ lives to teach important truths from Scripture.



## *Practicing the Present: The Neglected Art of Living in the Now*

by John Koessler

Dr. Koessler, an award-winning author who retired this summer after 25 years on Moody’s faculty, shows how easy it is to be stuck in the past or fixated on an uncertain future, while missing the divine present of living in relationship with God now. Whether you’re plagued with regret or worried about a cancer diagnosis, this book offers wisdom on how to live intentionally in the present tense.

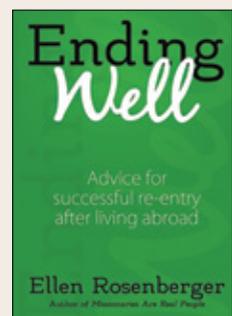


## *Ending Well: Advice for Successful Re-entry after Living Abroad*

by Ellen Rosenberger

This Moody alumna shares her experience of relocating with her husband and four young children back to the States after 12 years on the mission field of Nicaragua.

**Ellen (Stewart '04) Rosenberger** includes heartfelt goodbye letters with helpful advice for leaving a country and getting settled in a new one, as well as useful lists and resources for the transition.



For more information or to purchase one of these titles, visit [moodypublishers.com](http://moodypublishers.com)



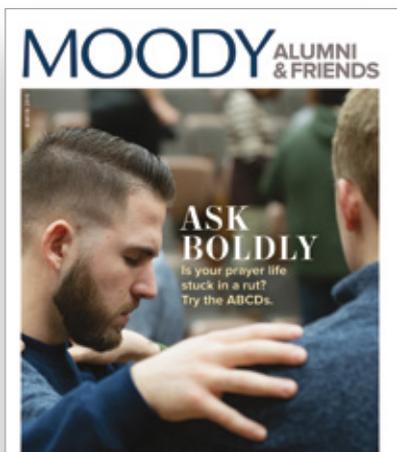
## Our New Look

We hope you said “Wow!” when you began reading this issue of *Moody Alumni & Friends*. Yes, you may have noticed that we’ve added *& Friends* to the title. We’re discovering that everyone loves our articles and news—not just alumni. And with the fresh page design and larger size, we have more space to tell alumni stories and Moody news. You’ll see bigger photos, a clean and modern aesthetic, and reader-friendly fonts. Our designer also uses phrases like “clear navigational hierarchy” and “multiple entry points for the reader” (sounds wonky, but we love how the magazine feels to read it all the way through).

You’ll find several new story approaches, including Dr. Jobe’s *Bold Steps* column, a new *Why I Give to Moody* feature, a *Back to School* series about recent seminary students, and a *Flash Back* photo from the archives.

Behind the scenes, Doug Fleener led the design effort. He’s previously led the design makeovers for *Leadership Journal*, *Campus Life*, and *Focus on the Family’s Citizen*. Our managing editor, Linda Piepenbrink, enjoys developing great story ideas. She was previously an editor for *Today’s Christian Woman*, *Virtue*, *Clubhouse*, and *Clubhouse Jr.*

Finally, we’re upgrading our website so that all the feature stories in the print edition are also online. Whether you read in print, online, or both, you’ll appreciate all the ways God is using Moody alumni around the world. ■



## Celebrate Christ’s Birth at Candlelight Carols December 7

**E**njoy the true meaning of Christmas at Moody Bible Institute’s annual celebration, featuring music ensembles, choir, and a drama, “The Word Became Flesh.” A cherished tradition for more than 60 years, Candlelight Carols will take place at The Moody Church on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for the 7:00 p.m. Saturday evening show are only \$14 each (a maximum of four tickets) with the alumni discount and include a pass to an alumni dessert reception following the concert. To receive your discounted tickets, call the dedicated RSVP line: (312) 329-4163. Hope to see you there!

### Plan to Attend Alumni Day and Founder’s Week!

Add Founder’s Week 2020 to your calendar (February 4–7), beginning Tuesday night, and remember that Alumni Day is February 7—on a Friday. Alumni Day speakers will include **Kerwin Rodriguez ’09** (Pastoral Studies instructor), **Bryndan Loritts ’03** (pastor in Nashville), and **Dr. Mark Jobe ’84 MA ’98** (Moody Bible Institute’s president).

The Big Four reunion dinners will be held on Thursday, February 6, for the classes of 1970 (50th), ’80 (40th), 1995 (25th), and 2010 (10th). And the Alumni Banquet takes place on Friday. Afterward, join your classmates for an alumni social for all class years ending in a 5 or 0; separate gatherings are planned for those celebrating their 40th or 50th reunions.

Plan to attend all week to hear great preaching and music. Come early for morning prayer at Moody, led by Dr. Jonathan Armstrong. Join your class page on Facebook by visiting Moody Bible Institute Class of (insert your class year). And watch for a special mailing with more details about the banquet and alumni activities. ■

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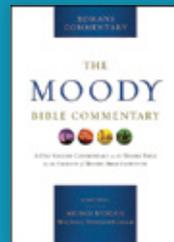
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Don Shire left  
the business  
world to  
become a  
trumpet-playing  
missionary.

BY LINDA PIEPENBRINK

Don Shire  
with his  
custom-made  
Harrelson  
trumpet.

# SELLOUT

**B**ack in 1989 **Don Shire '76-'78** was a partner in a successful computer business. He took his wife, **Kathy (Johnson '73-'74) Shire**, and young children to church on Sundays and lived as a good person during the week.

And he couldn't have been more miserable.

"I was living the life where it's just ho-hum Christianity," Don says. "I was raised better than that, and Moody taught me better than that."

He couldn't imagine then how God would use a trumpet and Don's soon-to-be surrendered life to change lives around the world.

### FROM DECISION TO DETOUR

As a high school junior, Don committed his life to full-time Christian service when he went forward at the Christian Youth Center in Joliet, Illinois. Don was mentored by its dynamic founder, the late **Harv Russel '50**, and was good friends with **Rollie Lindstrom '76**, who later served as a pastor and director of Moody's Alumni Association. Don also met his future wife there.

Kathy attended Moody for two years, studying Communications before they married. Then Don enrolled as a double-major in Christian Education and Music, and played his trumpet in the Symphonic Band, led by a '57 alum. "Gerald Edmonds was the band director at that time, and he was a great encouragement to me," says Don, who started playing trumpet in churches too.

Besides his studies, Don started a family and worked as a youth pastor in Calumet City, Illinois. Overwhelmed, he quit school with just one semester to go for a three-year diploma. "Honestly, I wish I would have finished," he says. "But I had a job so I figured I'd use that two-and-a-half years and just get going."

Don did youth ministry for about five years—until the computer business opportunity came his way,

and soon ministry began to take a back seat to making a living.

"It's just so easy to let things creep in a little bit at a time and draw you away and distract you from what you're supposed to be doing—and from your relationship with God," he says.

### A MAJOR TURNAROUND

Don knew God wanted first place in his life. So he made a decision to rededicate his life to Christ. "That was when I asked forgiveness and said, 'Lord, if you can still use me, show me where,'" he says. "And from that point on, doors began to fly open for ministry."

The trumpet was suddenly back in service as an evangelistic tool. Don began playing traditional and contemporary Christian songs, often with videos, in church concerts on the weekends. Then he added short-term mission trips, sometimes with a team of people. Soon he was taking six to eight weeks off from work each year for mission travel. The ministry was growing, and he realized he couldn't do both indefinitely. "One I loved, the other one I didn't," he recalls. "It seemed like a no-brainer."

"I just didn't want to be one of those people who said, 'Yeah, I went to Moody and was going to be a missionary, but then I got into debt and I got married. And I often wonder, What if I would have?' I just didn't want that to be."

So he said, "Kathy, just give me a few years. If God blesses us, we'll keep going. I'd rather try and fail than not try at all."

With Kathy's full agreement, he quit his job in 1995 and started Don Shire Ministries—a full time, nonprofit, global ministry of music and missions ([donshireministries.org](http://donshireministries.org)). They sold everything, leaving the Chicago suburbs to buy a cheaper home with no house payment in northern Wisconsin.



Don playing trumpet and sharing the gospel at a private school in India.



**Left:** Don and friends pose with the village chief of Kulungungu in northeast Ghana, where Don helped plant a church.

**Below:** Don visits with a girl at Jehovah Rapha House, a special needs home in Haiti.

so the widows could harvest rice, and sewing machines so they could create colorful scarves for Don to sell at his concerts. The scarf sales provide enough to support 220 widows, he says.

In Haiti, he saw a vital need to help orphans with special needs and fully supports Jehovah Rapha House, which currently cares for 29 children. One little girl was rescued from the middle of a busy intersection where her father had left her. “In Haiti’s voodoo culture, a child with special needs is seen as a curse,” Kathy points out. They are often abandoned on the streets and in garbage dumps. But the Haitian government knows they can bring them to Jehovah Rapha House.

When Don visits, the children snuggle on his lap and call him Grandpa. With 10 grandchildren of his own, he takes it hard when he hears the sad news that two disabled kids died from health complications



As “a wandering minstrel,” Don committed to stay as debt free as possible while playing for love offerings. No negotiating contracts for him. “To me the biggest insult is when a church says they can’t afford me. I want to go where God opens doors. So I’ve been to big churches but also the tiniest of churches.”

### **A TRUMPET-PLAYING MISSIONARY**

God has used Don’s trumpet to open doors to the gospel in 35 countries and many unlikely places—from prisons in Poland and jungle tribes in Venezuela to the mountains of Myanmar and Muslim villages in Ghana. “If I was an evangelist, they’d run me out. But because I’m American and play trumpet, they’re intrigued,” he says. “Even Muslim chiefs will say, ‘Yeah, go ahead; do a concert for my village.’ I start playing my trumpet, people come. Through an interpreter we share the gospel, and churches are planting.”

His travels have exposed him to heart-wrenching needs, spawning other ministries. During an evangelistic tour in India, he visited a pastor who had 40 street children sleeping under a tarp tent on church property. When the rice ran out, the kids were back on the streets, begging for their next meal. “They weren’t going to school, they were living in rags,” he recalls. Right then Don decided to try to be their spokesperson. “I came home with what I thought was an impossible task: how were we going to feed 40 kids every day?”

Don began presenting the need in his concerts, and God provided. On other trips to India he saw widows begging on the street. He bought rice paddies

and cancer in the same week, and one of the widows in India died the previous week after open heart surgery. “It’s been tough,” Don says softly.

Yet he responds as he believes Jesus would. About 600 orphans and widows depend on Don Shire Ministries for food, shelter, surgeries, and school fees. Most are in India. “We have five homes for widows, four orphanages, and a sponsorship program where we place children into the homes of Indian pastors,” Don says.

“We are at a point now where we send out about \$28,000 a month to support orphans and widows before we even pay our own light bill,” he says. “But God keeps providing for it, so it’s pretty amazing.”

Besides two part-time employees, Kathy says the Lord has blessed them with an army of volunteers. From setting up Don’s concerts to sending out their monthly newsletter and arranging the details of their short-term mission trips, “people just give of their time. . . . We’re very humbled by that.”

While monthly supporters provide 60 percent of the money needed for Don Shire Ministries, the rest comes from unpredictable sources: love offerings, CD and scarf sales, and God touching hearts to give.

One day a volunteer was going through the mail and preparing a bank deposit. Don said, “There should be a check in there today.” When the volunteer asked from whom, Don replied, “I don’t know, but we have a big need!”

The volunteer opened the next envelope and said, “Is \$12,000 enough?”

“The stories just go on and on,” Don says with a laugh. “We get to see God truly reveal Himself in some very special ways.”

Kathy, who has been to every ministry location but often stays home to save money, says, “Our ministry has never, ever borrowed a penny. We just do things as the Lord provides.”

Thanks to a nephew’s idea, for nearly 20 years the Shires have also been leading Caribbean mission cruises for 40 to 50 people with prearranged ministry opportunities at each port—visiting orphanages, prisons, churches for VBS, schools, and parks. “It’s a great way for a Christian to take a cruise and use it for the Lord,” Don says.

At 64 years old, Don has no plans to retire (“I’m doing what I love. It’s what I would do if I *was* retired.”). But Don and Kathy are praying how to sustain Don Shire Ministries long-term.



**Top:** Some of the widows that Don Shire Ministries supports in India. **Above:** Don and Kathy.

Living by faith may not be the best business plan, he adds, “but it’s God’s plan.” Plus, Kathy “finally got the husband she thought she was getting when she married me.”

Kathy smiles. “For a wife just to see her husband finally happy in what he’s doing and fulfilled in what he’s doing, that’s huge,” she says. “I can look at Don today and see that he absolutely loves what he’s doing and that God is blessing it.”

Don says, “I still make a lot less money than I did 24 years ago when we left the business. But I wouldn’t trade what I get to do now for anything in the world.” ■

# ASK BOLDLY

## The ABCDs of Prayer

BY PETER GRANT



**W**hen Jesus talked about prayer in the Sermon on the Mount, He did not do it so we could just take notes or make a three-point outline—then stick it in our Bibles and forget it! Jesus wants to connect our need to His limitless resources through prayer that glorifies Him.

We all hear announcements about prayer, hold meetings about prayer, and talk about prayer. We can even attend prayer breakfasts that are all breakfast and no prayer! Announcements, talk, and breakfasts about prayer don't necessarily glorify Christ. But today as you read this, I pray that you will glorify Christ as God takes His Word and speaks to you. I pray that you will respond with real action:

“Right here, right now, I’m praying to the Father about that!”

In Matthew 6:9 Jesus began the Lord’s Prayer with “This, then, is how you should pray.” In a parallel teaching from Luke 11, the disciples listened to Jesus pray, and one of them responded with a request: “Lord, teach us to pray!”

Here’s what is encouraging to me. If He’s telling us *how* to pray, then He knows we’re all capable of it. Second, in Luke 11 we discover that this capability is also teachable. We can learn it. We can get better at it. We can teach it to others. And we have the words of Jesus as a model. He finishes with “Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory” (Matt. 6:13). My inference is this: If I follow Jesus’s prescription for prayer (pray the way He instructs me to), I will always see “the kingdom and the power and the glory,” something I wouldn’t be able to do on my own.

As I have been encouraged by these words of Jesus, I’ve used an outline, the ABCDs of Prayer:

*Ask Boldly because He Cares Deeply.*

**A** **SK.** First, *ask* God. In just a few short verses of Matthew 7:7–11, the Lord repeats this five times. And if you count *seek* and *knock*, He’s probably saying the same thing about ten times. Then He connects this *asking*, *seeking*, and *knocking* with the ask being granted, the sought item being found, and the door being opened. In other words, he’s promising that if we humbly come to God with our request, things will happen. The same idea is repeated in James 4:2: “You do not have because you do not ask God.” One of the reasons we don’t see God working in our lives is because we don’t ask Him to work. But if we begin to ask God, He’ll work.

Here’s what we used to say in Scotland when I was growing up. I had four brothers and sisters, and if we were asked to help each other with something, we’d reply, cheekily, “Well, I would if I could, but I can’t, so I won’t.”

Some of us think that God works this way, as if God responds to our prayers with “I would if I could, but I can’t, so I won’t.”

No! Here’s what God says: I can, and I will. But I’ll wait until you ask.

This is the teaching of Scripture. I don’t understand it, but somehow our asking honors Him and glorifies Him. And we will get *more* than we ask

for. That’s why Ephesians 3:20 says God is “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.” And F. B. Meyer was right when he said, “The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.” So be quick to ask God.

**B** **OLDLY.** Second, ask *boldly*. Jesus teaches a parable in Luke 11 about a man who requests something from a sleeping neighbor. The man repeatedly knocks on the neighbor’s door, and Jesus says, “Yet because of his friend’s shameless boldness, he will get up and give him as much as he needs” (11:8). This is the point Jesus is teaching: Keep asking boldly!

Jesus teaches this again in Luke 18:1, a parable about a poor widow going to an unjust judge, “to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” And in James 1:6–8 we are instructed to “ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who ‘worry their prayers’ are like wind-whipped waves. Don’t think you’re going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open” (MSG).

When we get serious about asking God boldly, it forces us to eliminate all our other options. We could gossip, control, meddle, or work harder. But when we pray boldly, we make new discoveries about God’s power to help us. So be quick to ask God boldly.

**C** **ARES.** Third, ask because *He cares* for each of us. My family learned this lesson years ago, when our church was in the middle of a building campaign and I had privately committed to giving up my salary for six months. We told nobody except our own family, sensing it was to be our prayerful sacrifice for the project.

But our kids were realists. “Dad, how are we going to pay the bills? Where are we going to get money for food?”

My eleven-year-old son reminded me that I had promised to teach him golf at our local golf club during the summer. How would we do that without money? And I had also promised him tickets for a local amusement park. I didn’t have an answer, but I knew God would provide for us.

As I put him to bed that night, we both asked boldly: “God, please give us free golf at Fox Creek



**“When I take my eyes off myself and look at Jesus ... I see Him in Heaven, where He’s praying, interceding, and talking to the Father on my behalf.”**

Golf Club and free tickets to Six Flags.” I’ll have to admit that I added my own secret prayer: *God, I think You’re asking us to do this, but if not, please don’t punish this kid for my foolishness!*

Then came two remarkable answers within a week. The very next day, a new attender stopped by my office at church, telling me that through his business, he had access to limitless free games at his local club. Not even knowing our prayer, he told me, “You and your son are welcome to join me for free golf at Fox Creek Golf Club anytime you choose.” Within three days, our worship leader mentioned that her family was going to the amusement park.

“Would your son like to come with us? Of course we’ll pay for his ticket.”

Matthew 7:11 gives us the promise: “How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” Now—will God always answer prayer this dramatically? No, but *can* He do it? Yes! And He still wants us to ask boldly and believingly. So ask God boldly because He cares.

**D EEPPLY.** Finally, ask because He cares *deeply*. This truth is expressed in Romans 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

He cares deeply enough that He died for us. But it doesn’t stop there. Jesus rose and ascended. He now sits at the right hand of the Father, in power, glory, and majesty—yet He cares deeply enough to intercede for our requests! That’s incredibly good news! I may not pray often enough; I may not ask for enough; I may not pray boldly enough. But when I take my eyes off myself and look at Jesus (not just His work from two thousand years ago, but where He is right now), I see Him in Heaven, where He’s praying, interceding, and talking to the Father on my behalf. In fact, caring deeply for His children is His ongoing, present-day, real-time, 24/7 concern. He expresses it in intercession, and invites us to join Him, so that, along with the Son, the Father can graciously give us all things! Once we have our eyes on the Son, we can *ask boldly because He cares deeply*.

Let’s talk to Him right now: “Father in Heaven, thank you for loving us. You can answer every single prayer that’s prayed to You today—whether it’s the first cry of a seeking soul or the repeated request of a seasoned saint. Help us to know again the power of prayer—of asking, boldly, because You care, deeply. Thank you that you answer our needs with Heaven’s resources. Amen.” ■

*Peter Grant ’83 serves on the Moody Alumni Board and is founder of Prevision Partnership, a worldwide ministry of teaching, evangelism, and leadership development. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, he earned a BA from Moody Bible Institute, an MDiv from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a DMin from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.*



**Left:** Winifred (Hillegas) Syring in her dorm room in 1949.

**Bottom:** Winnie's granddaughter, Lydia Townsend '19, and daughter, Connie (Syring) Townsend '79, pause for a photo on Lydia's 2019 graduation from Moody.



# FINDING YOUR ROOTS

**Fourth-generation alum uncovers clues about her alumni relatives**

BY LINDA PIEPENBRINK

**A** few days before her graduation from Moody, **Lydia Townsend '19** tries to pick out her mom in an old photo of 40 young women on "Cloud 9," the nickname for the Houghton dorm's ninth floor. "Oh, easy!" she says, pointing to a student with long hair in the second row. "She's right there in the glasses!"

Lydia has long hair and wears glasses too. And pictures of her grandma also resemble her.

"Exactly," Lydia says, smiling. "My grandma, my mom, and I look alike."

Besides their similar appearance, all three women are Moody alumnae—three generations, three different

eras. Lydia graduated from Moody Bible Institute in May 2019, exactly 40 years after her mother, **Conni Kaye (Syring) Townsend '79**, and 70 years after her grandma, **Winifred Louise (Hillegas) Syring '49**.

But that's not all. Lydia's aunt **Deborah (Syring) Olson '78** met her husband, **Kenneth Olson '77**, at Moody. And to add another generation, her grandma's uncle, **Harold Hillegas '39**, enrolled in Moody's Evening School way back in 1924 and '25, attended Day School in '37 and graduated in December '39.

Lydia is thrilled to be part of a legacy family of Moody alumni, but she's missing details. What was their time like at Moody? Like the investigator on a TV genealogy program, she sifts through old yearbooks in the Alumni office and collects facts from her mom.

A google search turns up her great-great-uncle Harold's obituary. He was born in 1901 and married in 1922, she discovers.

After he graduated from Moody, Harold Hillegas went on to serve as a pastor and director of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America and the Baptist General Conference. In addition, he cofounded Crescent

Lake Bible Camp in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, which he directed for 40 years. His niece, Winnie (Lydia's grandma), served at that camp and also served with him at Rural Bible Crusade for several years until she married. Much later, Lydia got saved through the ministry of Rural Bible Crusade and began volunteering with the ministry in 2013. A few older church folks who had known Winnie said, "You look just like your grandma!"

Lydia smiles. "Apparently I take after my grandma *a lot*. I look like her, I've done what she did, I went to the school she went to. It's funny. I wish I could have known her."

Grandma Winnie passed away nine years before her daughter Conni gave birth to Lydia and her twin sister, Danielle. Searching for clues,



**Above:** Harold '39 and Mrs. Esther (Lyle) Hillegas '39 were both prayer leaders at Moody. After Esther died in 1950, Harold remarried in 1953. **Left:** Conni (Syring) Townsend on graduation day in 1979. **Below:** Winifred (Hillegas) Syring on her graduation day in 1949.



Lydia examines a picture of Winnie in a dorm room at Moody and recognizes the "random plumbing pipes in the corner." She surmises her grandma must have lived in Smith Hall, just like her.

In an old yearbook, Lydia discovers that her grandma was the Student Council secretary at Moody and prayed with the Prayer Band. As a Missions major, Winnie chose Deuteronomy 31:8 as her senior yearbook verse: "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

In 1963 Winnie left for Nigeria with her husband, William Syring, under SIM. She worked as a librarian at Kagoro Secondary School while her husband taught Bible, science, and history. Three of their five children,



including Debbie, Conni, and Bill, attended Kent Academy, a boarding school near Jos, Nigeria. When Conni completed third grade, they returned to the States, and her dad began pastoring a church.

After high school Conni planned to attend a college in northern Wisconsin, but when her older sister, Debbie, went to Moody, Conni changed her mind and chose the same school. Besides, Conni says, “My mom had also gone there, and Moody had a good reputation and was known for their good biblical teaching.”

Conni was not disappointed. “I loved it! I would not have gone anywhere else,” she says. She was in awe of her professors, such as Dr. Robert Goddard, who taught Historical Geography and kept the class in stitches. “We called it Hysterical Coloring,” she says with a laugh, “because we had to draw all these Bible maps and because he made it such a fun class.”

After Conni’s graduation from Moody, *Alumni News* came in the mail and on the cover was a long-haired woman getting her diploma. “That sure looks like me,” she said. It was.

After Moody, Conni completed her bachelor’s in Bible from Calvary Bible College in Kansas City, Missouri. Then she went back to Nigeria as a dorm mother for girls at the boarding school she’d attended as a child. She was homesick until she ran into the teacher she’d had in first grade and two Moody alumni on staff. “My Moody training in Bible and theology was very useful when doing devotions and teaching Sunday school classes,” she says.

After three years Conni returned to Wausaukee, Wisconsin, and met her husband, Gerald, at Immanuel Baptist Church, where her dad was the pastor.

Conni and Gerald raised six kids in Wausaukee, including four boys and Lydia and her twin sister. Conni has been involved in church ministry ever since—as a children’s ministry volunteer, the church

pianist, and a treasurer. “I still have a lot of my notes from Moody that I keep looking at. My husband always teases me that I still have my college notes.”

She kept her notes for good reason, she says. “I look into them a lot to jog my memory or go back to see just exactly what I was taught in different classes, whether it’s Bible Study Methods or Bible classes on Daniel and Revelation or Historical Geography.”

When it came time for Lydia to consider college, she wasn’t sure what to study. “One of my friends said, ‘Lydia, you love the Bible. Why don’t you go study the Bible?’” Lydia, who’d grown up doing online schooling, was accepted into Moody’s First Year Online Program in 2015. During spring break she came to campus for a special week of classes. “That was my first experience being in a classroom and learning, and I loved it,” she says. Lydia spent her remaining three years on campus, with happy memories of living with the other “Peacocks” on Smith 5 and interacting with her brother floor, the Culby 4 “Gentlemen.”

Lydia also enjoyed working the desk in Public Safety. Her

favorite PCM was serving for three semesters at Calvary Memorial Church in Oak Park, Illinois, as a middle school youth leader. No surprise there, since she graduated with a BA in Biblical Studies with an emphasis in Youth Ministry. Then Lydia taught VBS with Rural Bible Crusade (for the sixth summer), and in August she began an online master’s degree as well as a residency in youth ministry at Appleton Alliance Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. “The youth group has on average 500 kids a week!” she says. “I’m excited to gain experience working in a large youth group with students from a variety of backgrounds and hope to continue doing ministry in the future.”

Like those alumni in her genealogy who went before her, Lydia trained at Moody to impact lives for Christ. She found her roots at Moody—and rejoices that their names are in the Lamb’s Book of Life. ■

**“I take after my grandma a lot. I look like her, I’ve done what she did, I went to the school she went to. It’s funny. I wish I could have known her.”**  
—Lydia Townsend



**Left: Jessica Robins MDiv '19** never thought her life would include a degree from Moody Theological Seminary. **Top:** Jessica decorated her graduation hat.

# FORMER ATHEIST EARNS A MASTER OF DIVINITY

BY LINDA PIEPENBRINK

**J**essica Robins MDiv '19 walked up the aisle with all of the other Master of Divinity graduates from Moody's Michigan campus—but the crowd's attention seemed to focus on her, probably because of her souped-up mortarboard hat, which now featured a glittery white background and gold chains

around the edges. She inscribed Jeremiah 29:11 at the top, and then one more word in giant red letters: EX-ATHEIST.

"I'm a black female from Detroit. I wear an afro. I listen to Christian hip hop, and usually have my music playing real loud," says Jessica, a saxophone-playing music teacher who is using her

degree to enhance her songwriting career. “I mainly do Christian music and gospel,” she explains, “and this education will help my lyrics be more biblically sound.”

Her degree has also given her a “strong desire to share the gospel with those outside of the church,” she says. “I’m convinced of the love and power of God to deliver and to save.”

Jessica Robins is not your typical MDiv graduate. Most of her classmates at Moody were married men heading for the pastorate.

She smiles. “I never in a million years would have taken this path, but I can say my steps are ordered by the Lord.”

As a very young child Jessica remembers her grandma taking her to church, “but it was boring to me, so I didn’t want to go anymore and wasn’t pressed again,” she says.

In middle school, a friend needled her to get baptized and go to church, which got Jessica to think about what she really believed. “I recognized that I couldn’t prove if there was a God and I couldn’t prove if there was no God,” she says. Jessica began to identify as an agnostic, but by the time she graduated from high school, she decided there was no God.

At Michigan State University she majored in music education, studying classical saxophone—and her friends in the dorm happened to be Christians who sang in the gospel choir. “They were always inviting me to Bible study or trying to tell me about the Bible or get me to sit down and read the Bible with them,” says Jessica, who responded with arguments and debates. “It got pretty heated at times, but they kept persisting and loving me and praying for me.”

She looked for new friends but without success. Then, alone one night in her dorm room, she heard a distinct voice in her head: “Jessica, you’re not going to be successful in music unless you play for Me.”

Jessica, the atheist, was incredulous. “I don’t even believe in You. Why are You talking to me? Be quiet,”

she said. Instead she heard the same words a second time, and “I knew it was God talking to me.”

Then her grades began to slip. “I started failing all my classes,” says Jessica, who was put on musical probation by MSU’s College of Music.

To get her Christian friends to stop bothering her, she decided to do something to make them mad at her. “I decided I would worship Satan,” she says.

Satan didn’t have a chance, however, because the very same day, two friends came into her room and said, “Jessica, we really feel the Lord is tugging on you.” They shared the gospel with her, and something immediately softened in her heart. “I was 19, and that was the first time I really heard the gospel,” she says.

“I just felt God’s love for the first time,” she explains, “so right then and there I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior.” And soon after, she joined the gospel choir.

Her grades also improved, and after graduation she began teaching bands and choirs at a Detroit high school. She played her saxophone in church and went to Bible studies. Eventually she wanted to go deeper, so she googled seminaries and saw Moody Theological Seminary. When her pastor endorsed it, she applied and got in. Her

workplace allowed her to fit her teaching schedule around her seminary classes, and Moody scholarships also helped. She decided on the MDiv because she wanted to learn the biblical languages. “I didn’t think I was going to make it through Hebrew 4, but I got through it by God’s grace,” she says with a laugh.

“Although the professors were tough and would grade very strict at times, they were always compassionate and always open to help you when you needed it,” she adds. “If you needed to stay after class or shoot an email at nine p.m., they would be there to help you and root for you.”

She felt accepted by her peers and professors at Moody. When her friends ask if they would fit in at Moody, she says, “You’ll fit in. You belong there if the Lord tells you to go there.” ■

**“I never  
in a million  
years would  
have taken  
this path...”**





“The race  
is not to the  
swift . . .”

—Eccles. 9:11

# Big Shoes to Fill

**A global missionary talks about finishing well.**

BY LINDA PIEPENBRINK

**B**ill Taylor '61 felt lost when he arrived on Moody's campus in 1958 at the too-young age of 17. Maybe intimidated, just a little, to enroll in the same school his parents attended. It seemed like everyone on campus knew **Dr. William and Stella (Britt) Taylor '37**, famous missionaries (if we can use that word), and his dad would soon become president of CAM International. Big shoes to fill? There's more. One of Bill's ancestors is even listed in *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, burned at the stake by Queen Mary in the year 1555.

Looking back, Bill admits that he wasn't quite ready to inherit that mantle. He didn't even feel ready for college, having lived the life of a missionary kid who bounced back and forth between Latin America and the United States for his education.

"My first year found me majoring in ping pong, emotionally sleepwalking, disoriented," he says, having fun but also describing his "slow and uneven" personal development.

Moody would become one of God's tools to build discipline into his life and help him grow up. Bill had no idea then that he would spend 55 years as a leader in global missions, 17 of those years in Latin America and eventually serving as executive director of the Mission Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance. Last September Bill was given the Lifetime of Service Award by Missio Nexus, given to a leader for finishing well a life of service to the cause of global mission. Unexpected, he says, but not bad for someone who got off to a rocky start at Moody.

How rocky? Here's where the story gets a little funny. During his first year Bill says he cheated in three courses, including *Personal Evangelism*. He copied off the paper of the person sitting next to him, none other than his still-good friend, George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilization.

Bill didn't get caught (and thanks to Verwer, aced the test). But God intervened in his third semester by sending a chapel speaker who spoke on "The Danger of Unconfessed Sin." Discerning the Holy Spirit at work, Moody's president, Dr. William Culbertson, dismissed classes for the day so that students and faculty could do business with God.

That night Bill broke as he confessed his sin to the dean of men, Franklin Broman, who offered unconditional grace and then advocated for Bill before the academic committee. As a consequence, Bill had to repeat the courses in Evening School and (hardest of all), had to confess to his parents, who were making a special trip from Latin America to attend the Moody Missions Conference that year.

Bill's not embarrassed to tell this story—he can be remarkably transparent when he has a point to make. Many years later, when he was the featured speaker at the 1990 Missions Conference, Bill spoke honestly about those days of confusion and sin, followed by the grace and hope he found at Moody. Once again, the Spirit was present. Ongoing generations of Moody students have their own sins to confess, and Bill wanted to nudge them along.

By the time he received his missions diploma, Bill said he started "waking up."

Later in university he became part of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and much later joined its staff. Although Bill says he's not a fan of more schooling (he flunked second grade), his dad encouraged him to pursue a ThM degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. Later, after years on the mission field, Bill would also earn a PhD in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas, Austin.

While serving as a camp counselor during his



Father and son in 1966 at Seminario Teológico Centroamericano in Guatemala, where Bill taught for 17 years.

summers in grad school, Bill met his future wife, **Yvonne De Acutis '65**, one of the 16-year-old campers. Six years later, in 1967, he married her. Saved at age seven through a neighborhood Child Evangelism Fellowship Bible club, she enrolled at Moody with a double major in music and Christian education.

She loved her professors—legends like Virgil Smith for piano (“I came out with a whole other level of piano technique and interpretation”) and Rosemary Turner for missions (“She had spent twenty years in India—just the stories she had to tell!”).

Because of Yvonne’s rigorous schedule, she would get up at 5:30 a.m. and sit in the stairwell of the girls’ dorm, reading Scripture and praying. That’s when the Holy Spirit began training her in intercessory prayer, a habit that later sustained her through the challenges of missionary life in Latin America.

### **GROWING PAINS IN GUATEMALA**

A crisis hit during their first year as missionaries to Guatemala. Bill plunged right into ministry, having learned Spanish while growing up in Latin America. He had an easy time with their year of language study, and figured Yvonne would follow suit. He relished being a seminary professor, with its teaching, mentoring, and frequent opportunities to speak (in impeccable Spanish). Besides, the evangelical subculture had taught him that “the more you did, the more spiritual you were” and “the harder you worked, the more God blessed you.”

Meanwhile Yvonne, Texas born, struggled to learn the Latin American culture and language, not to mention trying to build cross-cultural relationships and take care of their first child. One night she said, “We need to talk.” Bill was in a hurry to get to yet another speaking engagement, but she insisted, very firmly, that he needed to stop and have a serious conversation. Otherwise she would be taking a break with the baby back home in Texas.

Suddenly his speaking engagement lost its importance. Bill stopped and they talked—a lot—and he learned to cut back his over-committed schedule.



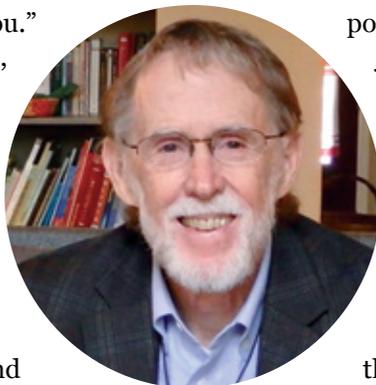
Finishing well, he was discovering, does not start at the end of life. Instead, he says, “it informs every stage and season of life.”

**Above: Bill and Yvonne with family in Arkansas, late 1980s.**  
**Below: Bill today.**

Yvonne found unique ways to use her music training in Guatemala. “I think I ended up using it far more on the mission field than I ever would have here,” she says, now living in Texas. Latin Americans innately love music, she says, but because of the poverty-based culture, there was little opportunity for music classes, band, or orchestra. So Yvonne developed pre-evangelism music appreciation recitals that she performed in homes and in public. She’d teach about composers like J. S. Bach, and “use it as a jumping off point to give the gospel,” she says. Out of those concerts, relationships were formed, which led to evangelistic Bible studies.

A conflict developed between Bill and another missionary leader in Guatemala, reaching a crisis in 1972 with no apparent resolution possible. Deep in sorrow, Bill thought about quitting, but then an unexpected visitor intervened. Late at night, after the martial law curfew, Bill’s dad knocked on the door, a complete surprise; he lived in Dallas. What was he doing in Guatemala?

“I have come,” his father said, uttering one of his famously short, pithy, unexplained phrases. But



now Dr. William H. Taylor, the visionary missionary executive, was stopping by for a visit to his own son, and staying long enough to ask the important question: “Well, how are you doing?”

Bill dissolved into tears and shared the painful story. His father listened, spoke words of healing and hope, and prayed. And because of that unannounced visit, Bill persisted until it was time for his US home-leave, five months later.

To this day Bill is amazed that his father made the trip to Guatemala. “He had no idea of my brokenness in 1972,” he says. “Had the Spirit spoken to him in a dream? Perhaps so.”

### **ANOTHER ROUND OF CULTURE SHOCK**

After earning his PhD, Bill received repeated offers to teach missions in the US. After 17 years in Latin America, he moved with his wife and three children from their beloved Guatemala to Illinois in 1985. Bill loved his new job teaching on the faculty at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, but his kids experienced the same culture shock Bill had felt years earlier. Bill was heartbroken, but says, “I had determined years ago that never would I sacrifice my family on the altar of my ministry.” So after only a year, he resigned his position and they moved to a small town in Arkansas “in the middle of nowhere.”

Why there? Bill answers with typical transparency: “I just felt like the Lord was saying hide, disappear. I’d had eleven or twelve invitations to teach, to head missions agencies, or to pastor a church in the states. But when TEDS didn’t turn out, for my family’s sake, we went to this town where we had some friends and the kids made the transition to the US.” He served as a part-time pastor at a small church for four years until 1990. But the transition of adjusting to a new culture, new church, new friends, new job, new everything, was still brutal. The wrenching losses created a “paralyzing desert” for Bill that also affected his family.

The watershed moment came in 1991 when a Christian counselor, himself a third-culture person, advised Bill to thank God for bringing him to the US. Otherwise, “He will not be able to release you into the fullness of your future.”

Bill took it to heart, and within six months of their move to Arkansas, he began serving part-time, then full-time, with his lifetime mentor, Dr. David Howard, at the World Evangelical Alliance’s Mission Commission. He would serve with WEA for 30 years. As Bill began traveling in his new role, he made an odd request to his father, the old-school road warrior who was retiring from missionary service.

Shoes. Bill wanted a pair of his father’s beat-up shoes—a personal reminder to finish well, just as his father had. For the next 30 years Bill packed the old shoes in his suitcase. Though he never wore them, he used them as an object lesson when teaching and preaching.

Today, Bill and Yvonne live in Austin, Texas, where they founded TaylorGlobalConsult, a ministry non-profit. Bill invests most of his time mentoring key leaders (in Latin America and the US) and writing, teaching, and consulting. Yvonne assists him and spends time with their eight grandchildren and in intercessory prayer as a “watchman on the walls.”

“Finding ourselves in a later stage of life, we desire to serve and strengthen Christ’s global Church, locally and globally, and to finish our own race with faithfulness and integrity,” Bill

says. Mindful of how few leaders actually do this, Bill recently helped edit an anthology on the subject, *Spirituality in Mission: Embracing the Lifelong Journey* (William Carey Publishers, 2018).

“Finishing well may mean completing life with broken dreams, unanswered prayers, and unfulfilled desires . . . It may mean few publicly recognized evidences of high productivity or tangible value,” he writes. But, “it means coming to the end of the life race, perhaps off-camera, quietly, with authentic faith and personal integrity.” ■

**“Finishing well means coming to the end of the life race, perhaps off-camera, quietly, with authentic faith and personal integrity.”**

# LIFE & MINISTRY NOTES



## Gary Chapman Honored

**B**estselling author and counselor **Dr. Gary Chapman '58** was awarded the Pinnacle Award for the outstanding contribution of *The 5 Love Languages* series. The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association presented the award at the ECPA Leadership Summit in Chicago on April 30, 2019. Dr. Chapman was the keynote speaker.

The collection of 10 books, published by Moody Publishers, has appeared on the *New York Times* bestseller list continuously since 2007 and has achieved more than 17 million in sales.

"Rarely does an author like Gary Chapman come along, one whose books impact marriages and families on a global scale," said Stan Jantz, ECPA president. "It was an honor to recognize the enormous influence of Dr. Chapman's writing, coupled with the skill of Moody to publish the most bestselling books of their kind in the world."

After receiving the award, Dr. Chapman explained the continued success of the series. "The short answer is God! And the long answer is God! We plant the seeds, but God gives the increase. To God be the glory." ■



## Mystery Woman Found in Minneapolis

After we published an archival photo of a Mystery Woman in front of Dryer Hall (Spring 2019), she sent us a kind note and said, "That's me!"

**Linda (Quade '74) McCormick** has worked as a legal administrative assistant in Minneapolis for the past 30 years. At the time of the photo, she was working in the controller's office at Moody. Her husband, **Fred McCormick '72**, passed away in 2017 after a 42-year ministry career. He served on the staffs of The Moody Church, Park Street Church in Boston, and Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

"Life is full, and very different now," Linda says, "and God and His people have been so good to me!"

**WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?** Email submissions to [alumnews@moody.edu](mailto:alumnews@moody.edu). For more information see page 37.

## 2010



**Blake Fewell '14** serves as an instructor and special events coordinator at the Salvation Army College for Officer Training in Chicago. The college serves as a seminary-like training program for Salvation Army pastors. He previously served as officer pastor of the Salvation Army of Marion, Indiana.



**Tamar Karni '12** served in Scotland, Poland, and the United States before moving to Israel in 2017 where she works remotely for Marketplace & Development Enterprises. Tamar is involved in the young adult leadership team, women's prayer ministry, and serves as the part-time secretary for her congregation in Haifa. She is currently working on prerequisites towards earning an MA in Hebrew Language. Tamar recently met up with alumni friends (from left) **Ian** and **Morag Leitch '69** and (on right) **Louise** and **Robert Bell '10**, while on vacation in Scotland.

**Levi Hazen '11** was installed as executive director of Life in Messiah International, which ministers to Jewish people in the US and other countries, on August 1, 2019. He and his wife, **Stephanie (Jones '11)**, host ministry teams internationally and have served as mobilization coordinators and field ministry directors with Life in Messiah since 2011. Levi has also been an adjunct professor at Moody, where he taught courses on God's global purpose for Perspectives USA. Former Life executive director **Wesley Taber '79**, who led the ministry since 1990, will continue to serve as its global ambassador.

## 2000



**Travis Williamson '02** is the new program head of Moody's Applied Linguistics program, taking the place of retiring professor, Steve Clark. Travis and his wife, **Andrea (Rockey '03) Williamson**, served as missionaries to Ethiopia for 10 years, where Travis was a linguist and Bible translation adviser with Wycliffe Bible Translators. The Williamsons have three children.

## BIRTHS

**Reichert '15** and **Hannah (Hansen '17) Zalameda** welcomed Judah on Nov. 30, 2018. They serve at a church plant in Chicago's south suburbs; Reichert works as a Moody admissions counselor.



**Jeff '87** and **Bonnie (Sheitlin '87) Lauby** welcomed a granddaughter, Annelise Lauby, on June 28, 2018. The Laubys moved to Kentucky to be near her.



**Kujtim '13** and **Lauren (O'Gieblyn '12) Rushiti** welcomed Kathryn Cornelia on Jan. 17, 2019. Kujtim and Lauren are planting a church in Durës, Albania, with their four children.



## 1990

**Nancy (Metzler) Rowe '94** is earning an Associate of Science degree in Surgical Technology, preparing for a new career in health care. Nancy previously worked in sports brand marketing for companies like Nike and Puma, where she traveled all over the world and worked with incredible athletes. Nancy enjoys running marathons and ultra runs.

**Michael '93** and **Jennifer (Roskam '93) Thomas** live in Costa Rica with their four children, Silas, Victoria, Arianna, and Simeon. They partner with Equipos Internacionales and Son Life Latinoamericana to equip Latinos to make disciples. The Thomases previously served with Habitat for Humanity International in Indonesia (in tsunami rehabilitation) and with Habitat for Humanity in Vietnam, as well as teaching Bible classes in churches.

# LIFE & MINISTRY NOTES



John and **Regina (Damm '90) Apel** and their two sons, Frederik and Philip, have retired from the mission field and now serve in a church in Holton, Kansas. John is the English Language Learner coordinator for the school

district. Prior to their missionary service, Regina graduated with an MA in Intercultural Studies from Columbia International University.

**Robert L. Ziebarth '94** serves as pastor for Faith Bible Church in White Cloud, Michigan.



**Jeff '92 and Christy (Van Valkenburg '92) Carlson** live in Columbia, South Carolina, where Jeff has taught English for 13 years at the University of South Carolina. They have 10 children and one

grandchild. This year their 24-year-old son-in-law survived a cardiac arrest and their 25-year-old son surrendered his life to Christ.

## 1980



**Wayne MacRae '80** and his wife, Jan, met up with **Robert '02 and Holly (Bradford '02) McGee** in Bonn, Germany, after attending a military chaplain's conference. Capt. Wayne is working at America's Navy

Chaplains; Rob and Holly serve with an international church in Bonn. Photo (l to r): Wayne poses with Holly and Robert McGee.

**Marvin Rolle '85** retired after serving at the Bahamas Ministry of Education for more than 30 years. He continues to serve with Young Life Bahamas and with the youth ministry at Freeport Bible Church, where he has attended since 1987.

## 1970

**Julie (Kiemle '79) Anderson** is working with a team developing a teen enrichment center in Chicago. She is also an after-school tutor, volunteering with By the Hand Club. President of Julie Anderson Media, her career has been in communications as a filmmaker, network television producer, writer, and consultant. She has also served on the boards of organizations working with at-risk children: The Fishing School in Washington D.C., the Hold On to Your Music Foundation in Los Angeles, and Andean Aid in Venezuela and Colombia. She has three adult children.

**Stephanie (Diehl '79) Duggins** serves as the women's ministry prayer team leader at her local church in White Settlement, Texas, where her husband, Wesley, serves as an elder. They have five sons and one daughter, and are expecting their first grandchild.



**Dave Rodriguez '78** celebrates 42 years serving as a pastor. He and his wife, **Penny (Porch '79)**, founded Grace Church in Noblesville, Indiana, and have served there for 28 years. Dave recently published his first book,

*A Why to Live For: Where Your Destiny Meets the Broken Places of the World.*

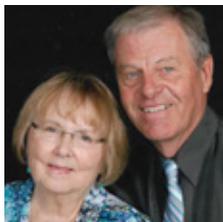
## 1960

**Steve Platt '69** retired after serving 20 years in Calvin University's Physics and Astronomy department. Steve and his wife, El, married in Zimbabwe after he graduated from Moody. They served in Switzerland, Bonaire, and five years with Africa Evangelical Fellowship (Evangelical Seminar of Southern Africa), before Steve attended Michigan State University to study physics.



**Keith '68 and Patricia (Voss '69) Miller** retired from Calvary University in Missouri. Keith was chair of Pastoral Studies and of Bible and Theology; Patricia was dean of women and later chair of Calvary's Biblical Counseling

department. They have published five books, four focusing on biblical counseling. The Millers have four children and 11 grandchildren.



**Richard '69 and Sue (Brown '69) Penner** have been serving local churches in different states as well as in Canada in pastoral and denominational ministries. Richard currently serves as an executive pastor

at Redding Christian Fellowship in Redding, California. They have four adult children who, along with their families, are all serving the Lord.



**Lucy (Flinkstrom '69) Clark** runs a tax preparation business after working 30 years in tax law. Lucy married Blake Clark in 1967; they have two sons and two grandchildren. In her spare time Lucy enjoys

swimming, working on her garden, and any outdoor activity. The Clarks attend Jaffrey Bible Church in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.



**Glenn '63 and Shirley (Tuit '63) Felty** retired after 51 years of ministry. They served at a missionary school in Venezuela, as well as churches in Clifton, New Jersey, and Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Glenn also served for 13 years as church relations director for TEAM. While he was busy preaching and teaching, Shirley served as music director, organist, pianist, and piano teacher.

## 1950

**Harold Street Jr. '53** published *That None Should Perish: Ethiopia 1933–1937*, a tribute to his parents, who served as pioneering SIM missionaries. Harold served in the US Army before attending Moody, and later earned a PhD from Michigan State University. Harold continues to minister while retired in Hot Spring Village, Arkansas.

## MARRIAGES

**Jonathan '18 and Emelissa Mejia (Aguilar '17) O'Brien** were married on Jan. 26, 2019. Friends and family flew to Westchester, New York, from all around the world, including Honduras, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.



**Aaron '18 and Rebecca (Jepsen '19) Gann** married on March 30, 2019. Aaron studies at Shepherds Theological Seminary in Cary, North Carolina, and serves as a substitute school teacher. Rebecca works full-time as a nanny for a child with disabilities.



**Calvin '17 and Mala (Ealy '18) Carter** married in August 2018. They travel coast to coast serving with Camfel Productions, a character-building program for students. In six months they have presented assemblies to 39,897 students in 18 different states.



Kenichi and **Ayano (Iizumi '10) Shiba** married in July 2018 in Hawaii. The Shibas are preparing to plant a bilingual church in Fujisawa, Japan. After graduating from Moody, Ayano moved back to Japan, her home country, and worked in education for seven years.



**Ed '73 and Catherine (Cionca '72) Lowe** celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on April 20, 2019, in Florida with their three grandchildren. Ed and Catherine met at Moody in 1970 and recently completed 40 years of ministry service.





PRESENT  
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LORD

## Warren Wiersbe (1929–2019)

**W**arren Wiersbe once described Heaven as “not only a destination, but also a motivation. When you and I are truly motivated by the promise of eternity with God in Heaven, it makes a difference in our lives.” This became the inspiration for his long ministry as a pastor, author, and radio speaker. Beloved for his biblical insight and practical teaching, he was called “one of the greatest Bible expositors of our generation” by the late Billy Graham.

Warren W. Wiersbe died on May 2, 2019, in Lincoln, Nebraska, just a few weeks shy of his 90th birthday.

He grew up in East Chicago, Indiana, was saved at a Billy Graham Youth for Christ rally, and started writing for *Moody Monthly* magazine fresh out of seminary. Early in his career he served as a pastor and published books with Moody Publishers. So when he became pastor of The Moody Church in 1971, he was coming home, of sorts. He succeeded **George Sweeting '45**, who had just become Moody’s president. Wiersbe also

hosted the *Songs in the Night* broadcast, frequently spoke at Moody conferences—and most notably, continued writing, including the immensely popular *BE* series of exegetical commentaries.

Several of Wiersbe’s extended family are Moody alums, including a son, **David Wiersbe '76**; grandson **Dan Jacobsen '09** and his wife, **Kristin (Shirk) Jacobsen '09**.

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### 1990s

#### Lynn Annette Plett '91

age 50, Feb. 14, 2019, Slovakia



Lynn was born in Columbia City, Indiana, and raised in Winona Lake. Her love for music led her to Moody, where she studied piano performance. Lynn taught and played while a student as well as serving as the music director at

Chinese Christian Union Church in Chicago. Lynn then served in Lyon, France, where she met Daniel, serving with TWR in Monaco. They married in 1998, and served together with TWR in Slovakia. The Pletts had three children and poured their heart into the Slovakian community, learning their language and going beyond what was required of them to reach their community.

#### John David Peterson '98

age 70, Nov. 25, 2018, Chicago

John was involved in several Chicago churches during his life, including Northside Gospel Center, Des Plaines Bible Church, King James Bible Church, and The Moody Church. He also preached at Pacific Garden Mission, volunteered at the Women’s Home League, and was involved in door-to-door evangelism with King James Bible Church. John loved baseball and fishing.

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### 1970s

#### Janet Elizabeth (Marshall) Covert '79

age 62, Aug. 6, 2018, New Castle, Pennsylvania

Janet was born and raised in New Castle, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Union High School and Moody Bible institute. She was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church of New Castle, where she served as a singer in the church’s praise team, in choirs, and in several

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musicals. She is survived by her husband, Thomas; sons **Philip '02** (Sarah), Josh (Kira), and Tim; and many grandchildren.

### **Mark Wayne Staley '76**

age 63, Feb. 5, 2019, Pontiac, Illinois



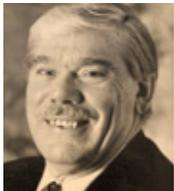
Mark served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Pontiac, Illinois, and president of COME International Baptist Ministries. He married **Nancy (Marschner '78)** after his graduation, then served in foreign missions, the pastorate, and itinerate evangelism. Throughout his years of serving internationally, he led many youth wilderness trips and started a child sponsorship program for needy children overseas. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Nancy; three children, 11 grandchildren; and a sister, **Dawn (Staley '82) Polsdorfer**.

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## 1960s

### **Darwin V. Adams '64**

age 84, January 18, 2019, Streamwood, Illinois



After Darwin met **Annette (Medendorp) '61** at Moody, they married July 6, 1957. Darwin worked as a juvenile detective with the Streamwood Police Department in Streamwood, Illinois, from 1963 until 1998. He served on the Streamwood Library Board and the Mental Health Board. He also founded the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County in 1988 and served on its board. He was an active member and board member of Village Church in Barrington, Illinois. He also served with Youth for Christ. He is survived by his wife, Annette; daughters, **Cynthia '79** (Philip) **Fisk** and Charity (Randy) McCafferty; and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

### **Guy R. Matthews '69**

age 69, July 18, 2018, Prairie Grove, Arkansas

Guy married **Erma (Morrison) Matthews '67** in 1966, and after graduating from Moody Bible Institute, he served as song leader in the Howe Savory Bible Church. He also sang in other churches and for Gideon banquets. Erma served the youth through Sunday school and VBS. The Matthews owned a café and a motel. Guy also had an

income tax service for 45 years, serving 200 clients. Guy is survived by his wife, one son, and grandchildren.

### **Shoko (Hirata) Thomson '63**

age 87, May 28, 2018

Shoko was born into a Buddhist family in Maebashi, Japan. At the age of 16 she became a follower of Jesus through the friendship of an English missionary, Dorothy Parr. In 1959 she left Tokyo, Japan, to study at Moody. She also studied at London Bible College with the goal of teaching at Japan Bible Seminary. On one of her trips back to Japan, Shoko met an English missionary, Robin Thomson, traveling to India to teach at Hindustan Bible Institute in Madras. They were married in 1969 and spent the next 20 years serving in India. In 2012 Shoko was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Though her mental ability steadily diminished, her capacity for love seemed to grow even greater.

### **Carol Lynn Wever '65**

age 77, Feb. 13, 2019, Lancaster, Pennsylvania



Carol graduated from Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia as an RN, then from Moody Bible Institute. While at Moody she took a missions trip to Alaska, where she met Wayne Wever. After their marriage, Carol served as a nurse at Baylor Hospital while Wayne attended Dallas Theological Seminary. After graduation, Wayne and Carol joined Princeton Evangelical Fellowship to disciple college students. During 27 years of service with PEF, Carol orchestrated countless social events while teaching the Bible to hundreds of women. She firmly believed that food was the gateway to the heart, hosting semi-weekly dinners for students as well as for newcomers at church.

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## 1950s

### **Everett Gray '55**

age 90, May 9, 2018



Born in Mississippi, Everett moved to Chicago at age 17. He married Marion London, and they raised six children. Everett operated his own cleaners and tailor shop until—like his five brothers who became ministers—he sensed

God calling him to preach. After attending Moody, he was ordained as pastor of the Union Baptist Church in Robbins, Illinois. He went on to found St. Mary Baptist Church in Chicago. He got his Bachelor of Theology degree at Indiana Christian University in 1969, then pastored St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, for nearly 37 years, retiring in 2005. He was president of the Northern Indiana Missionary Baptist Educational District Association, receiving several honorary doctorates. After his wife died in 1982, he married JoAnn Franklin Johnson, and they had one son. Everett's daughter Carolyn Taylor says he was grateful for Moody. "Any young man who had a call from God and was considering studying, he directed them to Moody."

### Francis "Boyd" Latchaw Jr. '55

age 92, June 8, 2018, Oskaloosa, Iowa

Born in Pennsylvania, Boyd enrolled at Moody in 1951, and met **Janette Fry '55**. After Boyd completed additional studies and was ordained, the Latchaws, with their two sons, went to Kagoro, Nigeria, with SIM. Boyd was a teacher and principal at Hillcrest in Jos, Kent Academy in Miango, and other schools. In 1965 they returned to the US. Boyd earned an MA from Northern Illinois University while serving as a teacher and counselor, and later as chaplain at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch near Amarillo, Texas. In 1977 Boyd became a Moody stewardship representative in Indiana. He also served with Back to the Bible and Child Evangelism Fellowship. In 2002 he and Jan moved to Iowa, remaining active in church ministry. Boyd was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, and is survived by his two sons, Allan and **Bryan '80** (Betty Ann), four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

### Verle E. Holsteen '50

age 91, Jan. 7, 2019, Hudson, Wisconsin



Born in Burlington, Iowa, Verle attended Moody, where he was in a music quartet, The Four Bobs. After completing the Pastors' Course, he got a BA in History from Wheaton College. Verle taught history in Rabun Gap, Georgia, before being drafted into the Army, serving in Korea and Japan. He married Patti Camp in 1955. Verle taught junior high school in New York and youth pastored in Baltimore, Maryland, then pursued his pastoral calling. He graduated

from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1961 and received a Master of Divinity from Creighton University in 1978. He pastored American Baptist churches in New York, New Jersey, and Nebraska, and served on Central Baptist Seminary's board. He and Patti helped establish North Platte Kidz Academy, and on August 21, 2018, they celebrated 63 years of marriage.

### Stanley Eugene Gudeman '54

age 92, Nov. 30, 2017, Phoenix, Arizona



Originally from Francesville, Indiana, Stan was a veteran of WWII who served in General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in Manila and Tokyo. In 1949 he graduated from Indiana University and then attended Moody. After his first missionary term in Venezuela, he married his wife, Jean; they returned to serve in Venezuela for six and a half more years. In 1967 they moved to Arizona, where Stan worked as business manager for a medical group.

### Ida Deloris (Buckley) Ottaviano '53

age 89, Jan. 4, 2019

Born and raised in Muscatine, Iowa, Ida earned a teaching certificate before attending Moody, where she met **John Ottaviano '53**. They served as missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Bolivia, translating the New Testament into the Tacana language. After working in Bolivia, John and Ida also served as missionaries in Mexico and Texas, training younger missionaries in preparation for overseas missions work. Ida is survived by three sons, including **Steven Ottaviano '77**.

## 1940s

### Donald L. Wise '44

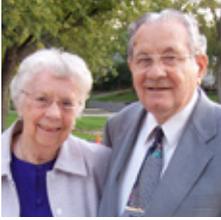
age 96, April 21, 2019

### Margaret (Andersen) Wise '44

age 96, May 18, 2019, Ludington, Michigan

Don and Margaret celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary on December 22, 2018. They passed away one month apart.

Don was born April 16, 1923, in Zion, Illinois, and graduated from Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton



College. He also attended Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, University of Chicago, and received a doctorate from The Master's Seminary. He

pastored the Union Grove Baptist Church in Wisconsin, then began a 32-year career as professor of Bible and New Testament Greek at Moody. Don preached at 120 different churches and conferences and served as an interim pastor at 21 churches. His published writings included an undergraduate New Testament Greek grammar course and a revised edition of *The Practical Use of the Greek New Testament*. He was a contributing editor to the *Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia*.

Margaret was born June 17, 1922, in Racine, Wisconsin. She worked with Child Evangelism Fellowship in Zion, Illinois, taught Sunday school and Bible study classes, and volunteered with Student Wives' Fellowship at Moody. She authored cookbooks and banquet-planning handbooks, and did oil painting.

Don and Margaret are survived by their children, **Tim '70** (Jean) of Grayslake, Ill., **Larry '72** (**Becky Dodge '72**) of St. Louis, Missouri, and **Ruth '76** (**Darrell '76**) **Storvik** of Ludington; five grandchildren, including **Tim II '97** (Melisa) and **Nate Storvik '11**; as well as seven great-grandchildren.

Their life story, "A Streetcar Romance," appeared in the spring 2016 *Alumni News* magazine.

### CORRECTION



We published a tribute to the late Phyllis (Zylstra '48) VanGerpen in the magazine's spring 2019 issue—but we included the wrong photo. Here is the correct

photo of Mrs. VanGerpen. And we apologize to Mrs. Erma Matthews, whose photo we published incorrectly. Mrs. Matthews is very much alive and sent her greetings when she saw herself in the obituaries. ■



## Clair Hess

**C**lair Hess '46 served as senior editor of *Our Daily Bread*, guiding it for more than 50 years and turning it into one of the most widely read devotional magazines. He was a noted tenor vocalist and the last surviving member of the Melody Four quartet. Clair Hess passed away at age 95 on March 20, 2019.



He grew up in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and attended Moody during WWII. After graduation he served at WMBI as a vocalist, scriptwriter, and voice actor. Singing first tenor, Clair soon formed a studio quartet with lead singer Glenn Jorian, Ray Felton (baritone) and **Bill Pearce '48–49** (bass). The Melody Four sang together for the next 52 years, crafting an elegant commercial sound based on the smooth jazz voicings of the Four Freshmen, a groundbreaking contrast to southern gospel quartets of the era. Their style was shaped by arrangers Dick Anthony and **Larry Mayfield '64**. A year after Dr. M. R. DeHaan started *Our Daily Bread* in 1956, he hired Hess as a double talent who could sing on the radio broadcast and edit the magazine. Hess gave the magazine its distinctive look and tone, always passionate about connecting Bible truths to real-life testimonies of God at work. He is survived by his wife, Frances; his three daughters, Rebecca Hess, **Kathy Kunkle '71**, and Cindy Kasper; and six grandchildren, including **Heidi '99** and **Jeff Frazee '99**. ■



Don and Betty Quass at Shelby Interiors, their family-owned business.

## ‘It’s All about the Lord. Period.’

**M**oody Bible Institute first caught Don and Betty Quass’s attention in the late 1950s when their pastor invited Moody professors to preach special services. Don and Betty heard that the students didn’t pay tuition. “It was incomprehensible for me to understand that Moody was tuition free,” says Don, owner of Shelby Interiors, an upholstery and furniture company in Indianapolis. “We learned that if you support Moody, you support the students who do not have the funds for Bible college and don’t want to get into debt.”

That began a special relationship that included giving financially to Moody Bible Institute and Moody Radio, attending Founder’s Week, and having two of their three children and two grandchildren eventually pursue Bible training at Moody.

They also gifted the goods and services for special projects.

“You know what?” says Don, now 82. “It’s all about the Lord. Period. It’s not about Don Quass, It’s not about Shelby Interiors. It’s totally about the Lord. The Lord has entrusted us with this firm, and I just want to be a good steward of it.”

Don’s father started Shelby Interiors in 1931. Over the years the Lord has blessed the family-owned business tremendously. Don says, “Here’s the way I feel about this: The more business and the more money the Lord entrusts me with, the more I can give.”

Thanks to good Bible teaching, Don and Betty’s faith grew so much that in 1967 Don founded a church in his hometown of Indianapolis that grew to more than 400 people. A decade later he took time

off to travel as a full-time evangelist, crisscrossing the United States and Canada. Every year he would select one Bible conference to attend—and it always was Founder’s Week.

“We’ve heard some fantastic preaching,” says Don, who has attended for more than 50 years. “The spiritual growth that Betty and I and our family receive from going to Founder’s Week is just astounding.”

When Don and Betty returned full-time to their upholstery business, their love for Moody continued. After urging then president Joe Stowell to start a Moody Radio station in their area, they joined the advisory board and were quick to give to help fund the station’s new building in 2004. They support WGNR and listen every day. “We wouldn’t miss Lutzer, Jeremiah, Swindoll, Evans, MacArthur, Begg, and now Jobe,” Don says. “We hear all of them.”

Sometimes members of his crew hear Moody Radio too. Two of Don’s 10 employees were riding in his car recently when one piped up: “That sounds like that station you listen to all of the time, Don.”

He replied, “Yes! That’s Moody Bible Institute’s radio station, WGNR, 97.9 FM.”

The Quasses are thrilled that their children received training from Moody. Their daughter, Michelle (Quass) Smith, was there for a semester, and her daughter, Tyler, is now a junior at Moody. Don and Betty’s youngest son, **Rod Quass ’93**, met his wife, **Ami (Walker ’93)**, at Moody, and this fall Rod and Ami’s daughter, Rilee, began her studies at Moody.

With all of that Moody involvement, Don and Betty have become adept at identifying Moody alumni. When Betty attended a Bible study at another church recently, she heard a new pastor present the lesson. Impressed, she turned to a friend and said, “He has to be a Moody grad.”

Her friend said, “Oh, he is!”

Don laughs. “It’s unbelievable that when you are around people—pastors, leaders, laymen—you can almost invariably tell that they’ve been to Moody or are an associate of Moody. They’re different, peculiar, outstanding people. In their mannerisms and their spirit, you can tell that they’ve been exposed to Moody Bible Institute.”

—by Linda Piepenbrink

# MOODY ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Fall 2019 (Vol. 69, No. 2)

**Executive Director** Nancy (Andersen ’80) Hastings;

**Managing Editor** Linda Piepenbrink

**Designer** Doug Fleener

**Alumni Notes Editors** Ricardo Sanchez,  
Loren Joseph ’18

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The magazine is distributed to Moody alumni free of charge. Visit the alumni website at [moody.edu/alumni](http://moody.edu/alumni) to view *Moody Alumni & Friends* online.

To help equip the next generation of ministry leaders studying at Moody, please visit [moody.edu/give-back](http://moody.edu/give-back).

## **Life & Ministry Notes submissions**

Send the details of your recent transitions, ministry updates and accomplishments, family announcements—and, if possible, a good quality photo—by email to [alumnews@moody.edu](mailto:alumnews@moody.edu) or by mail to Moody Alumni Association, 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610-3284. Questions? Call the Alumni Association Office at (312) 329-4412.

## **Present with the Lord submissions**

To submit an alumni death notice, please send the obituary to [alumnews@moody.edu](mailto:alumnews@moody.edu). Include the deceased person’s full name, maiden name if appropriate, class year/years attended, age, date of death, location of death (city and state), relatives or related alumni, ministry focus in life, and other pertinent information. We may edit your submission for accuracy and length if needed. Questions? Call the Alumni Association Office at (312) 329-4412.

The Alumni Association appreciates the variety of news it receives from alumni. Due to space and other restrictions, it may not be possible to publish all of the announcements we receive.

## Double Impact

**A**s I reflect on the past nine months since coming on as Moody's tenth president, my heart echoes King David's testimony in Psalm 16:6: "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places." To serve at Moody during such a time as this is a unique joy and honor.

These are exciting days at Moody, and I strongly believe that we are stepping into one of our most important periods in our 133-year history. Our leadership team and task forces have been hard at work the last several months, engaged with strategic planning to ensure that we are creating a stronger, more impactful Moody. In fact, we are seeking to double the depth and size of our impact by the year 2030.

Imagine with me a day in which Moody Radio is reaching three million listeners per week, Moody Publisher's biblically based resources are used by more than 10 million people, and Moody Bible Institute and Moody Theological Seminary are training up a combined 6,000 Christian leaders each year. That's our goal.

Becoming the premier Christian leadership pipeline to the world, and among the most influential Christian media ministries in the world, is the burden that has been laid on my heart through prayer and seeking God. I am committed to pursue this vision with the rest of the Moody family, including you, our valued alumni, for the glory of King Jesus alone, not our own.

Doubling our impact by 2030 will not be an easy task. I'm reminded of the bold spirit of D. L. Moody who is quoted as saying, "If God is your partner, make your plans large." Throughout my nearly 30

years as a pastor in the Chicagoland area, I have asked those around me to take bold steps for King Jesus. At Moody, we are trusting that the Lord will continue to provide as He has done since our founding by D. L. Moody and Emma Dryer. We are taking a bold step to reimagine what a gospel-centered urban campus could look like in the future.

In reimagining our Chicago campus for the future, Moody's senior leadership is committed to what Jesus teaches in Matthew 25—to prayerfully steward the resources entrusted to us for kingdom growth. We have therefore prayerfully begun a process to sell ten acres of our Chicago campus real estate portfolio, and the proceeds will help us provide the financial resources needed to achieve our goals for 2030. You can learn more about this at [moodybible.org/campus-redevelopment](http://moodybible.org/campus-redevelopment), and in the August e-newsletter's leadership column.

In the months to come we will be sharing more about our strategic planning efforts. In the meantime, please continue to pray for us as we take these bold steps aimed at strengthening Moody and seizing the opportunities before us.

My prayer for you, fellow alumni, is that as you will sense the Lord's sustaining grace and that you will be willing to take bold steps of obedience in this season of your life.

Dee and I look forward to seeing you at Candlelight Carols and celebrating the birth of King Jesus!

**We are taking a bold step to reimagine what a gospel-centered urban campus could look like in the future.**



**Mark Jobe '84 MA '98** is president of Moody Bible Institute and host of Moody Radio's *Bold Steps*.



## Sing it Prayerfully

**S**oon after WMBI's first broadcast in 1927, someone tacked a hand-lettered sign to the wall: "The Holy Spirit may use your message to save a soul. Deliver it prayerfully." As Moody Radio expanded, the sign kept popping up, like this variation in the music studios: "Your Song May Be Used to Save A Soul. Sing It Prayerfully." By the time the famed Studio A and B opened in 1939,

the sign was a fixture, with subsequent generations of Christian musicians posing next to it for photos. More than a sign, it was the big idea that described the best of gospel music. And 80 years later, when Moody Radio moved to the new studios in the Chapman Center, someone carried the sign across the street and tacked it to the wall. The message hasn't changed. ■



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