



Winter 2019

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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Bloom 20/20
EYES FIXED ON JESUS

February 21-22, 2020

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 fun event is hosted each winter and draws guests from several states as well as students and employees of Harding. We invite you to join us each year for two days of worship, fellowship and encouragement with women of God on the beautiful campus of Harding University.

Bloom 20/20 will explore the theme of **"Eyes Fixed on Jesus."** Terri Mays from Oklahoma City and Cynthia Guy from Myrtle Beach will present lessons on the theme while Kim Collins from Little Rock leads our worship.

The Bloom Conference is directed by Dr. Anessa Westbrook. For more information, or to pre-register, go to <https://www.harding.edu/events/bloom>.

Friday, February 21, 2020

- 5:30 pm Registration (Cone Chapel, Burks American Heritage Building)
- 6:30 pm Keynote Session 1: Cynthia Guy (Cone Chapel)
- 7:40 pm Dessert Break
- 8:00 pm Keynote Session 2: Terri Mays (Cone Chapel)
- 9:00 pm Make.Do. "A Createful Ministry" (Founders Room)

Saturday, February 22, 2020

- 8:00 am Registration (Cone Chapel, Burks American Heritage Building)
- 8:30 am Keynote Session 3: Cynthia Guy (Cone Chapel)
- 10:00 am Breakout Session 1 (Various Locations)
- 11:00 am Breakout Session 2 (Various Locations)
- 12:00 noon Luncheon and Keynote Session 4: Terri Mays (Founders)
- 1:45 pm Dismissal

The Parable of the Talents

By Emily Sundermeier, student writer

The Bison newspaper—Reprinted with permission



A first-year Bible professor. A Harding University alumnus. A chaplain in the Army and a preacher. Jason Darden is a lot of things — including even a Christian rapper with his own record label.

Going under the name of Teech, Darden turned to Christian hip-hop when a struggling family member invited him to come over and sit while he made music. The family member told Darden that he had a gift. The two put out mixtapes, and soon

Darden became a rapper. He did not grow up listening to Christian rap, but rather Run-DMC, LL Cool J and other early pioneers of '90s rap. It wasn't until he began writing hip-hop with a Christian message that he began to reflect on the message he wanted to send in his music.

“When I started getting into hip-hop, I was like, ‘What message do people want to hear from me?’” Darden said. “I want to speak truth into that. As I started doing more and more Christian content, I realized that there was some self-expression that was happening in me, like I could tell my faith story and the struggle and the challenges that I have, and I can be more transparent.”

Darden teaches his Bible classes with this philosophy and allows students to write their own raps and present them in what he calls a “bar exam” every other Friday.

According to class participants, students in Darden's classes look forward to sharing their thoughts and reflections with their classmates. Not only do the students stay engaged, but peer guides do as well.

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Peer guides are older students who sit in on freshman Bible classes in order to offer insight and form relationships with the students.

Junior Logan Riggs, one of six peer guides for Darden's classes, said Darden looks to connect everybody with each other in a meaningful way.

"Mr. Darden is looking for opportunities to connect not only to his students, but also to his peer guides as well," Riggs said. "He has three freshman classes, so six peer guides in total, and he brought us to Midnight Oil to discuss his ideas for the upcoming semester, and he also wanted to hear any ideas that we had."

Shawn Daggett, director of the Center for World Missions, met Darden at a summer camp in 2018 and insisted that he apply to teach at Harding. Daggett described Darden as energetic and said he allows his students to express themselves in class, engaging them in the material.

"Creativity, I think, is really useful in teaching," Daggett said. "You approach things differently in the classroom than how they are traditionally done, and I think that's always appreciated by students as a breath of fresh air."

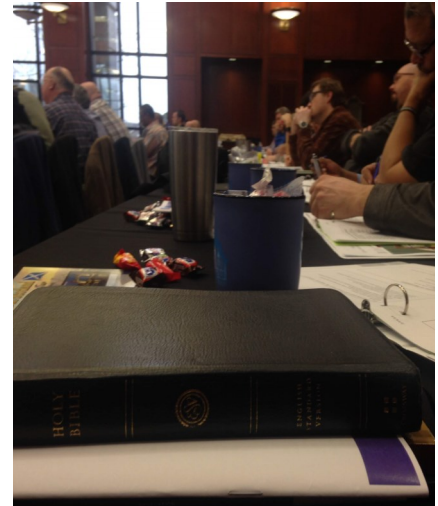


2020 PREACHING CONFERENCE

Last February the Harding University Center for Preaching and the Office for Church Relations co-sponsored our first-ever Preaching Conference. The theme was “Preaching (The Rest Of) Revelation” and the resource speakers were Alex Jamerison, Devin Swindle, Dan Williams and Kevin Youngblood.

The response exceeded our expectations, with a capacity crowd of 109 participants from Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas. Individual feedback was also overwhelmingly positive, with this statement from Mike Bucchi of Bloomington, Indiana typical: “Thank you and the team for the outstanding Preaching Seminar on the rest of Revelation! It was wonderful – it was spot on!”

If you want to attend next year’s conference, mark your calendar now for February 18, 2020. The theme of next year’s program is “Preaching The Mind of Christ (Philippians).” Speakers will be Mike Ireland, Bruce McLarty, Devin Swindle, and Phil Thompson. The cost is only \$25, which includes breakfast, lunch, and all resources. For more information, or to register, go to <https://www.harding.edu/academics/colleges-departments/bible-ministry/centers/preaching>



INVINCIBLE!

Courageous Faith In Troubled Times

A Study of the book of Daniel

September 27-30, 2020

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!"



Photo by [Luke Tanis](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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 27-30, 2020 for the 97th annual Harding Bible Lectureship.

-Dan Williams, Lectureship Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

2nd Annual Harding Preaching Conference
“Preaching the Mind of Christ (Philippians)”
Feb. 18, 2020

Bloom Conference
(formerly W.I.N.G.S.)
Feb. 21-22, 2020

Spring Sing
April 9-11, 2020

Uplift I, II and III
June 13-18, 20-25 and 27-July 2, 2020

Harding’s 97th Annual Bible Lectureship
“Invincible! Courageous Faith in Troubled Times”
A Study of the book of Daniel
Sept. 27-30, 2020

Abundant Living Retreat
Branson, Missouri
Oct. 6-9 , 2020

Homecoming
October 29-31, 2020

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