



Fall 2014

The College of Bible and Ministry of Harding University seeks to lead all students to know, live and share God's Word and to understand, love and serve God's world through and beyond their chosen vocation.

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A TRIBUTE TO JACK MCKINNEY

I first met Jack McKinney in 1974 while traveling in Europe. My wife, Sherry, and I were on our way back to the states, and one place we visited was Zurich, Switzerland. It was on a Sunday and we found the local church. To our surprise we met an American who preached that day and was leaving soon to teach at a college in Arkansas. I told him we were also on our way back to teach and discovered that we were going to the same place — Harding! Not only were we going to Harding to teach, but we also were both going to teach in the Bible department. That was the start of a long relationship with Jack and his wife, Joanne.

I did not know Jack before our chance meeting in Zurich, but I was not around him long before I recognized the brilliance of the man. He was a sharp, knowledgeable student of the Greek language. I quickly perceived that Jack had forgotten more Greek than any of us who also taught the language would probably ever learn! He was powerful and clear in his teaching, and his students thrived under his leadership.

Although focused on his teaching, Jack never forgot the mission field in Europe he had left. For many years during the summer he took students with him to Germany, Switzerland and other places. Several who knew firsthand of Jack's preaching and teaching in the German language said that he was absolutely first rate. Knowing Jack, this did not surprise me, and it can truly be said that Jack was an extremely capable linguist and scholar.



One day, while visiting in his office, I noticed that he did not have very many commentaries on his shelves. When I mentioned this to Jack he said, "Well, as long as I know the original languages, I do not have to depend primarily on what others say." This made a deep impression on me, and I took it to heart to know the Bible more directly through the Greek and Hebrew texts than to rely first and foremost on what various scholars were saying.

After retiring from Harding, Jack continued to teach Bible classes at the College church and to study. He was working on a commentary on Galatians and had made substantial progress when he started having strokes and unfortunately did not live to complete the task. Plans are being made to finish off what Jack started, and, knowing him, it will be an excellent piece of work.

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FACULTY PROFILE – ANESSA WESTBROOK

Anessa Westbrook began work this fall as Harding University's first full-time female Bible faculty, but she is already well-known here in the College of Bible and Ministry. She has served as an Adjunct Professor in our College of Bible and Ministry since the spring of 2006, teaching Women's Ministry courses and a variety of ladies' textual classes. In addition, Anessa has served on the Lectureship committee and as WINGS' program coordinator, taught classes in the Center for Family Ministry, and served as chair of the Women's Ministry committee.

Anessa received her B.A. in Psychology from Harding University in 1995 and then went on to the Harding University Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, where she earned a M.A. in Church Growth in 2003 and a M.Div. in 2011. She is currently completing the requirements for a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Anessa is the author of six series of Bible studies published by *Christian Woman* magazine. She has made numerous presentations at Ladies' Days and conferences and has spoken more than a dozen times on the Harding Bible Lectureship. From 2008 to 2010 she edited *Wellspring: Resources for Women's Ministry*, the women's newsletter of the CAMT program.

She and her husband Tim served as missionaries to Szolnok, Hungary from 1995 to 2002, where they worked with a team that planted three churches. From 2002 to 2003 they served as Missionaries-in-Residence at Harding. Tim is an Assistant Professor of Bible here and directs the Distance Delivery Bible program. They are both very active in the ministries of the College Church of Christ in Searcy, where Anessa has worked in the women's ministry and with the youth programs. Tim and Anessa have three children: Alina (15); Anna (13); and Theo (12).

Salt, Leaven and Light caught up with Anessa in the midst of her busy schedule to pose the following questions:

SLL: Anessa, congratulations on your appointment to the Bible faculty! What led you to become interested in teaching women's Bible classes here at Harding?

Thank you! I feel extremely blessed by this opportunity and I am looking forward to serving in this new capacity. While

Tim and I were on the mission field I taught English Bible classes, ladies' Bible classes, and organized ladies retreats. I had never really had a chance to teach on a regular basis until then, and I realized how much I enjoyed it. We moved back to the United States shortly after I completed my M.A. from Harding School of Theology. I was staying at home with our three children, but I assumed that at some point I would go back and get higher degrees in counseling or psychology.

I was in a period of prayer and discernment about what God wanted from my life, and I came to realize that what was on my heart was teaching women's Bible classes at Harding. I had seen the need but I did not know if this would ever even be a possibility. I decided to spend a couple of years praying about this, and about six months into that period of time I was offered my first class. My husband, Tim, encouraged me to get the training necessary to "do it right" and so I pursued additional upper level degrees (M.Div. and D.Min.). My work at Harding grew as my availability did, and as my children entered school. I have grown to love what I do over the past eight years!



SLL: Who has been the most significant influence in your faith journey so far, and why?

My family has been the most significant spiritual influence in my life. I was blessed with mission-minded parents and a heritage of strong Christians. My father, Ken Hobby, has always encouraged and supported me in my missions and ministry. However, I have also had strong female examples as well. I spent my formative years growing up across the street from Grove Church of Christ (Grove, OK). My mother, Ann Hobby, and grandmother, Martha Adair, were very involved with the children's ministry, bus ministry, and outreach ministry there. They would often take me along with them to help. My grandparents, Alvin and Georgia Hobby, moved next door after they returned from their work in Zambia. Just seeing a ministry lifestyle in the lives of my family, and especially the women, helped me understand the importance of women serving in the church.

SLL: You have been teaching women's Bible classes here at Harding for eight years now. What has that experience been like for you?

That's a tough one to answer! It has been wonderful, it has been challenging, and it has been a time of growth. I have met so many great people—students, colleagues, and people at different events at Harding. I feel truly blessed.

SLL: You and your husband Tim have worked together on the mission field, in congregational ministries, and now on the Bible faculty. In addition, over the past four years you have each been involved in your individual doctoral programs: Tim at Trinity, and you at Fuller. What impact has that made on your balance of work and family life?

A few years ago I had the opportunity to try out a Segway at the Oklahoma City science museum. The one thing I remember clearly about that experience was the need to constantly make adjustments as I went. Finding balance between family, work, and school also seems to need constant adjustments. We have three wonderful children: Alina, Anna, and Theo. Things do get a bit crazy at times, but we feel very blessed to have the opportunities that we have been given.

In the summers, we have often travelled as a family when one of us has taken a class. As a result, our children have gotten to have some neat experiences in Memphis, Chicago, and Southern California. They are great children who, thankfully, enjoy traveling. We have allowed each of our children to pursue their own individual interests and been supportive, and in return when they know we have a deadline coming up they support us as well.

SLL: Anessa, you have said that you sometimes encounter misunderstandings about your work here at Harding University. What do you most want our readers to know about your role?

When I first began teaching I ran into people who occasionally assumed that I had gone into this field to push a boundary. This was not the case at all. Ultimately my love for text, women, and the church was what led me to this and I had to go through a period of exploration and consideration of how far I was willing to go in this field. The more time I spent doing this, the less anything else really captured my attention. I am just so grateful that I can now focus solely on helping women grow spiritually. It is my hope and prayer that by helping young women that this will not only have an effect on their personal spirituality and church involvement, but that it will also trickle down to their future children.

SLL: I know that you have a genuine passion for, and long personal experience with, developing the spiritual gifts of ladies. What is your vision for women's ministry in the churches of Christ?

I would love see more intentionality worked into the women's ministries. It is often difficult for them to move past friendship circles to being truly inclusive, and with a little forethought and planning they can try to create a system that makes it easier. Don't get me wrong, this does take work! It is often easier just to ask the same person and sometimes we do not even know another person that could be asked.

I would also like to see a great variety of opportunities within women's ministries. If we had a group of children over to our house for dinner and all we set out was dessert, what will they eat? Too much sugar, which will have an effect on the people there. In a similar way, we need to make sure that the types of activities that are set out for women are substantive. We need to make sure that it is not just the fun stuff, but that there are opportunities that will push them to grow. Although we can never control what someone does when they are picking and choosing what to go to, if we do not have options out there that will lead to growth than we are not giving them what they need.










Jack McKinney, continued from page 1...

My acquaintance with Jack came to an end on Sunday, June 15, when I visited with him after the evening worship service at College Church of Christ. He was talking to the young man who had preached. I spoke to Jack for a few minutes — not knowing this would be my last conversation with him and that he would suffer a fatal stroke during another meeting that same evening. My acquaintance with Jack had come full circle — from meeting him in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1974 to talking with him nearly 40 years later only a few minutes before his death. In all those years, I can say I never met a kinder, gentler spirit than Jack McKinney or a more brilliant scholar. He was a true Christian brother and servant of the Lord. May his name be blessed and may he enter his eternal reward.



-Paul Pollard, friend and colleague

FACULTY and STAFF NOTES

Our Bible faculty are serving the kingdom all over the world. Here are some examples:

-  Drs. Mark Black, Ross Cochran, Carlus Gupton, Evertt Huffard, Bruce McLarty, and Dan Williams made presentations at the Summer Celebration Bible lectureship at Lipscomb University on June 29-July 1.
-  Dr. Monte Cox was awarded the 2014 Alumnus of the Year by the Harding School of Theology.
-  Dr. Dale Manor went for 4 weeks to oversee the excavations at Tel Beth-Shemesh in Israel. This was his fifteenth season.
-  Dr. R. Allen Diles presented four lessons on "Promoting the Gospel in a Postmodern World" at the 11th annual Central European Retreat in the Czech Republic (June 19-22). Over 80 people attended representing nine different nations. Dr. Diles also presented at the Global Missions Conference in Memphis in October.
-  Tim Westbrook presented on "'I'm an Adult, Why Do I Have to Take a Bible Class?': An Investigation into the Role of Bible Courses in ADCPS" for the Adult Higher Education Association. He also presented on "Global Contexts for Learning: Exploring the Relationship Between Low-Context Online Learning and High-Context Learners" at the Christian Scholars Conference
-  Dr. Daniel Stockstill taught the "Story & Vision of the Old Testament" course to 14 students in Melbourne, Australia as part of the combined and cooperative effort between our Center for Distance Education and the churches in Australia as part of the Klesis Institute. Dr. Paul Pollard will teach the next course as the Australian churches seek to raise the level of training for those who are leaders and ministers in the Australian churches.
-  Drs. Bruce McLarty and Dan Williams made presentations at the Abundant Living Seminar in Branson, Missouri in October.
-  On the weekend of September 26-28, Dr. Scott Adair was the resource speaker at a retreat on the Sermon on the Mount for the campus ministry at Arkansas Tech University (sponsored by the Westside Church of Christ in Russellville, AR).
-  Dr. Tom Alexander delivered the Neil Lightfoot Lectures on Preaching at the Oklahoma Christian University Lectures on October 7.

PUBLICATIONS:

-  Dr. Ross Cochran has published a book entitled [Not Off Limits - Questions You Wish You Could Ask at Church](#). It is available through Leafwood Publishers and on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle. There are discussion questions at the end of each chapter for class and small group use. The first \$500 of author royalties will be sent to the Kibo Group to fund a variety of development projects in East Africa.
-  Tim Westbrook published an article on "Global Contexts for Learning: Exploring the Relationship Between Low-Context Online Learning and High-Context Learners" in *Christian Higher Education*. Westbrook also passed his comprehensive exams and is currently working on his dissertation at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.