



Spring 2021

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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**DISTINGUISHED CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD
PRESENTED TO DR. LINNIE DARDEN, JR.**



Dr. Linnie Darden

The Distinguished Christian Service award has been presented by Harding University to Dr. Linnie Darden, Jr. in recognition of a lifetime of distinguished service in the cause of Christ.

Brother Darden was the first African-American missionary to Ethiopia, where he helped establish a school for the deaf and taught and baptized many of the locals.

Affectionately known as "Papa Darden," he has worked with at-risk youth and families since 1975. In 1997, he founded Save Our Children, which teaches life skills and drug education to 13- to 18-year-olds.

At the age of 80, he earned his Ed.D. in Religious Counseling with his thesis on at-risk youth.

Dr. Darden is an Army veteran, a retired educator and administrator, a counselor, and above all, a gospel preacher. He has spent a long life in proclaiming the good news of Christ.

He is the grandfather of Jason Darden, an instructor in the College of Bible and Ministry here at Harding University.

"We are grateful to Dr. Linnie Darden, Jr. for his example of faithfulness and fruitfulness in serving others in the name of Christ," said Dr. Dan Williams, Vice-President for Church Relations, "and we are pleased to be able to recognize him with this Distinguished Christian Service award."

DR. BILL RICHARDSON APPOINTED PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Dr. Bill Richardson has been named Professor Emeritus of the College of Bible and Ministry. The decision, approved by the President, is based on a record of distinguished service over a minimum of 20 years of teaching at Harding University, with at least 5 years at the rank of Professor. Richardson thus joins the ranks of other distinguished Professors Emeriti that includes Doctors Tom Alexander, Eddie Cloer, Alan Isom, Joe Jones, Dale Manor, Paul Polard, and Don Shackelford.

Richardson retired from Harding University at the end of the fall semester after 25.5 years of teaching. He has been a beloved colleague, skilled teacher, recruiter and mentor to missionaries, minister and shepherd to our Spanish-speaking community, devoted administrator, and dear friend for all of these years. We will miss his thoughtful contributions to any discussion and his eloquent and amiable way of communicating them.

Bill has 45 years of ministry experience as a youth minister, education minister, pulpit minister, and missionary in Guatemala, Argentina and Chile. He currently serves as a shepherd with the Downtown Church of Christ and as a preaching and teaching minister at La Casita, a Spanish speaking congregation of Iglesias de Cristo, in Searcy. He completed 14 years as an administrator at the University in June 2017.



Dr. Bill Richardson

Dr. Richardson earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from University of New Mexico and a Master of Arts – New Testament and Doctor of Ministry from Abilene Christian University. He has received a Volunteer Award and Brave Heart Award from New Life Behavior Ministries for his supervision of translators of prison curriculum; has been named as a Who's Who Among America's Teachers; and has a long list of speaking engagements, ministry and missions experience across the globe.

He has enjoyed 40 years of marriage to the former Holly Sosebee, a retired special education elementary teacher, and they have two daughters: Lindsay Richardson, an educator in Nashville, Tennessee, and Amber Kiefer, a speech therapist in Arkansas. They also have a son-in-law, Matt Kiefer, and two grandchildren.

Dr. Richardson was the speaker at Harding's commencement service on November 21.

- Monte Cox, Dean

IN MEMORIAM
Charles B. Hodge, Jr.
February 23, 1932 – November 1, 2020

Charles Hodge, the “preacher from the banks of Onion Creek” in Byrd, Texas, passed away on November 1, 2020 at the age of 88. He earned his M.A. at Harding University in 1953 and was a fixture on our Lectureship program for decades. His colorful personality and unique style of communication made him a popular presenter. In fact, Charles was so much a part of our program that he was named a “Lectureship Living Legend” back in 2015. He was also presented with our Distinguished Christian Service Award in 1983, and he and his wife Helen received it together in 2000.

Charles was a preacher for over sixty years, at churches throughout north Texas and Arkansas. His primary churches were Rosemont Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas, Duncanville Church of Christ and Bardwell Church of Christ. Charles authored over twenty-two books during his lifetime, including *Amazing Grace*, *Angels*, *Teachers*, *Prayer: The Voice of Faith*, *Will God Run?*, *Hodge Podge*, *My Daily Walk with God*, and *The Agony & Glory of the Cross*.



Charles B. Hodge

“Hodge,” as he referred to himself, was in demand for gospel meetings, leadership retreats, and as an after-dinner speaker. He consistently lifted up Christ in his messages and presented timeless truths with a Texas twang. Preacher, author, speaker, farmer, pilot, father and husband, Charles often said he was the “most blessed person on earth.”

- Dan Williams, Vice-President for Church Relations



The Bloom Conference, formerly known as Women in God's Service (WINGS), is an annual conference for women of all ages hosted by the College of Bible and Ministry at Harding. This year's program is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, February 19 & 20.

This fun event is hosted each winter and normally draws guests from several states as well as students and employees of Harding. However, due to COVID-19, this year's Bloom Conference will only be available in-person to Harding University students and faculty/staff.

The good news is that the program will be available online via a free livestream on Facebook and Zoom, so whether you live in Alaska or Alabama, Montana or Maine, you can participate in this year's conference!

Theme: ***BUILD YOUR INFLUENCE – Going Deep and Wide***

Presenters: Julie Goddard, Debb Houston, Kym Langford, Brandi Moody, Jana Rucker, Abby Stone, Anessa Westbrook, Alicia Williamson

For more information, go to www.harding.edu/events/bloom

FACULTY NOTES

Our Bible faculty are serving the kingdom all over the world.

Here are examples:

- **Andrew Braxter**, our Director of Church Outreach, had an article entitled “Just Give It A Try” published in the Winter issue of *Harding* magazine.
- **Alan Howell** had two articles published. The first article, “A place without peace is no place at all: Violence, fear, and the Paz do Senhor in Mozambique” with Robert Andrew Montgomery was published in *Missiology* (2021). The second article, “Old Man' as Cipher: Humor and Honor-Shame Rhetoric for Reading Philemon in Mozambique” was published in *Missio Dei: A Journal of Missional Theology and Practice* 11 (2020).
- **Dr. Dale Manor**, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology and Hebrew Bible, has had a series of four archaeology articles published in Timothy Mahoney's *Patterns of Evidence* website under the heading "Thinker Updates."
- **Dr. Dan Oden** co-edited a collection of essays along with David J. Stark (Faulkner University) published by ACU Press entitled *Scripture First: Biblical Interpretation that Fosters Christian Unity*. Daniel Oden contributed the essay "Creedal Expressions and their Development in the Hebrew Bible" and **Dr. Scott Adair** contributed the essay "Reading Scripture Baptismally" to the volume.
- **Dr. Anessa Westbrook** co-authored a book with Dr. Michael Strickland on baptism entitled *New Birth* on baptism that will be a stand-alone book and later part of a biblical theology. It was written with a discipleship lens for recent converts and disciplemakers. It is published by Renew. Dr. Westbrook also published an article titled, "Don't forget the spouses!" in *Mosaic* on December 14, 2020. It is about supporting minister's spouses.
- **Dr. Dan Williams** had an article on “The Obscenity Override” published in the August 2020 issue of the *Gospel Advocate*; an article on “Worship During A Pandemic” published in the September 2020 issue of the *Christian Chronicle*; and an article entitled “A Case of Mistaken Identity” published in the Spring 2021 issue of the *Magnolia Messenger*.

INVINCIBLE!

COURAGEOUS FAITH IN TROUBLED TIMES



A STUDY OF THE
BOOK OF DANIEL

HARDING UNIVERSITY'S 97TH
ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURESHIP
SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2021

It was their darkest hour. God's covenant people were experiencing more than a crisis – it was a full-blown catastrophe. Their kingdom had been crushed by the mighty Babylonian army. Jerusalem was destroyed. Most galling of all, their holy temple, which symbolized the dwelling place of God Himself, was burned by Nebuchadnezzar. And when he took the sacred temple furnishings and triumphantly carted them off as trophies for the treasure house of his own god in Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar was making an arrogant boast: "My god won, and yours lost!"

That's why, when the best and brightest of the young men of Judah were deported to far-away Babylon, it must have been spiritually disorienting. After all, they found themselves immersed in an alien culture: given Babylonian names, indoctrinated into a Babylonian worldview, expected to worship Babylonian gods. The promises of the Hebrew God suddenly seemed a distant memory, while the power of the Babylonian gods appeared overwhelming.

Yet out of that darkest of hours shines one of the brightest beams of hope – the story of Daniel and his companions provides some of the greatest examples of courageous faith in troubled times. Their steadfastness was rewarded again and again, as God rescued them from the executioner's ax, from a fiery furnace, and from the lions' den. Not only that, the book of Daniel goes on to reveal a breathtaking prophetic message: "*The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed*" (2:44), an "*eternal kingdom*" (4:3, 5:34, 7:14, 7:18). The kingdoms of men rise and fall – great empires go from rule to ruin – but God's kingdom is invincible!

God's people today likewise live in troubled times, as we find ourselves in an increasingly alien culture. Headlines proclaim the decline of faith. Enemies of Christianity are growing more and more aggressive. Our government is unsettled, and our culture is in a downward spiral. In these darkening days we need to hear anew the message of the book of Daniel:

"There is a God in heaven" (2:28)

"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men" (4:17, 4:32, 5:21)

With the 2020 Harding Bible Lectureship we affirm that our God is still in heaven, He is still sovereign over history, and his kingdom is invincible! May that confidence enable us, like Daniel, to live faithfully and courageously in troubled times.

I invite you to plan to join us on September 26-29, 2021 for the 97th annual Harding Bible Lectureship.

-Dan Williams, Lectureship Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

3rd Annual Harding Preaching Conference

“Preaching the Book of Job”

Feb. 16, 2021

www.harding.edu/academics/colleges-departments/bible-ministry/centers/preaching/events

BLOOM Conference

(formerly W.I.N.G.S.)

Feb. 19-20, 2021

<https://www.harding.edu/events/bloom>

Spring Sing

April 15—17, 2021

An on-line pay-per-view event

www.harding.edu/springsing

Abundant Living Retreat

Edgewater Hotel and Conference Center

Gatlinburg, TN

April 19-22, 2021

Uplift I, II and III

TBA

Harding’s 97th Annual Bible Lectureship

“INVINCIBLE! Courageous Faith in Troubled Times”

A Study of the book of Daniel

Sept. 26-29, 2021

Homecoming

TBA

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