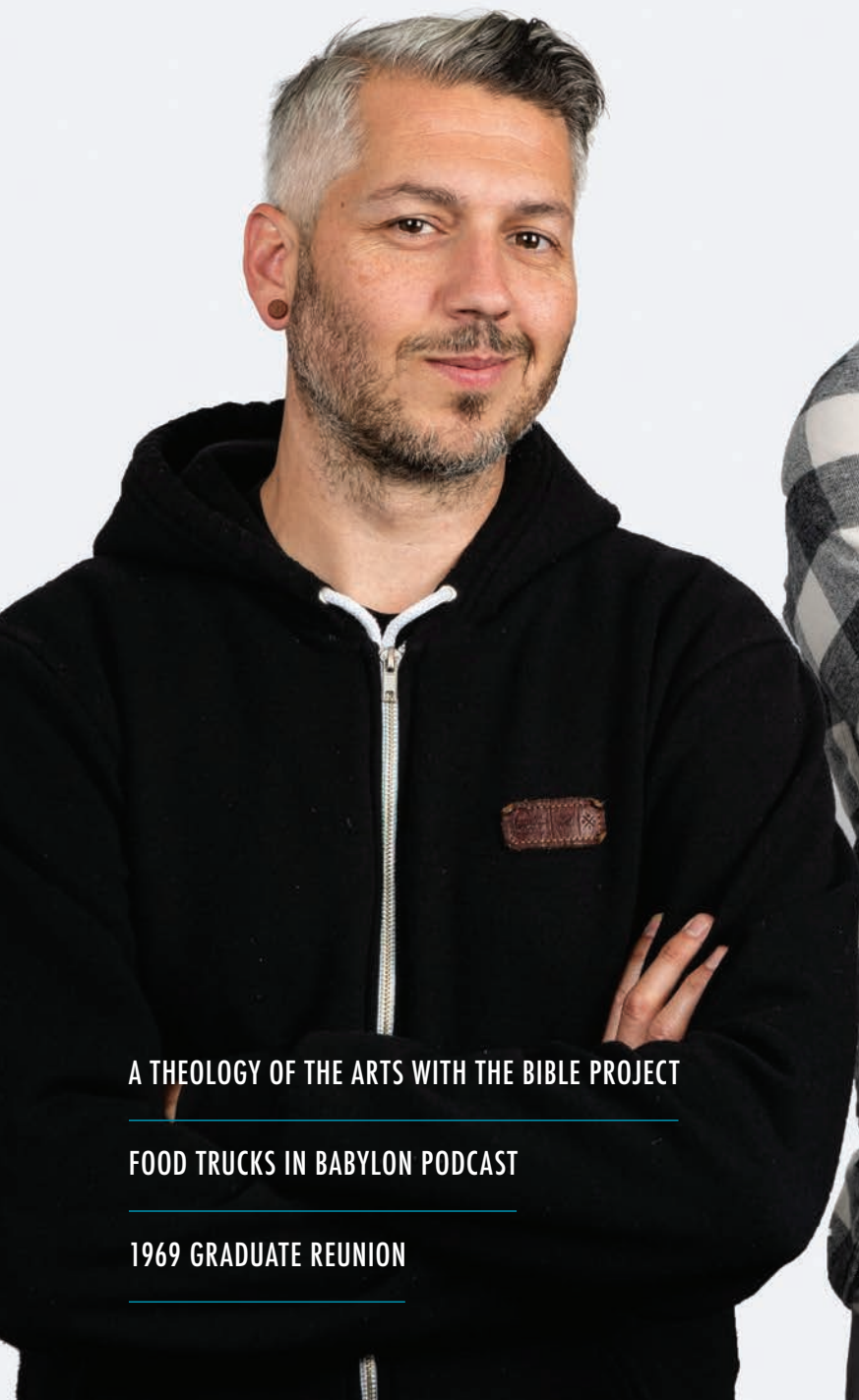


# TRANSFORM

THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN SEMINARY | *Fall 2019*

## CREATIVITY AND THE CHURCH

WITH THOMAS TERRY & DR. RYAN LISTER



A THEOLOGY OF THE ARTS WITH THE BIBLE PROJECT

---

FOOD TRUCKS IN BABYLON PODCAST

---

1969 GRADUATE REUNION

---

## Formed by the Creator



“As image bearers  
who serve the  
designer, author,  
and perfecter of  
beauty Himself,  
we get to join with  
Him in pursuing  
creativity together.”

**Dr. Randy Roberts**  
has served as Western  
Seminary’s president for  
the past eleven years. He  
also teaches courses in  
Christian Spirituality.

It is no secret that learning how to pursue the great commandment to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves in this cultural context can prove challenging at times. This is especially true in the places where Western, in the Lord’s providence, has its campuses. For example, Barna Research’s 2017 study on Church Attendance Trends Around the Country listed San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose, California as all tied for the most “dechurching” city in the nation at 47%, with Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, coming in third and fourth place, respectively, at 45% (“dechurching” refers to individuals who formerly attended church either regularly, somewhat, or minimally but now haven’t attended a church service in at least the past six months).

That is why we often tell prospective students that if they can faithfully live out their faith here, they will be ready to do so anywhere. So we seek to help our students become thoughtful, compassionate, and skilled leaders who embody what it means to love their neighbors enough to proclaim with boldness and compassion Jesus’ gospel message in whatever work God calls them to, whether that be pastoral ministry, counseling, coaching, chaplaincy, marketplace leadership, etc.

The theme of this magazine on theology and creativity is important to us because creativity ultimately begins with our Creator. As image bearers who serve the designer, author, and perfecter of beauty Himself, we have the privilege of joining Him in pursuing creativity together. It is for this reason you will read thoughtful stories marked by creative pursuits that highlight the important emphasis Western places on how theology and creativity intersect. These creative endeavors display the vibrant connections our faculty members make

to real-world ministry and life scenarios with our students. It is also why we are launching a new Western Seminary podcast, led by Drs. Todd Miles and Patrick Schreiner, so conversations surrounding faith, theology, and culture in a post-Christian world can be shared with the greater community. Our goal is to provide tools and insights that will help fellow believers engage in meaningful conversations with coworkers, friends, and family who may view the world differently than we do.

Similarly, creative initiatives like the Center for Pastoral Flourishing (whose purpose is to enhance the resiliency in those currently serving in ministry and to help them finish well and successfully pass the baton to the next generation of leaders), further reflect our heart to nurture the kind of faithful shepherds needed today.

C.S. Lewis said, “No philosophical theory which I have yet come across is a radical improvement on the words of Genesis, that ‘In the beginning God made Heaven and Earth.’” My hope for you as you read this issue of Transform is that everything points back to our Creator and fills you with a profound sense of gratitude for the magnificent work He has commissioned us to do. The Christian faith, rightly understood and practiced, should be marked by truth, beauty, and goodness because it reflects the truthfulness, beauty, and goodness of the Lord. But those are the characteristics that many unbelievers associate today with evangelicalism; and to be fair, we can’t ascribe that solely to the spiritual bias and blindness that accompanies unbelief. We can, and should, do better in reflecting our Lord. May He use this issue of our magazine to that end.

*Randy Roberts*

### TRANSFORM Magazine

President – Randy Roberts, President | Editor – Rebekah Buchterkirchen | Designer & Illustrator – Renee Fabiano

Contributors – Albert Wardin, Jr., Bill Clem, Bonnie Ekholm, Bryan Winchester, Cliff Stein, Gary Combs, Jack Hafer, Jeff Bischoff, John Wardin, Kelsey Knight-King, Ken Wilmot, Lacey West, Laurie Bloomquist, Mary Aguilera, Matthew Thiesen, Patrick Schreiner, Randy Roberts, Rebekah Buchterkirchen, Ryan Lister, Thomas Terry, Tim Mackie, and Wes Ehrhart.

Transform Magazine is published semi-annually by Western Seminary and is sent to alumni, supporters, and friends of the seminary.

All articles, photographs, and illustrations are copyright 2019–2021 by Transform Magazine.

Western Seminary serves as a catalyst and resource for spiritual transformation by providing, with and for the church, advanced training for strategic ministry roles.

Western Seminary is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

Western Seminary | 5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd. | Portland, OR 97215 | 503.517.1800 | [www.westernseminary.edu](http://www.westernseminary.edu)





## NEWS & EVENTS

**4** WESTERN WORD

**10** CAMPUS NEWS

**21** FEATURED FACULTY

**22** FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**23** UPCOMING EVENTS



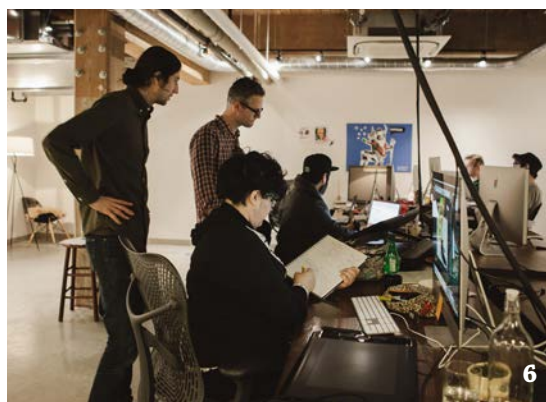
## TRANSFORMATIVE STORIES

**11** DONOR HIGHLIGHT  
A Family Legacy



**12** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**20** ALUMNI UPDATES



## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

**6** A THEOLOGY OF THE ARTS  
WITH THE BIBLE PROJECT



**14** CREATIVITY AND THE  
CHURCH: An Interview with  
Thomas Terry & Dr. Ryan Lister

## | READER FEEDBACK |

We care about what you think. If interested in sharing what thoughts, ideas, comments, or questions came to mind when reading this issue of the magazine, please reach out to us!

Opinions should be a maximum of 250 words and include full name, city and state, and class year (if applicable). They may be featured in future magazine issues.

**Email** [magazine@westernseminary.edu](mailto:magazine@westernseminary.edu)

**Online** [magazine.westernseminary.edu](http://magazine.westernseminary.edu)

**Mail** Reader Mail, Western Magazine  
5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97215

Curious what's been going on lately at Western Seminary?  
These exciting snippets provide just a few snapshots of how the seminary  
is making a difference in and around our communities.



### FOOD TRUCKS IN BABYLON: A WESTERN SEMINARY PODCAST

We are excited to announce the official podcast of Western Seminary, Food Trucks in Babylon, hosted by our very own faculty members, Dr. Todd Miles and Dr. Patrick Schreiner, set to launch in early 2020! Listen as they discuss matters of faith, theology, and culture in a post-Christian world. Topics with special guests include Christ in the Old Testament, marijuana, politics and the church, preventing sexual abuse in the church, and much more.



### SILVER SEMINARY GOES TO ISRAEL

Last spring, Western's "Silver Seminary" hosted a two-week study tour in Israel with former faculty member, Dr. Carl Laney. 25 adults visited dozens of historical, biblical sites in the Holy Land. Complete with books, maps, handouts, classroom instruction and daily field trips, this trip-of-a-lifetime was physically, intellectually and spiritually challenging, and transformational. A return trip is already planned for March 8-21, 2021. Silver Seminary monthly classes for adults are free and include a Bible or theology class alongside a Writing Your Life Story class as well as a Brain Builders class. For more information about the trip or about Silver Seminary classes, please contact the Advancement Office at [advance@westernseminary.edu](mailto:advance@westernseminary.edu).



### CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (CLD) PARTNERS WITH PARADOSI BALLETT COMPANY

The Paradosi Ballet Company, based in Portland, Oregon, has a mission to, "Worship God, love people, share the gospel, and to make disciples for Jesus everywhere they go." This goal is accomplished by using dance as a ministry tool to reach those who do not know Jesus by sharing God's deep love for them. Founded in 2007 by Joel and Tennille Carver as the Pacific Northwest's first professional Christian ballet company, Paradosi dancers come from across the United States to tour both nationally and internationally. Jeff Bischoff, Executive Director at Paradosi, became connected with Western Seminary's Center for Leadership Development (CLD) and has since taken nearly every course and certificate offered. He has found the teaching to provide a solid foundation for continued growth that led him to reach out and launch the first ever CLD and Paradosi cohort! He has already found it to be an immense blessing to their ministry. Jeff shares, "The teaching has helped us to grow individually and as a team to have a better understanding of the Word and has allowed us to go out and share the gospel more confidently than ever before."

With performances at various places including the Union Gospel Mission Women's Shelter, the Pierce County Library, the Festival d' Avignon in Avignon, France, the Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland, the Washington State Capitol Rotunda, and the Trocadero in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, Paradosi continues to have widespread influence and the opportunity to use dance as a ministry tool to reach those who do not know Jesus. We are both excited and expectant to see how this fruitful partnership continues to flourish in the months and years ahead for the glory of the Kingdom.

Learn more about opportunities to partner with CLD by visiting: [cld.western.com](http://cld.western.com)





## CENTER FOR PASTORAL FLOURISHING (CPF)

COHORTS LAUNCHING THIS FALL

Research suggests that as many as 70% of senior leaders within the evangelical church of America will be transitioning out of their positions in the next 10 years (Barna Research, 2017). Director of Western’s Center for Pastoral Flourishing (CPF), Bill Clem, says, “This reality screams two things to me. First, the need

to help pastors finish well, and second, the need to help emerging leaders lead well. Both have more to do with interior issues of leadership such as spiritual formation, self-care, emotional intelligence, and relational skills without ignoring exterior issues such as culture-building, disciple-making, leadership formation, and mission.”

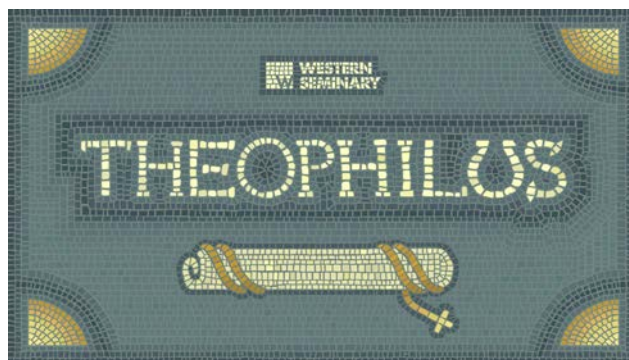
To address this reality, the CPF will be developing a cohort-based model of training for pastors. The goal of these cohorts is to provide a safe community where pastors may experience support from peers who share similar life experiences and skills in order to develop a heightened awareness of self and necessary skills to become or remain resilient in ministry.

### Interested in participating?

Here are some opportunities to get involved:

- To participate in a cohort, contact Bill Clem at [bclem@westernseminary.edu](mailto:bclem@westernseminary.edu)
- Provide prayer support by praying for pastors to join this initiative with a willingness to be vulnerable.
- Pray that God would use times of meeting together to comfort the challenged and challenge the comfortable.
- Lastly, pray for a movement of gospel-centered networks to emerge that encourage pastors and churches to be a fruitful Kingdom presence.

Article Citation: The Aging of America’s Pastors. (2017). Retrieved from <https://www.barna.com/research/aging-americas-pastors/>



## THEOPHILOS COHORT

24 MEETINGS | 2 YEARS | 24 CREDITS

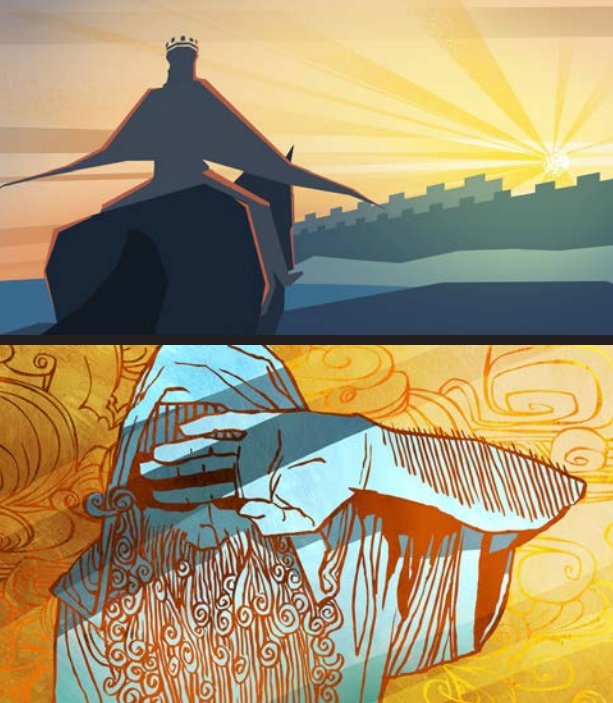
Higher education continues to be in flux, specifically concerning how one will deliver education. Will it be online? On campus? What are the benefits and drawbacks of both approaches? At Western Seminary, we remain committed to offering gospel-centered education in a variety of formats. But how is one to accomplish this task capitalizing on the benefits of both designs?

The Theophilus Cohort is a creative approach to seminary that combines the best of both approaches by taking full advantage of the technological advances while keeping a face-to-face component. It offers flexible, face-to-face ministry training where students meet once a month for two years (24 meetings, 2 years, 24 credits). This allows students to come to campus, even if they are further away, and stay plugged into their current community.

While we don’t know where Theophilus was from or what he did, we do know that Luke wrote both of his volumes (Luke and Acts) to him and that his name meant “lover or friend of God.” It is our intention through the Theophilus cohort to raise up other lovers and friends of God while integrating the approach the Apostle Paul often used in both writing to and visiting local churches. The Theophilus Cohort makes this possible through both accepting distance but integrating presence.

Curious what it looks like to earn your seminary degree through this condensed discussion-based format? Learn more by visiting [westernseminary.edu/theophilus](https://westernseminary.edu/theophilus)





# A THEOLOGY OF THE ARTS

with The Bible Project's Tim Mackie

As a non-profit animation studio producing short-form, fully animated videos in order to fulfill their mission of, “...helping the whole world see the Bible as one unified story that leads to Jesus,”

The Bible Project's widespread impact (in less than five short years) is undeniable. Tackling the theme of theology and the arts embedded within this edition of *Transform*, this interview with co-founder and Western alumnus, Dr. Tim Mackie (MA, 2005), is sure to spark creative conversation.

**Q:** The impact of The Bible Project is widespread. You and your team create 100% free videos, podcasts, and resources that make the biblical story accessible to everyone, everywhere. Where did this desire you have come from?

**A:** The idea for The Bible Project started in a pretty simple way. I've been a biblical theology and language geek for many years and was introduced to biblical studies from a narrative perspective, focusing on the overall shape and contours of the biblical canon. For me, following Jesus in a way that's informed by the entire biblical story has been life-changing, and I love sharing it with others. Jon Collins, the co-founder of The Bible Project, had developed an animation studio business that created short, animated explainer videos for clients in the tech industry. One day, he pitched the idea to me of taking some of the content I had been teaching and translate it into the medium of these videos to see if a wider YouTube audience would find it helpful. Jon also developed the non-profit, crowdfunded business model so that we could give all the content away for free. It was a brilliant move and has allowed us to experience and share God's generosity through media. Most of the best things that have happened at The Bible Project weren't planned, but developed organically out of our desire to share the biblical story with the world in a new kind of way.

**Q: As a non-profit animation studio, you understand the value of creativity well. How do you see creativity and Scripture complement each other?**

**A:** The Scriptures are some of the most exquisite works of literary art that have ever graced human civilization. The level of artistry, craft, and creativity that produced these texts is off the charts, so the relationship between the Bible and the arts is very natural, even necessary. I find regularly that the visual medium is able to communicate aspects of biblical narrative and poetry that our words cannot. One decision we made early on is that we would always let the artists develop new visual styles for new videos, so that they're constantly developing their skills, and finding new ways to express the unique content of each biblical book and theme.

**Q: How does creativity/art impact your ministry?**

**A:** Forcing yourself to illustrate a set of ideas in a biblical text is one of the most challenging and rewarding exercises I've discovered throughout the course of this project. And to experience that process with world-class artists who can take the basic visuals Jon and I imagine, and then turn them into animated works of art, it's amazing. I've discovered many new insights into the biblical text in visual design meetings, because it forces me to ask questions of the text that I wouldn't have otherwise.

**Q: How did Western prepare you for the work you do today?**

**A:** One of the values of The Bible Project is to communicate the core themes of the biblical books in a way that unifies the diverse expressions of the Christian tradition. In addition to deepening my exegetical and original language skills while I was studying at Western, I also read as widely as I could in different Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox traditions. This exposure shaped me in an important way that I couldn't have foreseen, as we try to create resources that will be useful for the wider body of Christ.

**Q: If applicable, who has been someone that has helped inspire your work/learning/growth from your time at Western?**

**A:** Dr. Gerry Breshears became a mentor and friend while I studied at Western, and he has remained so over the years. He's actually one of the board members of The Bible Project. His guidance and wisdom have been indispensable, and his theology classes played a formative role in my life and education.

**Q: How does your work at The Bible Project inform your personal faith?**

**A:** The Bible has played a big role in my life since I started following Jesus in my early twenties. The biblical story gave me a set of glasses through which I could make sense of my life and my place in the world. So, the fact that I get to spend



**Tim Mackie** is a co-founder, writer, and creative director for The Bible Project. He has a PhD in Semitic Languages and Biblical Studies. He wrote his dissertation on the manuscript history of the book of Ezekiel, with a focus on the Septuagint and Dead Sea Scrolls. He affectionately refers to himself as a total nerd. He is both an alumnus and an adjunct professor at Western Seminary and served as a teaching pastor for many years.

Facing Page:

Top left, *Gospel-Kingdom*, copyright 2014

by The Bible Project and

bottom left, *Isaiah*, copyright 2014 by

The Bible Project. Available for viewing at

[www.thebibleproject.com](http://www.thebibleproject.com)

Right, The Bible Project Office

Q & A continued on next page ►





a lot of my time reading and reflecting on the Bible, and then explore ways to share it with others, it forces me to grow on a regular basis.

**Q: What is something you are always aiming to leave people with when you teach/create?**

**A:** Our main goal with The Bible Project is to help people experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. Every single part of the biblical story contributes to the overall plot conflict that finds its resolution in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit. If we can help people discover how each part of the Bible fits within that larger plot-line, it usually leads people to see that Jesus is even more amazing than they ever imagined. I hope everything we create serves that larger purpose.

**Q: How have you seen this unique/creative approach to teaching the Bible impact individuals, churches and communities?**

**A:** People regularly reach out to us to share how their relationship with the Bible and their understanding of Jesus have been transformed. The videos are really friendly toward small group and class settings, so we hear from people who have created whole curricula with the videos so that entire churches will read the Bible together with the help of the videos.

**Q: What role do you believe creativity should play within churches, seminaries, etc.?**

**A:** I think it all depends on the cultural setting. In a community where artistic expression is highly valued, the creative arts play a crucial role in communicating Christian faith. And even in cultures that don't value the arts, music and visual art can connect with people in ways that reason and logical discourse never can. It's hard to answer that question in the abstract, but the arts have played a crucial role in Jewish and Christian culture for millennia, and with good reason.





Facing Page: The Bible Project Office

Left: Image from The Bible Project's Holiness video, copyright 2014 by The Bible Project, available for viewing at [www.thebibleproject.com](http://www.thebibleproject.com)

**Q: Is there a dark side to creativity at all?**

**A:** Oh, sure. It can become self-oriented, so that the mode of expression becomes a distraction from what it is the artist wants to share. We regularly face this in the creation of our videos. We don't want the visuals to be so beautiful or engaging that they distract from the ideas we're trying to communicate.

**Q: The title for this article is, "A Theology of the Arts" - what does that mean to you?**

**A:** As a discipline, "theology" is our effort to focus on a specific theme or topic in the Bible and the Christian tradition, so that we can hear a divine perspective that informs how we think and live. In the case of the arts, it means exploring the role of creative artistic expression in the purpose and plan of God for the world. It turns out that one of the main ways that God communicates with us, that is, the Bible, is itself a work of high literary art! So apparently, God values creative art! And I think we should too.

**Q: The Bible Project has recently released the work they are doing in different languages such as Spanish, German, Hindi, French, Russian, and Polish. What was the driving force behind this, and what should readers keep an eye out for in the future?**

**A:** We started working on a plan to translate all the videos mainly because people all over the world were reaching out and asking us to do it! We created an open-source process for people to create subtitles on YouTube, but it became clear that more was needed. Western, English speaking countries are saturated with media and educational resources about the Bible. This is not the case for most other language groups, and so we're happy to see the videos enter other cultures!

“Our main goal with The Bible Project is to help people experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. Every single part of the biblical story contributes to the overall plot conflict that finds its resolution in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit.”

## Library Resources



In July 2018, the library received a donation to its Archaeological Artifact Collection. Mr. Dudley Goff of

Yucaipa, California donated five new pieces to the library for display. Two Late Bronze Age juglets, a Phoenician ceramic necklace, and two bronze coins (donations range from dates 1200 B.C. to 370 A.D.) join the existing collection of artifacts, which was curated and donated by Western's own former faculty member, Dr. Carl Laney. These artifacts help bring to life the physical world and context of the Bible in ways beyond that of simple words on a page. The Church Father Jerome referred to the Holy Land as the "Fifth Gospel" – these artifacts, in a small way, make pieces of that "Fifth Gospel" available to students and visitors in Portland.

In December 2018, the library was gifted a facsimile copy of a 1454 Gutenberg Bible from Western alumnus, Bill Petty, Jr. (DMin, 1985). This facsimile is a high-quality reproduction of the 1454 Göttingen Gutenberg, one of the better-preserved of the surviving complete copies of the Gutenberg Bible. This beautifully illustrated Bible offers students a glimpse into the world of 15th century church history (and allows them to practice their medieval Latin skills). As Dr. Gerry Breshears commented, "The historical value of [this] Bible is so powerful, it was a world changer for Jesus."

As you can see, fostering life-long learning is one of the goals of the library, and we're excited to continue supporting intellectual explorations after graduation for all community members, alumni, supporters, and students alike. Alumni continue to enjoy checkout privileges, access to the Atla Religion Database for both scholarly journals and trade magazines, as well as access to the Scripture Search feature which can be a highly useful sermon prep tool. Whether you are an alumni or a friend of the seminary, please contact the library ([library@westernseminary.edu](mailto:library@westernseminary.edu)) to learn more about any of these services.

## Northern California



It has been an exciting season at our San Jose and Sacramento campuses as we had the privilege of graduating 26 men and women from Sacramento and 20 men and women from San Jose.



This summer, Sacramento campus faculty member, Dr. David Nystrom, developed an engaging seven-session course taught at various churches in the Sacramento region called, Thinking with Jesus and Paul. One attendee said, "I found the class to be very

clear and informative regarding how I can translate the gospel into different parts of society. Using Pauline language, I am slowly and steadily understanding my role as an ambassador of the Kingdom of God." Another shared, "I went into the lecture assuming I would only learn names and dates. Instead, I learned patterns of thought, good and bad decision making, and several situations that made me think about modern comparisons and how to better execute for today's situation." This course was rigorous, yet practical, and proved to be fruitful for all who participated.



Our Mount Hermon partnership in the California Bay Area continues to provide worthwhile opportunities. We are excited to host a retreat-style class at Mount Hermon's campus this fall called, Loving God and Loving Others. Thanks to a generous donor, included within the cost

of the class is complimentary overnight lodging at Mount Hermon, an experience sure to draw students closer to God and to one another.

## Portland



Our maintenance team has been hard at work to implement several updates as we continue to renovate our Portland campus! Of note, we have added central air conditioning to the third floor of Armstrong Hall, created a reflection garden underneath the shade of a sequoia tree in the front facing location of the campus, expanded several office spaces within Milliken and Armstrong Halls, added two new restrooms to the top floor of Milliken Hall, converted the basement of Milliken Hall into an office space that will house the

Center for Leadership Development, and made many smaller yet significant improvements to the campus overall.



## The Wardin Family



The word “legacy” is heard frequently in Christian circles. But what does it really mean? Legacy can mean an inheritance left to someone in a will, while it can also exemplify something tangible or intangible handed down by a predecessor. Individuals who have devoted their lives to serving the Lord often desire to positively impact future generations. A family that has embodied what the word legacy means is the Wardin family.

Born to parents who owned a large dairy farm in Hillsdale, Oregon, brothers Dr. Albert, Jr. and John grew up seeing the tradition of legacy passed down through the close relationship their parents had with Western. Their father, Albert, Sr., was a friend of the seminary and actively served on the Board of Trustees for over twenty years. Serving as president of the Women’s Auxiliary, their mother, Anna, believed wholeheartedly in the work the seminary was doing and was the catalyst for the library building. Named as the executrix of two different estates, Anna used the proceeds of the estates to provide the lead gift for funding the library building that continues to bless students, pastors, scholars, and neighbors of Portland’s campus to this very day.

With such close ties to Western, it was a natural progression for Albert, Jr. to pursue higher education, a feat he was first to achieve within his family. After first graduating from Willamette University with his undergraduate degree, he then received a Master of Arts from Stanford University, then became a graduate of Western with his Bachelor of Divinity in 1954. Shortly after, Albert, Jr. was invited to join the teaching faculty at Western and was asked to manage the library.

After receiving his PhD from the University of Oregon, Albert, Jr. relocated to Nashville, Tennessee to work at Belmont University where he taught and researched Baptist history. It was here that he met his wife, Lucille, and the two of them went on to live a life of active service in college affairs and professional organizations.

Lucille served as the Dean of Women and then the Dean of International Students Services at Belmont University, while Albert, Jr. found even greater passion for his study of the Bible and, more specifically, Baptist history. Through his studies and teaching, he authored 13 books with titles such as, *The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the USA: A Historical and Statistical Analysis*, *Baptists in Oregon*, *Baptists Around the World*, *Evangelical Sectarianism in the Russian Empire and the USSR: A Bibliographic Guide*, and many others.

John grew up having a passion for anything mechanical and worked as an auto mechanic his entire life. He and another brother of his were partners of the Newberg Ford Company. John’s career has allowed him and his wife, Ila, to generously give back in support of Christian ministries across the globe, something they continue to give generously toward to this very day.

The impact of the Wardin legacy at Western reaches far and wide. Together, the Wardins have created two endowments to bless the seminary. The first is an endowment to help meet the needs of the library for years to come. Western’s Director of Library and Information Services, Matthew Thiesen, shares, “We are thankful for Albert, Sr. and Albert, Jr.’s service to Western, and are especially thankful for the entire Wardin family’s continued support of our library. We value their partnership in our mission to train life-long learners and gospel-centered transformers.” The second endowment is the Wardin Student Scholarship Fund that has made it possible for numerous international and national students to study here through this financial support. Today, these Wardin endowments continue to bless our students in significant ways.

In recent months, Albert, Jr. has shared he continues to pray for the health of the seminary and is grateful for the way Western prepared him for the direction God led him in life, while John and Ila remain closely connected and active partners in supporting students through prayer and financial support.

We continually praise God for relationships like these where godly men and women come alongside Western to partner in the mission of serving as a catalyst for spiritual transformation by providing advanced training for strategic ministry roles. To the Wardin family, we are thankful for your friendship and continued legacy!



## Bryan Winchester

**Hometown:** Portland, Oregon

**Degree:** Auditing classes currently while preparing to join the Theophilus Cohort

Growing up, my primary interests were sports and music. My parents were divorced, and I was not raised in a home where I was taught the Scriptures or the gospel. Leading into high school, I began playing sports less and focused on music more. Through a mutual interest in hip-hop music, I met someone who told me about Jesus and I began trusting Christ. I understood that there was a God who made me, that I was accountable to Him, that I was guilty before Him, and that Jesus came to save me through His death on the cross.

When I became a Christian, I didn't know the role the local church should have in my discipleship. Since my parents didn't attend services, and I didn't yet have a driver's license, my exposure to the church was very minimal. From ages 14-17, I primarily explored the faith through both writing and listening to songs. This did not produce much fruit in my life, but God was gracious to sustain me during those years. It wasn't until after high school that I became regularly engaged with a body of believers. I can't say I was discipled during those years as I still didn't know how to read the Bible, but I was receiving some traces of spiritual nourishment that motivated me toward greater faithfulness.

Music remained a big part of my life, and I generally became close with believers who also shared similar interests in music. This was not necessarily a bad thing, but it seemed easier to let our shared interest in music become the focus of our relationships, rather than Christ. It wasn't until my late twenties that I began being taught the Scriptures with a contextual and Christ-centered emphasis. God brought new relationships into my life that were still bridged by music, but quickly took a more spiritually formative emphasis. As I began learning how to read and interpret the Bible, a desire to teach it began to stir within me.

Since I already came from a creative background in music, it was a natural response to take what I was learning and express it in song.

Writing about who God is, the gospel, and following Jesus, all used to seem very limiting to me. I didn't have a depth of understanding that permitted me to express my faith with the same variance that I could express my emotions. Now, as someone who preaches far more often than I write songs, I guess the creative aspect of the process is part of who I am and the way I communicate. I don't make a pointed effort to try to be "creative" when I preach. Instead, my aim is to be clear and use all the tools at my disposal to preach the text faithfully so that God's word is heard, understood, and applied to the hearers. There is certainly a creative aspect involved, especially in choosing what words to use, and how to communicate effectively given the audience in front of me.

By the time I began considering seminary, I was already in my thirties with a family while working a career in music that required occasional travel. Seminary didn't seem like an option for me. Now that I am serving as lead pastor and elder at Saving Grace Church in Milwaukie, OR, I want to give concentrated effort to grow so I can serve the flock better. For this reason, the Theophilus cohort became very attractive to me. It's an opportunity to deepen my knowledge of the Scriptures, and to work through the implications of what I learn in conversation with others who are engaged in ministry as well. I expect for it to be mutually edifying, and a time for me to be sharpened. I am particularly mindful of a need to be better trained in Old Testament interpretation, which is something I've never been extensively discipled in. I am grateful for this opportunity to study at Western and am anticipating immense growth. Plus, president Randy Roberts is currently a member of the same church I attend, so that gives me added motivation to learn at Western!

## Q&A

### Q Why Western?

**A** I became a member of Trinity Church in Portland over eight years ago, and we used to meet at Western's campus. This made Western an obvious first choice for me when considering furthering my education.

### Q Favorite Class You've Taken?

**A** I have had the privilege of auditing a preaching class. I had never preached an expository sermon before taking the class and had no clue how to approach the task prior. I learned much and took away valuable insights that will impact my preaching in the future.

### Q Favorite Hobby?

**A** Creating music!

### Q Most Impactful Thing You've Learned So Far?

**A** Reverence for God expressed through reverence for His Word, alongside a desire to handle God's Word rightly.

### Q Why is Creativity Needed Within the Church?

**A** God made us in His image as creative people. Creativity is not limited to "artists" but is expressed in all forms of creating. We don't need to alter God's Word or message, but we do want to express it and experience it in a way that is intelligible to us as modern hearers, which requires creativity. There is a responsibility for each generation to faithfully take the timeless truths of scripture and convey it in our culture.



## Kelsey Knight-King



**Hometown:** Lebanon, Oregon

**Degree:** Master of Arts in Counseling

I have often been problematically content with what Professor Norm Thiesen calls a “Sunday school faith,” and my time at Western has challenged me to consider what a deeper faith might look like. I’ve believed in Jesus, I’ve followed the commandments, and I’ve tried to guess, as best I could, what the next thing being asked of me was, but now I know that

more is possible in my relationship with God. I see glimpses of it in the relationships my Western friends and professors have with God; there’s an emotional connection there that intrigues me.

In my childhood, art was used as a way to make someone happier. My mother painted elaborate advent calendars for us full of tiny Christmas scenes. It felt magical! My grandmother, too, made me an endless amount of paper dolls, drew me complicated treasure maps, and painted me beautifully patterned Easter eggs. It felt natural to imitate them, and now I spend a fair bit of time making things for my own children.

“While art doesn’t directly influence the way in which I sit with people who are hurting, art strengthens my ability to see something just as it is and accept it.”

Art encourages me to slow down by providing me with a tangible expression of God’s love and care for me. While art doesn’t directly influence the way in which I sit with people who are hurting, art strengthens my ability to see something just as it is and accept it. I can see how God made whatever it is that I’m drawing and appreciate it for the unique way it was created by the Creator Himself; a tree with a branch broken off, or a bird with one foot. I think about how things got to be the way they are while I draw them. This is applicable to counseling in that we learn to appreciate every client as they are, and the way they learned to be the way they are, even as they’re changing.

Art is a way for me to short-circuit all my spiritual overthinking and underthinking by placing me in a moment where it’s just me and God. When I’m drawing, I’m completely focused on His handiwork, thinking about the way He sees every branch, or every eyelash. In that sense, I’m with Him in that moment. It’s a way for me to use my “peripheral vision” to be reassured that God is there, waiting for me whenever I seek Him. In that very moment, I’m able to bypass all my questions about how I’m “supposed” to interact with God and can just be in His presence.

## Q&A

### **Q Why Western?**

**A** I decided to attend Western after receiving incredible counseling from a graduate student at Western’s A New Day Counseling Center. My hidden agenda was to assess the quality of the counselors that Western was turning out, and I was amazed!

### **Q Favorite Class You’ve Taken?**

**A** Suicide Prevention has been one of my favorite classes, because it empowered me to directly intervene in some of the hardest situations clients can face.

### **Q Favorite Hobby?**

**A** Besides drawing and painting, my favorite hobbies are hiking, reading, and gardening.

### **Q Most Impactful Thing You’ve Learned So Far?**

**A** One insight that has been useful to me as I learn the art of counseling has been how to make the distinction between what to say emphatically and what to say tentatively. We can make emphatic statements about what the client is feeling; they’ll correct us if we’re wrong. It’s much better to use tentative language when talking about things that are closer to who the client is, as that is sacred ground. This was a useful viewpoint for someone like me, who can be a bit of a sledgehammer.

### **Q Why is Creativity Needed Within the Church?**

**A** The church is already relying on creativity to do its work; every sermon that’s written, every time we struggle to find the words to say to someone that’s hurting, every time a Sunday School teacher helps children glue cotton balls onto a sheep picture, we’re using our God given powers to create something from nothing, in a way that assists with His work.



# CREATIVITY AND THE CHURCH

---

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS TERRY AND DR. RYAN LISTER

Coming from diverse backgrounds of creative art and academia, Thomas Terry, Lead Pastor at Trinity Church of Portland and Founder and Artist at Humble Beast Records, alongside Dr. Ryan Lister, Associate Professor of Theology at Western Seminary and Associate Pastor at Trinity Church of Portland, continue the important conversation regarding creativity and the Church.

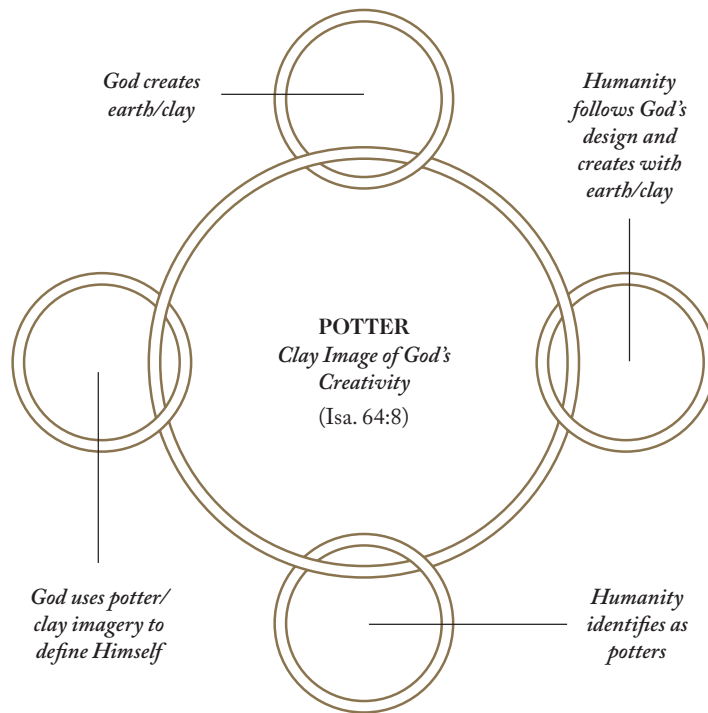
A friendship that has deepened over the years, Ryan and Thomas found a similar passion for creativity being a “tool for building paradise” (Terry & Lister, p. 130) that is “built on the future hope of the New Creation and God’s glory” (Terry & Lister, p. 137). Seeing theology and the truth of God’s word in the grand narrative storyline of Jesus informs the creative’s art because we serve the greatest creator of all, God Himself.

Together, these two friends have used their places of work and influence – Humble Beast Records, Trinity Church of Portland, and Western Seminary to develop

content that speaks to this very theme of creativity and theology. Two tangible expressions of this are the annual two-day creative Canvas Conference that seeks to “...build bridges between the artist and the theologian by inviting God to take center stage in every human endeavor” and their recent book, *Images and Idols: Creativity for the Christian Life*.

Thomas and Ryan are creating space for men and women to ask the question of how creativity can be built with a strong foundation that is theologically robust, so that it does not become an idol, while simultaneously asking how theology can be creative – not in the sense that it is beyond the bounds of who God is and what God has said, but as something that reflects His very character. Not only in what pastors and theologians are telling people about, but in the way it is told. Not merely in content, but also in presentation and methodology.





Cycle of Divine Creativity, copyright 2018 by Moody Publishers

## CREATIVITY REIMAGINED

Thomas found church to be an entirely new experience for him when he began attending. Quickly, it became apparent there wasn't much room for him and his creativity. Passionate about hip-hop and rap, but desiring to explore his faith, he stopped doing music for a while. He expresses, "I think this really hurt me and impacted me. Inevitably, it caused me to somewhat rebel against the church. I found myself living in liberal spaces making up my own theology as I went along." What brought him back to faith was a show one night in Los Angeles where a few men approached him afterward and asked deeper questions about his faith.

He shares, "They asked me why I believe, what I believe, and on what basis I believed these certain truth claims,

because I was still obviously rapping about what I understood as it related to faith. These guys ended up challenging me in a really good way and ended up discipling me. That was my first introduction to theology

and faithfulness to the Bible.

It reeled me in. Through discipleship, they mentored me, but this time, they disciplined me with a framework that made room for creativity. They didn't stifle the creativity, they actually wanted to help me understand how God gave me my creativity for a purpose, but it just needed to be undergirded with some good theology."

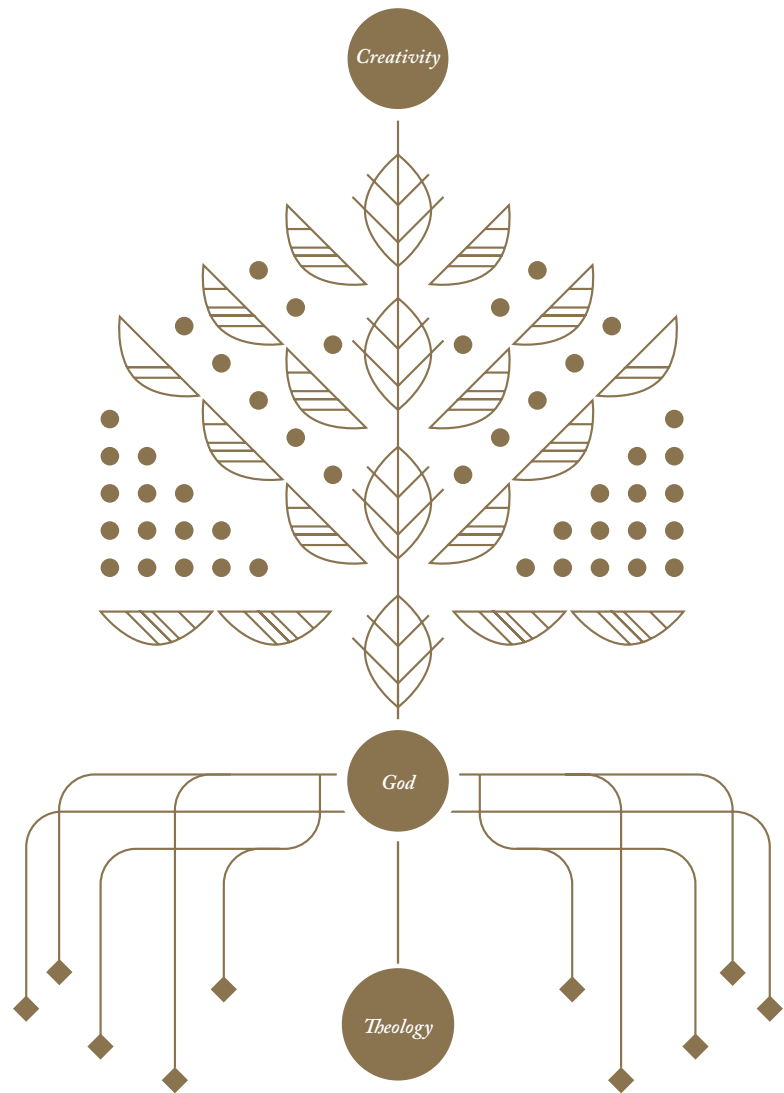
Ryan shares how he grew up on the other side of Thomas' story, being raised

in a Christian home in South Carolina. Discipleship played a large role in his story as well through youth

**"They didn't stifle the creativity, they actually wanted to help me understand how God gave me my creativity for a purpose, but it just needed to be undergirded with some good theology."**

Created to Create,  
copyright 2018 by  
Moody Publishers

“Slowly, I began to see that fiction matters. Words matter. Beauty matters because God has been orchestrating this world in a beautiful and wonderful way.”



leaders within his church being very conscious about meeting with him and giving him leadership roles that eventually led to him becoming the interim pastor in that youth group years later. Sports took a more prominent role in his childhood, but art remained a lingering aspect of his life that stayed on the back-burner throughout his undergraduate and graduate studies. At the tail end of his PhD studies, Ryan found himself in a professor’s class who encouraged any creative individuals to complete a theological project instead of the traditional long-form paper. This professor fully believed that theology should extend into every aspect of your life. Ryan shares, “I was chipping away on the ice that had been set on my creative endeavors and the sort

of line that had been drawn in my own mind between theology and art, or theology and creativity. Slowly, I began to see that fiction matters. Words matter. Beauty matters because God has been orchestrating this world in a beautiful and wonderful way. Not just black and white, but He painted it all in beauty and glory and color, which is part of who He is. It expresses who He is. That just kicked open some doors for me.”

### CREATIVES AND THE CHURCH

The question being asked, and the overarching theme of this magazine, relates to theology and creativity and how, if at all, the two can coexist to better reflect the beauty in the other. Thomas mentions the struggle



on both sides. He says, “I think the problem is that creatives don’t know how to find beauty in the church. In the same way the church doesn’t know how to make the church beautiful, I think creatives are looking at the church on a very surface level.” Diving deeper into this conversation, he continued by explaining, “The creative can feel as though they are stepping into a square box where the artwork on the wall is kitschy, the PowerPoint is often horrible, and beauty inside the walls of the church is hard to find. Creatives are wondering how to exist in this kind of space when they are used to everything they produce being aesthetically driven; down to even caring deeply about the way their coffee is made or desiring for the graphics and art to be compelling. They can enter church and feel as though it is very sterile and cerebral.” Part of the solution resides in helping creatives to view God as bigger than, transcendent, and beyond the little square box that we exist in on Sunday mornings.

An example Thomas gives points to the storyline of God’s redeemed people within the church. He says, “In our church, we have folks that are 65 or 70 years old that have captivating stories of redemption. If young creatives begin to engage with these older members of the body to hear of the pain and brokenness they have gone through yet how they have still maintained faithfulness to Jesus as he has sustained them, they start to see beautiful stories emerge that helps creatives flourish because now, it’s not just their own world and their own space, they are taking other people’s stories that contribute to their own concept of beauty and the greater story bigger than just themselves.”

The question really becomes, for both the creative and the person in the church (staff or pastor), what are you going to church for? Ryan explains, “The creative can

oftentimes view the church as a mirror for where they want to see themselves – their desires, their needs, their wishes. That’s why I think, in many ways, there has been a large exodus out of these sort of square box evangelical churches into more High-Church liturgically driven churches because they are looking for what they want to see rather than what God wants to push in on them.”

“This concept brings us back to the thesis of Ryan and Thomas’ book – the notion that God is using each one of us, our gifts and talents included, to display His glory, not our own.”

The struggle for all church-goers is this temptation of placing our own desires on what we think the church should be. This concept brings us back to the thesis of Ryan and Thomas’ book – the notion that God is using each one of us, our gifts and talents included, to display His glory, not our own. The church is the instrument God is using in a broken world to get us into a new world and a new setting. It is not the new heavens and new earth yet, but it is a means to the new heavens and new earth. Ryan summarizes, “You get people together from all different tribes, tongues, and nations, and simul-

taneously, you’re getting people with all these different focuses and ideas – creativity being one of many.”

In the same way, Ryan expresses, “It is important for the pastor to realize that not everybody in their congregation thinks and feels and acts like they do. Really getting down out of the pulpit and into the seats, talking to people, recognizing what their passions are, determining who and what drives them, they can better speak to and for their people. For the pastor, it is learning to speak, preach, and teach in ways that correspond with whatever genre within the Bible is being studied and doing so in a clear and attractive way. You’re not just preaching to the head, but also to the heart. You’re trying to help individuals view the gospel at work as something tangible that pushes people out of the walls of the church to go and do likewise.”

All artwork in this article is copyright 2018 by Moody Publishers.

“If you remove God out of the equation, then what you’ve done is you have created a kingdom where the throne is supposedly empty. So, what happens with all of us is that we put ourselves on that throne, or ourselves and our gifts are so synonymous that they are both put on the throne.”

## OUR HEARTS ARE IDOL FACTORIES

Most creatives are already struggling with their identity. Creatives can easily fall into the trap of thinking, “Who I am is what I produce.” It is for this very reason that the focus must remain on the ultimate creator being God himself. He is where all creativity comes from. Ryan expands this thought by recounting the famous words of John Calvin that our hearts are idol factories. He says, “The drive behind this book is that your creativity is meant to bring glory to God and to bring good to others. What you are doing with your hands, at the microphone, on your computer, should have this dual reality of life. You are not just doing things on your own. If you remove God out of the equation, then what you’ve done is you have created a kingdom where the throne is supposedly empty. So, what happens with all of us is that we put ourselves on that throne, or ourselves and our gifts are so synonymous that they are both put on the throne. Creatives then ironically begin to lose their humanity. They begin to see themselves solely in what they are producing. The Bible speaks repeatedly about lifeless idols we make with our own hands that we worship with words that cannot speak back to us. I think that is a very real demonstration of what the idol of creativity is. It’s a struggle we all have. The only thing that puts it in its right place is when we let God have the throne. Everything is then aligned, though there is turbulence because we struggle with sin and we continue to struggle with idolatry, but instead of my gifts making much of me, my gifts are finally put in the right place.”

Creatives have both a unique privilege, but also a unique challenge. Thomas explains how easy it can be to become a slave to the critique of what people say about your product. He says, “Creatives are left with the scrutiny of people’s opinions. What that makes is a person who not

only is trapped and bound by their creative work to serve the idol they made so people will like them, but also someone who is constantly seeking validation and affirmation from others. Then it continues that cycle inside the church when a creative is placed on stage and told to play all the right chords, do all the right music, and more. It perpetuates this cycle of idolatry. The artist needs to find freedom, dignity, value, and worth independently from that which he creates. It needs to be found in the creator God. For this reason, what I’ve started to do with men that I disciple, who are creatives, is I encourage them that instead of serving in the church with their guitar, because they’re incredibly talented musically, why not serve by folding bulletins. I tell them that vocationally, I am a creative, but when I step into my home, my wife doesn’t care that I’m a songwriter. She doesn’t care about how beautiful my art is. What she needs from me is to help with the dishes, take out the trash, vacuum the floor, and I actually love doing that because it makes me feel part of my family. I’m not so one-dimensional that all I can contribute are the creative parts of me. And I think that has helped me become very sober and well rounded, which in the end, has made me more creative.” Our humanity grounds us.

## KEEP GOD ON THE THRONE

As a final word of encouragement for creatives inside the church, Ryan urges creatives to consider their source. He concludes by sharing, “Many people talk about how to be better at creativity and how to push it into the church or into culture, but rarely do they talk about the source of where it comes from. If we never go back to the ‘Why am I creative?’ question, then we’ve got very shaky ground for the how-to. This book is yes, for the church and for creatives, but really the drive behind this was to get them to that why question through a theological framework

for understanding not only who they are, or who God is, but why they even do what they do.” Thomas’ words ring true in admonishing creatives to keep God on the throne. He says, “Culture will hail you; they will praise you, and I think one of the best things creatives can do for their own hearts is to learn to develop a posture of humility. A constant recognition that everything you have is not your own; it has been given to you. Having a daily posture that says, ‘When culture tempts to throne me, I will put God on His throne and I will know my place in this world as a worshiper of the one true God.’ That is the thing that I think creatives need to develop a daily discipline in to fight against the culture’s affection for you. I think that helps when the culture rejects you because you’re not the hottest thing on the block anymore.”

“The artist needs to find freedom, dignity, value, and worth independently from that which he creates. It needs to be found in the creator God.”

Ryan and Thomas summarize this conversation by admonishing their readers to, “Let the new creation break in through your creativity... Let eternity bleed through your imaginative work. Use your creativity to usher in God’s better world, the one over the horizon of bare facts and constant frustration, the one your heart innately pines for... Your creativity is where the light of the better world breaks into the darkness of today. This is reclaimed creativity and it is why your creativity matters and how your creativity lasts. And lasts forever” (p. 143). We are creative because of the magnificent creator God we serve. May we hold fast to this truth as we view our worship and work in light of the gospel compelling us to remember that all we have, all we are, and all we produce can be traced back to God.



Title: **IMAGES AND IDOLS, CREATIVITY FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Author: **THOMAS J. TERRY & RYAN LISTER**

Christians ought to be leading the way in creativity, but we rarely do. God is the Creator of all things, and He created us in His image. Creativity is woven into the very fabric of our humanity. Therefore, Christians should value and champion creativity as a vital part of our image-bearing role. Instead Christians often don’t know what to do with creatives and creatives don’t know what to do with Christianity. Images and Idols is a theological and artistic exploration of creativity in the Christian life. It will help creatives build a strong theological foundation for their art, while challenging the church to embrace a theology of beauty and creativity.”

- Blurb taken from Amazon Description





[Top, Left to Right] Bill Bowler, Ruth Radmacher, Ron and Darlene Harper, and Galen Currah. [Bottom, Left to Right] Will Moir, Dennis Cook, Del Meliza, Roger Poppen, Bob Parma, and Kermit Jelmeland.

### 1969 GRADUATE REUNION

During Portland's recent May commencement, we welcomed Western graduates from the class of 1969 back to campus to celebrate their 50th reunion. Hearing the stories of each of their lives and ministries since graduating, and watching them reconnect with old friends as they shared wonderful words of appreciation about Western, the professors, and former president of the seminary,

Dr. Radmacher (whose wife, Ruth, was present), was a beautiful reminder of the way Western equips students for life.

One alumnus, Ron Harper, shared, "We were equipped to preach and teach the Word, and that kind of belief and growth is what we need for the future." Another, Robert Parma, said, "Western gave me the theological and biblical knowledge for ministry, and that's what I appreciated the most."

**Calling all 1970 graduates! Mark your calendars and come to campus to celebrate your upcoming 50th reunion with us! Please reach out to Bonnie Ekholm by email ([bekholm@westernseminary.edu](mailto:bekholm@westernseminary.edu)) for more information.**



### JACK HAFER (MDIV, 1974)

Having worked in the entertainment industry for the past 40 years, Jack has been making films and television shows while helping shape the film program at Biola University in the Los Angeles area for the last 10-plus years. Now, he finds himself back to full-time film production as the president of Boulevard Pictures, a film and television production company "...committed to bringing high quality stories from the world's most innovative filmmakers." Jack shares, "My calling is to bring biblical truth to mainstream audiences through the arts and entertainment arenas. I am continually attempting to find stories that are not necessarily faith-based projects, but that cause people to look up. I want to raise questions that allow people the ability to consider a different way of looking at life than perhaps they have allowed themselves to do before." Jack is encouraged when seeing the recent graduates of Biola's film program who are now working in Hollywood, loving people and being lights. The relationships Christians have with industry people in Hollywood creates transformational impact sure to be felt as the years go on. We celebrate alumni like Jack who have used their biblical training from Western to make such a dynamic impact in the world for Christ.

Of note, Jack has produced well known films such as *To End All Wars* (2001), *Wall of Separation* (2007), and *Not That Funny* (2012).



### LACEY WEST (MA COUNSELING, 2017)

Alumna, Lacey West, recently received a generous stipend of \$18,500 to use over a year period in her work with underserved populations. Lacey writes, "The current job that I have with Stanislaus County has many challenges as we often see the early signs of anti-social disorders, personality disorders, and offenders of every crime you can think of. I meet with youth in custody in juvenile hall by completing intakes, suicide screenings and clearance, 5150 holds, groups, and individual sessions as needed and/or requested by the youth and/or guards. There is an immense amount of pain and trauma with each of the youth, but remembering that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit can be integrated in all that I do, say, and practice clinically has brought a peace and healing that only God can provide. That is one of the greatest takeaways that I had from my time at Western, alongside the love and support from my mentors and classmates." In reflecting upon her time at Western, Lacey explains, "The three years spent at Western were some of the most challenging years of my home life, but the care and encouragement from the Western staff, and the nearness of the Lord, helped me get through it, and I am stronger than I ever knew I could be as a result. Through receiving such a high level of education rooted in Christ, I was able to receive this amazing stipend! I am forever grateful to everyone at Western, and to God for leading me there." It is encouraging to hear of the important work alumni like Lacey are doing as they use their education in a way that displays such care for others.



#### DR. LAURIE BLOOMQUIST:

The Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling has awarded Western Seminary's Assistant Professor of Counseling, Dr. Laurie Bloomquist, with the 2019 Clinical Mental Health Counselor Advocate Award. Having worked at Western Seminary since 2010, first as an Adjunct Counseling Professor, then an Instructor of Counseling, to now being the Assistant Professor of Counseling, alongside working at her own private practice at Living Hope Counseling, her hard work and care has been recognized and greatly affirmed. The advocacy and service Dr. Bloomquist provides to her students, the counseling profession, and the children and adolescents she interacts with are just some of the reasons why she was selected.

Alumna, Stephanie Fox (M.A. Counseling, 2018), beautifully summarizes Dr. Bloomquist's impact from her time in the counseling program by writing, "Without Laurie, I can honestly say I would not be where I am today: helping facilitate healing and growth in my clients' lives, and the lives of those around me." This award required nominations from both fellow colleagues and several students which point to the transformational impact Dr. Bloomquist provides within our counseling program.

Dr. Bloomquist's pedagogy includes mentoring and supervision rooted in relationship, professional development in the lives of her students through conscientious and practical teaching, and collaborative relationships with local mental health communities and professional counselors in the greater Portland area. We are grateful to have Dr. Bloomquist here at Western and commend her for this excellent accomplishment!

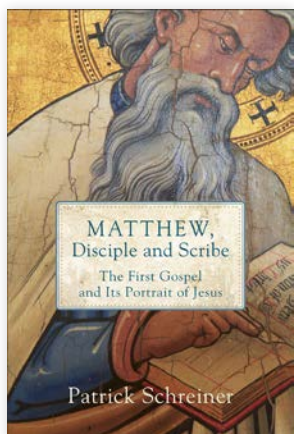


#### DR. RYAN LISTER

Keep an eye out this October for Dr. Ryan Lister's illustrated systematic theology book geared toward children called, *Emblems of the Infinite King: Enter the Knowledge of the Living God*.

Dr. Lister shares, "In *Emblems of the Infinite King*, I wanted to show kids that theology isn't just some book that sits on their parents' bookshelves or in their pastor's studies. Rather, theology is an adventure—it's an epic way of knowing and loving God's own epic story. To do this, I try to put the reader in that story just as God has placed us in His story. I want this to be a book that kids read with their parents, but really, I hope it is one they want to read on their own. The drive behind this project is to get kids to see their parents' God as their God too and that their God can be known. Our God is more than they could ever imagine."

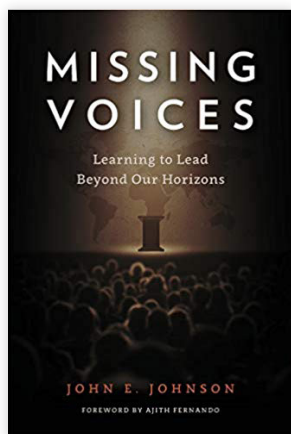
Crossway Books describes this book by writing, "In an imaginative journey through the grand story of the universe, this book introduces kids ages 8+ to God's radiant beauty using the main categories of systematic theology: God, humanity, sin, Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and last things. Full of captivating illustrated "emblems" meant to symbolize key facets of Christian doctrine, this unique book seeks to bring theological truths from words to life. The creative design combined with rich theology will challenge young readers to search God's Word for important answers to big questions about themselves, God, and the gospel.



**MATTHEW, DISCIPLE AND SCRIBE: THE FIRST GOSPEL AND ITS PORTRAIT OF JESUS**

Author: Patrick Schreiner, PhD  
 Publisher: Baker Academic

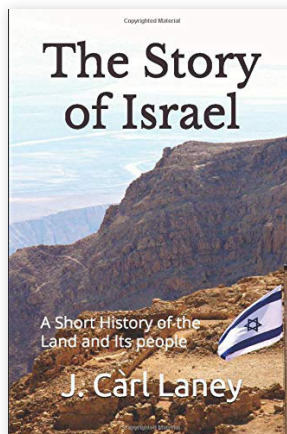
“This fresh look at the Gospel of Matthew highlights the unique contribution that Matthew’s rich and multilayered portrait of Jesus makes to understanding the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Patrick Schreiner argues that Matthew obeyed the Great Commission by acting as scribe to his teacher Jesus in order to share Jesus’s life and work with the world, thereby making disciples of future generations. The First Gospel presents Jesus’s life as the fulfillment of the Old Testament story of Israel and shows how Jesus brings new life in the New Testament.”



**MISSING VOICES: LEARNING TO LEAD BEYOND OUR HORIZONS**

Authors: John Johnson, PhD  
 Publisher: Langham Publishers

“People are desperate for leaders who are credible – those who possess a moral center and exhibit sound leadership skills. Given our global realities, we need strategic leaders who possess cultural intelligence and theological discernment. The aim of this book is to shape such leaders. Each chapter combines careful research with contributions from leaders around the world... Present and emerging leaders, no matter the culture or field, will find this book invaluable in sustaining their call to godly leadership.”



**THE STORY OF ISRAEL: A SHORT HISTORY OF THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE**

Author: J. Carl Laney, ThD  
 Publisher: Independently Published

“The story of Israel is the story of how God reached down from heaven to create, sustain and bless humanity. This book will focus on the great story of Israel – the people and their land. This is a story that is absolutely central to God’s great plan for the ages. The story of Israel is not just the story of the descendants of Abraham. It is the story of all humanity whom God has chosen to bless through His chosen people. It is Israel’s story. It is my story. In this book you will find your place in Israel’s story.”



**EMBLEMS OF THE INFINITE KING: ENTER THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LIVING GOD**

Author: Ryan Lister, PhD  
 Publisher: Crossway Books

“*Emblems of the Infinite King* seeks to introduce young readers to the beauty of God’s Word using the categories of systematic theology in bright, creative, and innovative ways. Written for kids ages 8-14.”





## ReGeneration Forum

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019

TIME: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | LOCATION: MILPITAS, CA

As the tides of popular opinion change and more pressure is placed upon Christians to find their place in a pluralistic society, it is essential for Christians to know what they believe and why they believe it. At the 2019 ReGeneration Forum, Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell will give voice to what it looks like to remain grounded in the truth of the Bible while living in a post-truth culture. Visit [regenerationproject.org](http://regenerationproject.org) to register and learn more. We hope to see you there!



## Turkey Study Tour

DATES: MAY 2 - MAY 18 OR MAY 23, 2020

Retrace the journey of the Apostle Paul, as well as early church history, as our study tour begins in Antioch and ends in ancient Constantinople. We will travel on both land and sea, exploring ancient sites and finding the Scriptures come alive.

To learn more, visit our website at [westernseminary.edu/academics/study-tours](http://westernseminary.edu/academics/study-tours)

## Have You Met Yet?

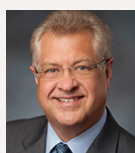


### DR. MARY AGUILERA: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COUNSELING

It is always exciting to welcome both new and familiar faces to Western, and we are excited to share of our

recent addition to the Portland counseling department, Dr. Mary Aguilera. Having graduated from Western in 2004, Dr. Aguilera has worked with children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families through both a clinic and her private practice. Some areas of specialty for her are play therapy, animal assisted therapy, and sand tray therapy. Dr. Aguilera shares, "Helping a student learn through teaching classes and seeing a student's clinical growth through supervision is both rewarding and a great privilege. I am looking forward to getting to know counseling students at Western and becoming a more active part of the Western community!"

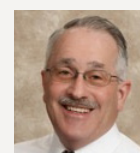
### WELCOMING TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



### GARY COMBS

Since 1998, Gary has been an executive at Campbell Global, a timberland

and natural resource investment management company, where he serves as Managing Director and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. Prior to joining Campbell, Gary spent eight years at the Oregon State Treasury as a Senior Investment Officer. We are excited to welcome Gary back as a member of the Board of Trustees and are grateful for his wisdom and service.



### KEN WILMOT

With over 30 years of professional experience as a financial advisor,

Ken works at Seasons Financial Group as the LPL Branch Manager and LPL Financial Advisor, one of the leading financial firms in the nation. Having graduated from Western with a Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Ministry, Ken is an excellent addition to the Board of Trustees. We are thankful for his expertise and to have him serving in this capacity with us again.

## CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE



### MONTHLY

Automatically give according to your budget and schedule at the same time each month.



### MATCHING

Double your impact by seeing if your company will match your donation dollar for dollar.



### DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Combine your giving to all your charitable interests into one gift distributed over a period of tax years.



### CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

Provide steady income for one or two people, receive a possible reduction of capital gains tax and other tax benefits, and create a legacy of support.



### PERSONAL PROPERTY

Share acquired property or antiques with Western as a unique opportunity to give back.

## MAKE A GIFT WITH A LASTING IMPACT

Explore the many creative opportunities there are to further the ministry of Western Seminary through your giving by visiting [westernseminary.edu/give](https://westernseminary.edu/give).