

The Asbury Herald

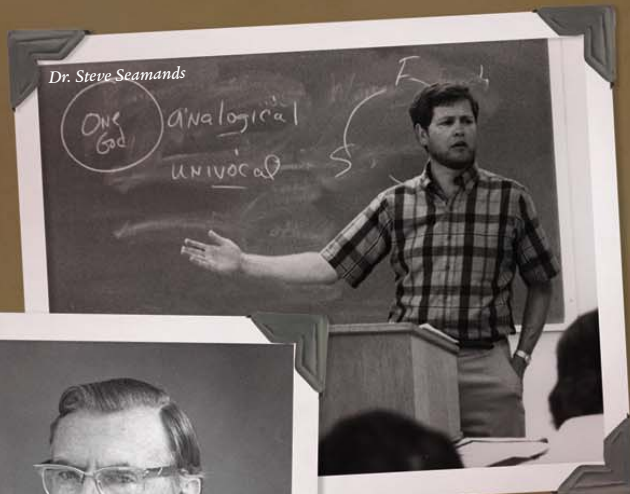
VOLUME 118 NO. 1 WINTER 2008

I Shall Never Forget

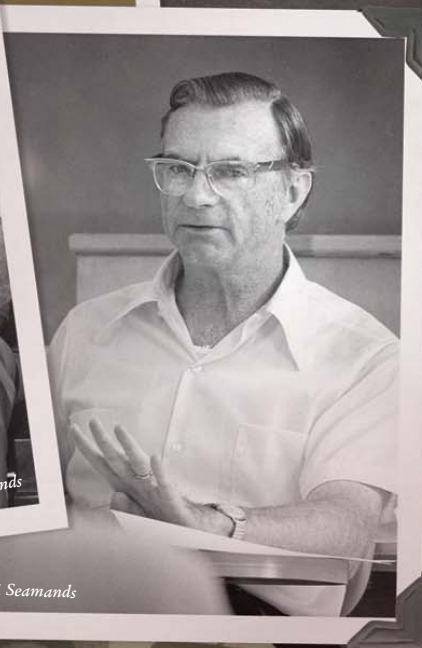
President Emeritus David McKenna



Dr. David Seamands



Dr. Steve Seamands



Dr. J.T. Seamands

An Asbury Legacy

The story of the Seamands Family

A Vision Begun

Florida campus celebrates 10 years

Celebrating OUR Heritage



Asbury
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Celebrating OUR Heritage

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Correction: Fall 2007 Herald Vol. 117, No. 3, was mislabeled Vol. 118, No. 3.

Dear Friends of Christ and of Asbury Seminary,

As you probably know, January was the first month of the ancient Roman year. It got its name from Janus, the Roman god identified with doors and gates—that is, of beginnings. Thus it was always represented by two faces looking in opposite directions.

January's name and concept may have pagan roots, but there couldn't be a more appropriate idea for the first month of the year. Throughout all of life we are poised perilously between the past and the future, but in January we celebrate that fact. At no time in the year (unless perhaps on a birthday) are we more conscious that we are creatures with a past who now look to the future.

This issue of *The Asbury Herald* is celebrating our heritage—where we have come from. This is a good thing to do in January. Probably most of us prefer the forward face of Janus over the looking-back face, but in truth we can't get the right posture for looking forward without first looking backward. We can't be sure of where we're going unless we understand where we come from.

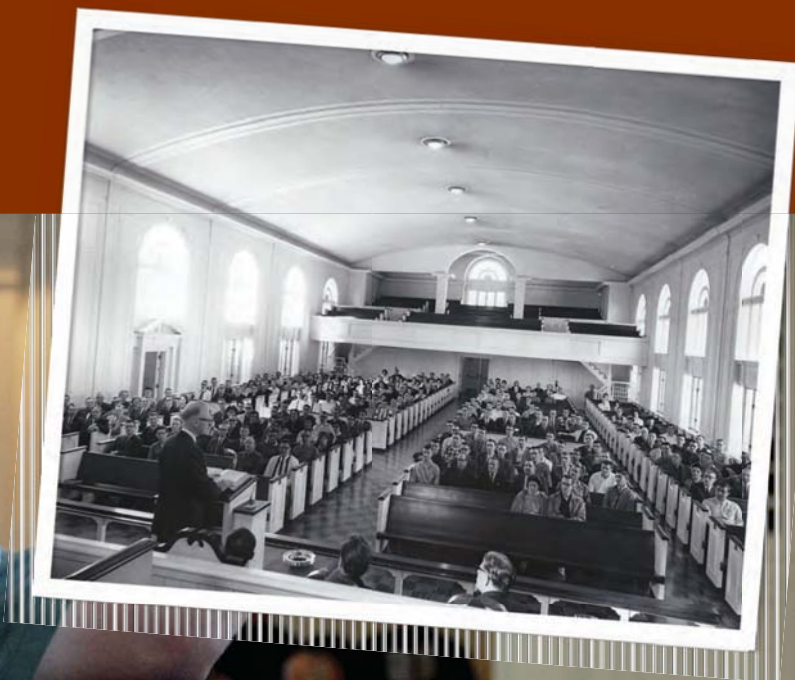
Asbury Seminary now has a heritage of nearly 85 years. Yet in the truest sense, our heritage is much longer and deeper. Asbury has roots in the holiness revivals of the nineteenth century, but we go still farther back. Our theology of holiness has ancient Eastern Orthodox roots. But there was a still earlier time in our story. When after his baptism our Lord went into the wilderness to fast and pray, we were there. And when the writer of the book of Leviticus insisted that we must be holy because God is holy, we were there. Indeed, when Enoch walked with God until he enjoyed a most remarkable exit, we were there. That is, the heritage of Asbury Theological Seminary goes back, back, back a very long way.

I anticipate reading this issue of *The Herald* because I know it will lead me to a greater awareness of our heritage. And with that better sense of where we've come from, we will know better how we should go in the future.

Sincerely,



J. Ellsworth Kalas
President, Asbury Theological Seminary



I Shall Never Forget

BY DAVID L. MCKENNA

I SHALL NEVER FORGET...LEARNING HOW TO BE A PASTOR AFTER BECOMING PRESIDENT OF ASBURY SEMINARY. IN 1953, I GRADUATED FROM ASBURY WITH THE CREDENTIALS OF A PASTOR. TWENTY-NINE YEARS LATER, I RETURNED TO ASBURY SEMINARY AS PRESIDENT WITH THE NEED TO LEARN HOW TO BE A PASTOR TO PASTORS. THE 1985 MINISTER'S CONFERENCE TAUGHT ME THE LESSON.

More than 1,000 pastors and spouses had come home for three days of continuing education, coffee cup reunions, and public worship services. Our guest speaker was Lloyd John Ogilvie, Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hollywood, California.

When Lloyd stepped up to the makeshift pulpit in the gym at the opening service, he seemed to bring all of the glamour of Hollywood with him—a handsome face, tanned to perfection; a double-breasted blue blazer with gold buttons; a bit of Scottish brogue; and a Charlton Heston voice that thundered from the mountain.

All of this changed as he began to preach. The Spirit of God descended upon our assembly and deep conviction penetrated every heart. After the service, Lloyd asked me if it would be appropriate to give an altar call in the next service if the Spirit led. I answered, "Asbury is always open and ready for revival."

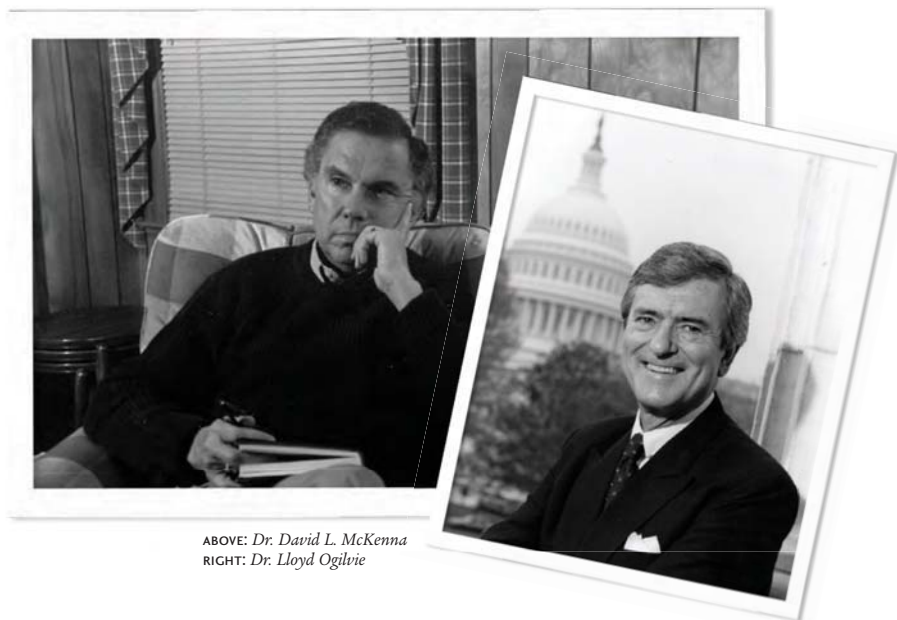
As his text for the final service on Thursday morning, Lloyd chose the subject "The Refiner's Fire" from Malachi 3:2. No one will ever forget the moving drama of firing the crucible, melting the ore, skimming the dross, shaping the molten metal through the hardened die, polishing the product, and hand-rubbing by the silversmith to bring the tool to perfection. Once again, the Spirit of God gripped our souls and awakened in us our need for the refiner's fire and the master's touch.

In concert with the presence of the Spirit, Lloyd asked for 30 pastors and spouses who had come to the conference feeling wounded to meet him at the altar. Within seconds, the quota was filled. In hushed silence, everyone prayed while Lloyd went to each of the 30 pastors and spouses, heard their hurts, laid his hands on them, and prayed for healing.

The wounded healers were then asked to turn around, face the congregation, and become pastors to pastors. At the invitation, long lines fanned out over the gym floor as confessions were made, prayers were given, and healing was received. Time now stood still. A

service scheduled for 9–10 a.m. carried past noon. At the very end, Lloyd Ogilvie stood alone in prayer with the last pastor. He had already missed his flight for home.

On the original schedule, I had invited President Emeritus Frank Bateman Stanger to join with me and Dr. Ogilvie for an early luncheon in the President's Dining Room. After a gracious meal with brotherly talk, Dr. Stanger brought our casual conversation to a halt with these solemn words: "I came late to the service and heard the invitation for pastors who were wounded to come forward. I didn't respond then, but I am among the



ABOVE: Dr. David L. McKenna
RIGHT: Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie



wounded. I have just come from the doctor's office with the diagnosis of prostate cancer that has spread to the spine."

Lloyd Ogilvie dropped like a shot to his knees at Dr. Stanger's side and motioned me to kneel on the other side. We wept together in prayer with a wounded man whose life had been given to the ministry of healing. Dr. Stanger died within months, but his healing was celebrated in his memorial service when we sang his final testimony, "Bold, I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown of Christ, my own."

After our luncheon, Lloyd Ogilvie and I returned to my office before heading for the airport. Rather than reflecting upon the events of the day, we both confessed that we, too, had wounds that needed healing. From that moment on, we pledged to be covenant brothers, calling each other from time to time, and being instantly ready to respond to an urgent need.

Fast-forward to 1994. When asked about a speaker for our retirement dinner, the response was immediate. We wanted our Asbury community to hear again from the man who had taught us how to be a pastor to pastors as well as presidents. A year later, Lloyd Ogilvie was confirmed as Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. We celebrated his appointment, knowing that he had been through the refiner's fire in preparation to be a pastor to our national leaders.

I write this memory not to glorify a person, but to remember the most important lesson I learned while serving at Asbury. Pastors and presidents are called to the ministry of healing. But who is the healer for our wounds? Whether we are pastor or president, we need a pastor. As Henri Nouwen writes in his book, *In the Name of Jesus*, those who minister, "need a place where they can share their deep pain and struggles with people who do not need them, but who can guide them ever deeper into the mystery of God's love."

John Wesley foresaw this need by organizing the Select Band where potential leaders exercised the spiritual disciplines of confession and forgiveness. He also knew that leaders as well as laity can fall from grace. With the same stroke of Spirit-guided genius, he set up the Penitent Band with its open arms for restoration.



TOP LEFT: Drs. McPheeters, McKenna and Stanger BOTTOM RIGHT: Dr. McKenna addresses students.

Somewhere along the long road of our history, Wesley's nurturing network fell apart. The organization of bands may be an artifact for discipling converts in the 18th century, but the need for a nurturing network where our wounds are healed is greater than ever. So, with the lesson of experience from an unforgettable memory, I urge us to embrace our heritage, confess our vulnerability, receive His forgiveness, and, in the spirit of the Incarnation, join Christ in ministry as wounded healers.

David McKenna is President Emeritus of Asbury Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Janet, live in Kirkland, Washington. Dr. McKenna's forthcoming book is entitled Incarnational Leadership: What Are You Willing to Die for?

On the Journey

BY J. ELLSWORTH KALAS

ALL OF US HAVE A HERITAGE, WHETHER WE WANT IT OR NOT. SOME ARE UNDULY PROUD OF THEIR HERITAGE, LIKE THE PEOPLE IN JESUS' DAY WHO BOASTED THAT THEY HAD ABRAHAM AS THEIR FATHER. OTHERS SPEND THEIR LIVES TRYING TO ESCAPE THEIR HERITAGE; THEY RESENT NOT ONLY THEIR FAMILY TIES, BUT ALSO THEIR HOMETOWN AND SOMETIMES THEIR COUNTRY OR THE CULTURE IN WHICH THEY GREW UP. BUT LIKE IT OR NOT, THEY HAVE A HERITAGE.

Of course there's much more to our heritage than simply our ethnic background or the community in which we were raised. I know some whose most compelling heritage is political or economic. In instances where a person belongs to a three- or four-generation family business, the dominant heritage is vocational.

A Christian has some of the same political, ethnic, or vocational heritages as anyone else. But a Christian's most significant heritage is spiritual. I am an American of northern European descent, much influenced by the depression-era world I grew up in—these matters play their part in my heritage. But they aren't the biggest part. I was raised in the church, and at ten years of age, I became a Christian. Since then, in increasing measure, the heritage that matters most to me is my faith.

That heritage has made me rich beyond measure. It is because of this heritage that I look at human beings as I do. Most of the first 13 years of my life my parents belonged to the Helping Hand Mission, a church that had services every night for the street derelicts. The church's deaconesses ministered mainly to poor families in Sioux City's south and east bottoms. I came to understand very early that God is no respecter of persons, and that the soul of an alcoholic who stumbled into the mission to keep warm was as beautiful in God's sight as the wealthiest family in our city's north side. This is a price-less heritage.

And I learned to sing. I'm not referring to the vocal training or the choral work I got later, but the impulse to sing, the love of melodies and lyrics. We sang in the opening portion of Sunday school, and again in worship services Sunday morning and evening. We sang at revival services, sometimes with the exciting assistance of a song leader with a trombone. My mother sang while sweeping the floor and cooking. When I was pressed into household duty, she and I sang duets while doing dishes. Has it occurred to you how rarely people sing if they don't go to church? People sometimes ask me if I know all the hymns in the hymnal. No, but I know more hymns that have been dropped out of the hymnal than remain in it. What a heritage!

I knew before I was 10 years old that we live in a big world. The longest annual trip we made was less than 100 miles, but the missionaries who came to our church introduced us to "the lands beyond the sea," where "countless million children be, who have never heard the Gospel story told." Africa, China, South America, the Holy Land—these were more real to me than Omaha or Minneapolis. I was a world citizen because I gave pennies at regular intervals for hospitals and schools in faraway places. What a heritage!

Eventually I learned that I ought to be better than I am. After I gave my heart to Christ, I was taught that God wasn't done with me yet; indeed, this was only the beginning. I learned that all of the gifts God invested in the church—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers—had as their ultimate purpose that we should come "to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11–13). By the grace of God, I expect never to stop growing. I love this heritage!

In the gracious providence of God, I have been privileged for the past 15 years to work at Asbury Theological Seminary, where all of this grand deposit of heritage finds still further fulfillment. I work daily with some extraordinary people—utterly human, but beautifully dedicated—who join me in ministering to students from half a hundred countries and nearly 100 denominations who are also very human but very hungry for God.

Two or three millennia ago the psalmist sang, "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage." With all reverence I want to reply, "You don't have a thing on me, Brother!"



One of Asbury's most beloved professors, J. Ellsworth Kalas also serves as the seminary's interim president. He has expertise in narrative preaching and church renewal, authoring over 30 books, 13 adult study quarterlies, and recording the entire Bible on audiocassette.



Online . . . In 1989

BY AMI WILLIAMS

THE PAST FEW DECADES HAVE BROUGHT A WHIRLWIND OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, CHANGING MANY ASPECTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE. THANKS TO THE INTERNET, EDUCATION IS NO EXCEPTION AS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AROUND THE WORLD OFFER ONLINE CLASSES AND DEGREE PROGRAMS. ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WASTED NO TIME IN EMBRACING AND ENGAGING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY TO FURTHER ITS MISSION TO “SPREAD SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.”

Asbury’s Extended Learning program (ExL) offered its first online classes in the fall of 1997—but research and planning began years earlier. During the 1980s, President David L. McKenna started to reveal a vision for a global network of institutions connected by technology. Asbury’s Virtual Campus came from this original vision.

In 1989, McKenna formed the High Tech Task Force to assess the technology that existed on campus and anticipate the seminary’s ministry through a state-of-the-art global communications network. In 1990, the project got a boost from a \$58 million gift from the estate of Ralph Waldo Beeson of Birmingham, Ala. Mr. Beeson wanted to enable Asbury to “do something it would never be able to do for itself”—provide leadership in the use of technology in the interest of theological education.

While early planning and research focused on technology, President Maxie Dunnam

recognized the need to explore and establish educational applications that would fit Asbury’s needs. In 1995 Dunnam commissioned a 22-person task force to respond to this strategic question: “How is God calling Asbury to utilize its technological resources in missionally-oriented, educational applications in the world today?”

According to Dr. Leslie Andrews, who was instrumental in the development of the Virtual Campus, there were many other issues that helped narrow the program’s focus. “How would we replicate the ‘Asbury experience’? How would community be established? Would an online program detract from our geophysical campus? How would online teaching figure into faculty teaching loads? What about accreditation and quality assurance? There were many questions!” says Andrews.

“A key commitment from the beginning was that we would create a seamless infrastructure,” Andrews explains. “Rather than

developing parallel systems for what we did—library, registrar, admissions, etc.—we would develop ways to serve all students in the same way. That commitment has served us well.”

After several years of planning and development, ExL kicked off in the fall of 1997 with about 20 students, three classes and three faculty members. Ten years later, the enrollment has grown to 467, with over 150 classes utilizing approximately 100 faculty members.

ExL was created to expand Asbury’s educational mission to people across the globe. The growth of the program has matched the increasing need as individuals, churches, and institutions continually look for others to partner with in order to help train pastors and lay persons alike for ministry in today’s world. Asbury’s educational mission sees the world as our parish and ExL is one avenue toward training people to “go forth” with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



LEFT: Asbury's Florida campus; Steve and Jeannie Harper RIGHT: Florida campus Vice President Steve Harper teaches class, 2007.

We began to network with civic and religious leaders in Orlando and throughout Florida. When classes began in the fall of 1999, it seemed as if every student was saying, "God put Asbury in Orlando for me." Spouses and children echoed the sentiment.

We laughed and cried as we listened to their stories and saw how their callings and our campus intersected. The environment was charged with the belief that we were part of a "Kingdom enterprise." Likewise, our faculty and staff came with that conviction. Someone referred to it as "living in Acts 29."

Within a few years, the student vision deepened as they began to graduate. Most moved into ministries in more than 30 denominations and parachurch organizations, both inside the United States and beyond. Some went on for doctoral study. Commencements became high moments of worship and celebration. To date, we have nearly 200 students who have graduated from the Asbury Florida Dunnam campus.

Several of our alumni, as well as some from Wilmore, are now employed on our campus in the faculty, information services, enrollment management, seminary advancement, and community life.

Furthermore, we experienced the vision in our context. We had barely opened our doors before clergy and laity in the Hispanic community approached us with a "Macedonian call" to deliver theological education in Spanish. The result was our Latino-Latina Studies Program—a program where students can take one course or the entire three-year curriculum, graduating with 90 hours toward a baccalaureate degree. That program, combined with our traditional M.Div. and M.A. degree programs, have grown the campus to 350 students, making the Asbury Florida Dunnam campus larger than 70 percent of the seminaries in North America.

But perhaps more than anything else, we have experienced the vision through a remarkable sense of community. It is rooted in the students,

faculty, and staff who share life together here each day. But even visitors have commented on it when they walk through the doors. It is community expressed in the chapel, the classrooms, the lounge, and the offices. And now, with our growing network of alumni, donors, and friends, the "family feeling" includes more than the campus.

Like any missional effort, the past can be celebrated, but it cannot be replicated. The Asbury Florida Dunnam campus is growing and evolving. We thank God for the past, but we are not trying to live there. Instead, we are continuing to experience God's vision in current realities, with the assurance of an exciting future. We will look at those dimensions in future articles.



Steve Harper is Vice President and Professor of Spiritual Formation at the Florida Dunnam campus of Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando.



A Vision Begun

BY STEVE HARPER

VISIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE, BUT THEY CAN BE EXPERIENCED. SINCE MARCH OF 1998, JEANNIE AND I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO BE PART OF THE VISION WHICH HAS GIVEN RISE TO ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S FLORIDA DUNNAM CAMPUS IN ORLANDO. GOD BROUGHT US INTO THE PICTURE IN WAYS WE NEVER ANTICIPATED—WAYS THAT HAVE BEEN EXCITING AND CHALLENGING. IT IS A VISION LARGER THAN THE CAMPUS ITSELF, AND ONE THAT IS CONTINUING TO UNFOLD. IN THIS ARTICLE, I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE BEGINNING OF THE VISION AND THE EARLY YEARS OF ITS FULFILLMENT.

The vision began in the mid-1990s when the seminary responded to God's leading to expand its educational mission outside Wilmore. Theological education in general was moving in the direction of globalization and multi-site delivery. President Maxie Dunnam inspired the community to embody afresh the Wesleyan vision that "the world is our parish." He challenged seminary leaders to think how that historic vision might take on new expression.

The embodiment began with the establishment of the Extended Learning Program (ExL)—what we now call Asbury's "Virtual Campus." Thanks to the gift from a generous donor, Asbury Seminary was in cyberspace and quickly became a leader in online theological education. This delivery system continues to be one of the mainstays of the seminary.

But was there more to the vision than that? The Trustees wrestled with the question, considering whether to cap enrollment in Wilmore or start a second physical campus elsewhere. The impe-

tus to look outside Kentucky was part of our Wesleyan DNA: "to spread scriptural holiness around the world." So, seminary leaders began to explore options and generate ideas.

By the fall of 1997, the decision had been made and Orlando was chosen as the site. It was only a few months later that Jeannie and I became part of the team that began to work to turn the dream into a reality. Almost immediately, we experienced the providential nature of the vision. We have been fortunate to be part of some exciting things, but nothing more so than stepping into the stream of what would become the Asbury's Florida Dunnam campus.

We experienced the vision in some significant manifestations. We experienced it in the location. The mission for a second physical campus was "to deliver theological education in a multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-denominational urban center that is a gateway city to the world." No finer place could have been chosen than Orlando, which was recently named by *National*

Geographic magazine as "the new American metropolis"—a paradigm city for the 21st century.

We found ourselves in a dynamic culture that blends traditional and non-traditional, denominational and parachurch, church and society, and small and large in ways that afford our students a marvelous context for theological training. But the location was even more specific than that. The way we found our campus site and secured adjacent property was only possible because God was in our midst. We were literally led to a building and land near a major expressway, and with sufficient acreage to meet our needs for some time to come. How we came to have each parcel is miraculous. By the time we opened our doors, we knew God had brought us to the spot.

But more than land, we experienced the vision in our students. The 1998-99 academic year was a planning year for us. We recruited students, faculty and staff. We totally renovated our building.

An Asbury Legacy

The Story of the Seamands Family

BY SHEILA LOVELL AND STEVE SEAMANDS

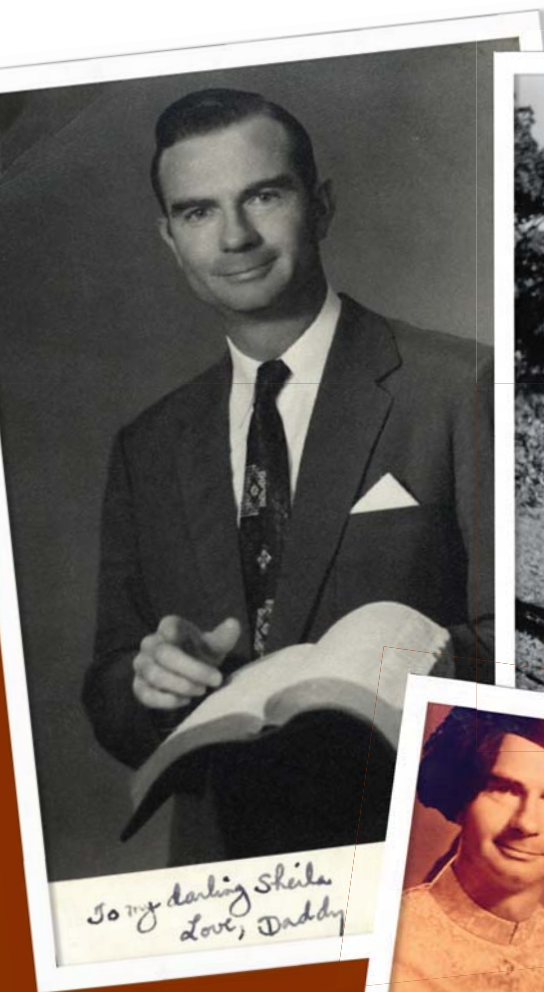
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR A COLLEGE OR SEMINARY TO HAVE A GENERATIONAL IMPACT ON A FAMILY. OFTEN YOU HEAR OF CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN CARRYING ON A TRADITION BY ATTENDING THE SAME SCHOOL THEIR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS ATTENDED. BUT WHAT'S MUCH LESS COMMON IS A FAMILY THAT HAS A GENERATIONAL IMPACT ON A COLLEGE OR SEMINARY—A FAMILY THAT MARKEDLY INFLUENCES A SCHOOL OVER GENERATIONS. YET THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE SEAMANDS FAMILY HAS DONE AT ASBURY SEMINARY.

J.T. Seamands

The legacy began in the 1930s in Kodaikanal, India, where J.T. Seamands was attending high school. An evangelistic team from Asbury College came to visit the school and one team member in particular made a sound impression. Byron Crouse from Wilmore, Kentucky, spoke about Asbury College, and he also played the trombone. J.T. and his family fell in love with both—not only did J.T. attend Asbury College after his high school graduation, he also learned how to play the trombone.

Though he would spend a few years in America getting his education, J.T. was certain that God was equipping him for missionary work back in India. He graduated from Asbury College in 1938 and went to Asbury Seminary from 1938–40. He spent the next 20 years serving as a missionary in India, making occasional trips back to Asbury to teach. One of those trips would turn into an extended stay in the States.

In 1959, J.T.'s family came to Wilmore on what was supposed to be a one-year furlough from missionary service. J.T.'s daughter Sheila went back to India a few months ahead of the rest of the family to return to school at Kodaikanal. Shortly after her return, Sheila received news that her younger sister was sick with histoplasmosis, a common lung ailment



Dr. J.T. and Mrs. Ruth Seamands

in Kentucky. Because of the illness, the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church denied the Seamands permission to return to India.

“Just like that, my daddy’s lifelong passion—being an evangelistic missionary in India—was taken from him,” says Sheila Lovell, who now serves as the executive assistant to the president at Asbury Seminary. “Dr. J. C. McPheeters, president of the Seminary at that time, had tried to persuade him over the years to come teach at ATS, but Daddy had always replied that God had called him to be a missionary, not a professor. This time he accepted Dr. McPheeters’ offer.”

This turn of events didn’t slow J.T.’s progress or stall his passion for God’s work. “God taught my father that as a missionary he could only reach so many people, but as a professor who taught missionaries and pastors, he could reach many more people around the world for Him,” says Sheila.

“He also learned that he actually loved teaching, and he was able to still be a missionary because every year he took a class overseas, mostly to India, but occasionally to another country, to learn from missionaries on the field and show his students what missionary life was really like.”

From 1961–1988, J.T. was full-time on the seminary faculty, teaching subjects like “The Pastor and Missions,” “The Making of a Missionary,” “The Missionary and His Message,” “The History of Missions,” and other courses on missions and cross-cultural evangelism. He was the Founding Director of the E. Stanley Jones School when it began in 1983, and he also held the Beeson Chair of Missions.

“When Daddy retired, he joked that it took five professors to replace him, because for a long time he *was* the missions department at Asbury Seminary,” says Sheila.

J.T.’s legacy at Asbury included his wife Ruth, who attended classes after World War II, and



Dr. J.T. Seamands



Dr. Steve Seamands



Dr. David Seamands

“IN THE MID-80S WHEN MY UNCLE J.T., MY FATHER, DAVID, AND I WERE ALL ON THE FACULTY HERE AT ATS WE WERE AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS ‘THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY UNCLE.’” — Steve Seamands

his son-in-law, Rick Sheppard, who graduated from Asbury Seminary in the 1970s. The tradition continues to live on through Sheila, who has been on staff in her current position since 1982.

Sheila has learned a few things about Asbury during her 25-year tenure. “God has taught me that Asbury Seminary, though certainly not perfect in all her doings, has a marvelous heritage and future in helping to spread the gospel around the world. I have delighted in meeting so many people—professors, students, staff, alumni, friends, and even presidents—who have made ATS their passion. I am grateful and humbled to be a part of that great work.”

David Seamands

Another branch of the Seamands family tree starts with J.T.’s brother David, who graduated from Asbury College and served as a pastor at the Wilmore United Methodist Church for 22 years. In 1982, David began teaching a basic course in Pastoral Care and Counseling at Asbury Seminary as an adjunct professor. Then in 1984, he became a full-time professor of Pastoral Care at the seminary and taught until 1992. He also served as Dean of the Chapel from 1988–1992.

Though his formal career at Asbury didn’t

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

begin until 1982, David ministered to scores of ATS students in his position as a pastor. Out of his counseling ministry at the church came books like *Healing for Damaged Emotions* and *Putting Away Childish Things*.

“Having accumulated much wisdom about pastoral care and counseling over his lifetime of ministry, Dad felt blessed that he could spend the last chapter of his ministry teaching at ATS where he could invest in the next generation of Christian leaders and impart to them out of the rich storehouse of wisdom he had gained,” says David’s son Steve, who currently serves as the Professor of Christian Doctrine at Asbury Seminary.

“Dad was an excellent teacher,” says Steve. “I had students tell me that being in his class in Pastoral Care was like being in a group inner healing session. In addition to learning about pastoral care and counseling, students experienced profound healing in their own lives as he taught. He also spent a part of his course load actually counseling students and their spouses.”

Following in his father’s footsteps, Steve graduated from Asbury College and came to Asbury’s faculty after serving as a full-time United Methodist pastor in New Jersey for 11 years. During that time he was also working

on his Ph.D. at Drew University. Upon his graduation in 1983, he was invited to join Asbury’s faculty to fill a position in systematic theology.

“God’s timing in all that was amazing,” says Steve. “As I learned so vividly during that time, ‘God gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him.’”

Though Steve’s teaching position is his main area of serving at Asbury, he also considers his interaction with the students outside the classroom an integral part of his ministry. “I’ve enjoyed being involved with students in small groups and counseling and praying with them about spiritual and emotional problems they are wrestling with,” Steve says.

He has also discovered a passion and concern for the spiritual lives of pastors and others in Christian ministry and has been able to reach out to them through speaking and writing. “The speaking ministry outside the seminary in local churches and retreat settings has been an important place of service for me,” Steve explains.

“In recent years, writing has also opened as an important avenue of service. It brings much joy to me when people tell me how something I have written has helped them grasp the practical relevance of Christian doctrine for their spiritual lives and ministries.”

Like his father before him, Steve’s desire to serve God and others at Asbury Seminary doesn’t end with his responsibilities in the classroom, but extends into the lives of his students and the leaders of the community.

Steve is not the only member of David Seamands’ family who has been involved at Asbury. David’s wife, Helen, served at Asbury as secretary to Dean Traina in the 1970s, and his nephew, Daniel Mostad, recently completed his M.A. in Christian Leadership at ATS and currently manages the Asbury Inn.

The legacy of the Seamands family that began in the 1930s continues to live on today, creating an uncommon generational impact on Asbury and the surrounding community. Because of the family’s passion for excellence and the fulfillment of Asbury’s mission, their heritage will live on for generations to come.

“I think that both my father, David, and my uncle J.T. were living embodiments of the ATS mission—to raise up a ‘well-trained, sanctified, spirit-filled, evangelistic ministry,’” says Steve. “You could see all four characteristics reflected so clearly in their lives. I think that’s their heritage.”

Sheila Lovell is the Executive Assistant to the President at Asbury Seminary. Dr. Steve Seamands is Professor of Christian Doctrine at Asbury’s Kentucky campus.



Dr. Steve Seamands

ASBURY NEWS



Presidential Search Update

Our Presidential Search committee continues to move through the process of selecting the next President of Asbury Theological Seminary. Recently the group met to review the nominations received to this point. Over 91 names were submitted for consideration. The committee has begun narrowing the field based on the current needs of the seminary as described in the Presidential Profile (to download a copy of the profile, visit www.asburyseminary.edu and click on "Presidential Search Update").

The committee continues to work carefully with thoughtful consideration. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. We are grateful for the support the seminary family has shown. Please continue praying for the Presidential Search committee and the seminary. The committee has sensed the Lord's hand helping as they continue in this important task.

For updates on the Presidential Search process, please visit our website www.asburyseminary.edu and click on "Presidential Search Update" located on the home page.

New Board Of Trustees

During the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees new members were named to serve on the board. These board members will begin their term January 1, 2008 and will be present at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees in March 2008. These members are Nancy Dumas and David Roller.

Nancy Dumas: Nancy Dumas has spent her working career in the financial advisory field and oil industry. Ms. Dumas worked with Merrill Lynch & Co. for a number of years progressing from a private wealth advisor to first vice president, Investments. She is currently the president of Dora Tes Basileas Foundation, a family foundation dedicated to the support of new and renewing Christian communities. Ms. Dumas and her husband Jerry are active members of the First Methodist Church in Houston, TX where they reside.

David Roller: David Roller is a Bishop with the Free Methodist Church of North America. Mr. Roller began this position in 2007 serving previously as the area director for Latin America for the Free Methodist World Missions. Roller received his MDiv from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1980. He and his wife, Yvonne, live in Indianapolis, IN with their two children.

Upcoming Lecture Series:

Dr. Willimon will be guest lecturer for Distinguished Preacher Series

Bishop William Willimon will be on our Asbury Florida campus on Thursday, March 6 as part of the Distinguished Preacher Series that is sponsored by the FL Student Conference. Bishop Willimon currently serves as the Bishop of the United Methodist Church within the North Alabama conference. For twenty years he was Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Christian Ministry at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Willimon is a graduate of Wofford College (B.A., 1968), Yale Divinity School (M.Div., 1971) and Emory University (S.T.D., 1973). He has served as pastor of churches in Georgia and South Carolina.

Dr. Willimon is the author of nearly 60 books, with over a million copies of his books being sold. His articles have appeared in many publications including *The Christian Ministry*, *Quarterly Review*, *Liturgy*, *Worship* and *Christianity Today*. He is Editor-at-Large for *The Christian Century*.



Fleming Rutledge Visits Asbury as Beeson Lecturer

Mrs. Fleming Rutledge will visit the Asbury Kentucky campus as the 2008 Beeson Lecturer on Feb. 26-27. She will speak in chapel on Tues., Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. and will deliver the Beeson lectures on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 11 a.m. All events will be in Estes Chapel on Asbury's Kentucky campus. For more information, contact Jenny Carson at 859.858.2254.

The Beeson Lectures in Biblical Preaching were established through the Beeson bequest for the purpose of delineating, advocating and modeling excellence in biblical preaching. The lectures were inaugurated in 1992 by Donald English and normally occur in February.

Fleming Rutledge, having spent 22 years in parish ministry, now has an international preaching vocation. She is widely recognized as a teacher of other preachers in the mainline Protestant denominations of the US and has extended her ministry into Canada and the UK. She has twice been a resident Fellow of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton.

Her most recent book is *Not Ashamed of the Gospel: Sermons From Romans*. Her previous sermon collections, *The Bible and The New York Times*, *Help My Unbelief*, *The Undoing of Death*, and *The Seven Last Words from the Cross* have met with wide acclaim across denominational lines. Her book about the theology of *The Lord of the Rings*, called *The Battle for Middle-earth*, has been called the best available volume on the subject. She has received a grant from the Louisville Institute, funded by the Lilly Foundation, to complete a substantial book about the meaning of the Crucifixion. Her website is www.generousorthodoxy.org.

One of the first women to be ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church, Mrs. Rutledge served for 14 years on the clergy staff at Grace Church on Lower Broadway at Tenth Street, New York City.

A native of Franklin, Virginia, Mrs. Rutledge has been married for 49 years to Reginald E. (Dick) Rutledge. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

ASBURY NEWS

COME. LEARN. SERVE.

Asbury Theological Seminary's Preview Weekends

April 11-12, 2008 - Wilmore, KY

April 25-26, 2008 - Orlando, FL

If you know someone who is considering graduate education, invite them to come to our table and experience firsthand the formational and educational community that makes Asbury unique. Faculty, staff, students and alumni stand ready to answer any questions, and are excited about the opportunity to share a weekend with prospective students.

Visit asburyseminary.edu to register online.



listen Chapel Streaming

Check out the Asbury Seminary Online Chapel today to listen to a live streaming edition of the Asbury Kentucky chapel services. You may also download past chapel messages and assemble an ever-growing collection of interviews, features and connections to the worshipping world of Asbury Seminary.

Academic Catalog Online

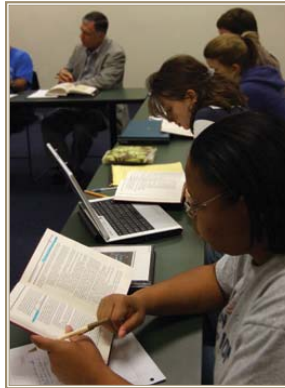


Asbury Seminary now offers the academic catalog in two formats: online and in pdf.

Our online academic catalog is the most up-to-date information regarding the policies, procedures and requirements for our degree programs and for how we operate together as an academic community.

As a result, the catalog is

on occasion subject to change and updates can take place at any time without prior notice. The pdf catalog will be updated annually and contains the most accurate information at the time of the initial posting.



Donor Offers Million Dollar Match

A generous donor has recently offered, in the form of a million dollar match, to give \$1 for every \$2 received in donations to Asbury Seminary. If we can raise two million dollars, this donor will contribute one million dollars to Asbury Seminary. As you prayerfully consider making a gift to Asbury, please remember that your gift will be multiplied. We encourage you to take advantage of the enclosed prepaid envelope when making your gift.

listen Welcome to the OnLine Chapel



So much happens at Asbury Seminary on a weekly basis we feel compelled to share it.

Announcing the Asbury Seminary Podcast, a monthly podcast journal featuring news, interviews, art, theological resources and the latest learnings at Asbury Theological Seminary. Our aim is to mine the very best of our own resources in order to encourage and equip our students, alumni and friends with the wisdom and practices needed to sustain a life of excellence in the work of servant ministry. The Asbury Podcast is an initiative of PSALM: Seminarium, our Sustaining Pastoral

Excellence Lilly Grant. Access the monthly podcast via our OnLine Chapel Bonus Features section or find it on iTunes today.



ABIDE IN ME and I will abide in you. Join us beginning Feb. 6 for the Asbury Spring Reader. The journey will trek us through John's Gospel and selected saints from the Great Cloud of Witnesses. The Asbury Reader unfolds each semester as a way of practicing Scripture together through a shared reading of a common text. Entitled "Abide," we are affectionately calling our spring edition "The Asbury Farm Reader." We are pleased to share the added feature of a companion reader podcast, bringing in devotional commentary on John from a range of professors, theologians, pastors, teachers and artists. Print copies of the Asbury

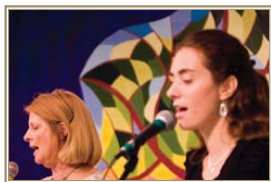
Reader may be purchased for a \$5 donation plus shipping. E-mail Chapel@asburyseminary.edu to order. The Reader may be accessed at no charge via the Online Chapel by clicking the "READ" link. The reader podcast can be accessed on the Online Chapel or by searching iTunes for Asbury Seminary.

Are you a Blogger? If so, we would love to invite you to join the Asbury Blogger's Society. In the spirit of the Wesleyan movement, the Asbury Blogger's Society seeks to connect, encourage and resource bloggers who are part of the Asbury Seminary family around the world. We are seeking to understand blogging and all its potential to enhance friendships in ministry and to provide innovative ways to practice the means of grace. It's simple to join. From the OnLine Chapel page, click on the Asbury Blogger's Society link and you will be guided from there.

ASBURY NEWS

Arts Chapels

Arts Chapels, April 15 and 17 on our Asbury Florida campus.



LLSP Program Celebrates 7th Anniversary

On Saturday, Jan. 19, the Latino/Latina Studies Program (LLSP) on the Florida campus celebrated seven years of partnership with Central Florida's Latino community in advancing the kingdom of God through academic formation.

The Latino/Latina Studies Program is geared towards students interested in advanced theological studies. There are two academic tracks possible. The first is a Certification in Theological Studies, which includes the ten core courses and one area of concentration. This certification is a total of 48 credit hours. Thanks to the partnership with FLET University, LLSP, in conjunction with FLET, is able to also offer a bachelor's track. Students are required to complete a total of 90 credit hours through LLSP, which along with 30 additional hours through FLET will entitle them to a bachelor's degree granted by FLET University. LLSP students have the opportunity to continue with graduate studies in any of the ten seminars that recognize this degree, among which is Asbury Theological Seminary. Currently, four LLSP graduates are now enrolled in a masters program through Asbury.

If you would like more information about our program, please call either Lizette Acosta at 407.482.7565, or Jose Hernandez at 407.482.7500. (Lizette_acosta@asburyseminary.edu, Jose_hernandez@asburyseminary.edu)

Faculty Publications



Rick Gray, *Evangel Meets Orson Whale*. EveningStar: Wilmore, KY. 2007



Ben Witherington III, *The Living Word of God*. Waco, TX. Baylor University Press. 2007



Calling All Alumni

Sometimes the last thing you want to hear at the end of the day is your phone ringing. Maybe it's a telemarketer, someone from the office, or a caller taking a survey.... Too often, these calls don't bring a blessing into your life—more like a bother.

That's where Asbury's Phonathon stands apart. The Phonathon is an annual event where Asbury students and spouses call our alumni and encourage them, pray for their needs, celebrate their blessings, inform them about the Asbury community, and invite them to help support the student scholarships.

In September 2007, our Student Leadership team, led by Laura Hill, met to pray over this year's event. The Lord led them to this year's theme in Ezekiel 47:9: "So where the river flows everything will live." From that moment on, the prayers for our Phonathon became prayers for healing—healing for the student callers, and healing for the alumni who would receive the calls.

Over the years we have discovered the amazing impact of the Phonathon events. Our callers have phoned alumni who were facing terminal illnesses in their family, and our students have listened and prayed for them. We phoned one alumnus who recently had a heart attack and that day was his first day back at work. Another alumnus was moving his in-laws into a nursing home the following day, and he asked for prayer for his wife and their family.

We have prayed for alumni who have lost a spouse or a child. Many alumni asked for prayer for their churches. We have prayed for alumni going into the hospital for surgery and we have prayed for alumni who are at the end of their rope in ministry.

One of our alums said, "I need so much prayer that I don't know where to begin."

We also get to join our alumni as they praise God. Last year we phoned one alumnus who had been involved in an inner-city ministry, and he asked us to pray especially for Rocky who was a drug dealer in town. They were trying to reach Rocky with the love of Christ. We prayed for Rocky throughout the year.

When we phoned this alumnus again he said, "I just want to thank you for praying. I am so excited to share this with you. Last year I asked you all to pray for Rocky. Tonight, we had our meeting downtown. Rocky came forward and asked for forgiveness and accepted the Lord as his Savior. And Rocky immediately asked for prayer for his adult children who don't know the Lord." We joined in with the praises of the angels over the salvation of Rocky!

So if your phone rings during Phonathon, it could be a blessing just waiting for you to answer.

Asbury Inn

The Rosa Foster Asbury Inn (formerly Beeson Manor) opened its doors in 1990. For nearly two decades the Asbury Inn has served as a home away from home for the many visitors to the Asbury College and Asbury Seminary communities. Recently, the facility has gone through a much needed facelift. Visitors can choose from a wide variety of room options, including rooms with king beds (newly renovated), rooms with two queen beds (also newly renovated), adjoining rooms, townhouses (which have full kitchen and laundry facilities and sleep up to eight), and our most economical rooms with two double beds. Our 32 guestrooms and three townhouses are available year-round.



Whether you are a guest of Asbury College, Asbury Theological Seminary, or just visiting friends and family, the newly renovated Asbury Inn will help to make your stay both enjoyable and relaxing. With room options for every budget, Asbury Inn is a sensible choice for your stay in the Lexington or Wilmore area. For reservations, call 859.858.2156.

COME. LEARN. SERVE.

"I was unsure about my decision to attend seminary at Asbury, until I visited. The weekend was informative and helped me ultimately decide that Asbury was the place for me."



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