MOODY Alumni News

Class Notes from Alumni of Moody Bible Institute

Fall 2014

Faith in Action

STORIES OF COURAGE AND FUNDRAISING FOR A CAUSE (Page 12)
Dear friends,

Have you ever been gripped by a burden too big to bear alone? I regularly meet Moody alumni who are taking on causes bigger than themselves, causes that require dependence on God and the prayers and support of the body of Christ.

This issue includes several inspiring stories of alumni who have rallied other believers to support a worthy cause, often with creativity and courage. You’ll read, for example, about a teacher who broke a world record to raise support for African orphans and a desperate mother who found resources and a church to help her son thrive despite autism.

Moody Bible Institute is also part of their stories, serving as the vital training ground for lifelong ministry. I’d love to hear about a cause or challenge in your life and how Moody helped equip you for it. Email me at mbialum@moody.edu or call me at 312-329-4412 so we can share your story in Class Notes and rejoice in God’s goodness.

Serving Christ together,

Nancy (Andersen ’80) Hastings
Executive Director, Moody Alumni Association

Keep in Touch
Let us know what you’re up to. Send updates and photos to alumnews@moody.edu, or call us at 312-329-4412.
Dr. John Trent Named Chair of Marriage and Family Ministry

Dr. John Trent, a counselor, pastor, speaker, and bestselling author, has been appointed to Moody Theological Seminary’s Gary D. Chapman Chair of Marriage and Family Ministry. The announcement was officially made during Moody’s undergraduate and seminary commencement ceremonies in Chicago on May 17, 2014.

“Dr. Trent’s heart and passion for marriage and family along with his extensive writing, speaking, and conference ministries intersects perfectly with the purpose and scope of the Chair,” says Dr. Junias Venugopal, Moody’s provost and dean of Education. “We are excited to have Dr. Trent on our faculty and look forward with great anticipation to how the Lord will use him in the lives of those to whom Moody ministers.”

Endowed through a gift from Dr. Gary Chapman ’88 and his wife, Karolyn, the position was created to continue Chapman’s life’s work in the area of marriage and family. It uniquely and strategically combines education, radio, and publishing to utilize Moody’s media platforms, reaching a broad audience with biblical teaching on topics of marriage and family.

“I am thrilled with the appointment of Dr. John Trent,” says Dr. Chapman, who helped craft the parameters for the Chair, which is the first in Moody’s 128-year history. “His training and experience uniquely equip him for this role, and his books and conferences have made a significant contribution. I believe that the students and faculty of Moody will be greatly blessed by his ministry, and Moody Radio and Moody Publishers will also expand his ministry to an even greater audience.”

In addition to teaching courses in counseling, marriage, and family each semester at Moody Theological Seminary, Dr. Trent will guest lecture at Moody’s undergraduate school. He will also serve as a regular voice on Moody Radio and publish with Moody Publishers on marriage and family-related topics.

“What an honor to be the first endowed Chair in Moody’s history,” said Dr. Trent. “I am humbled and grateful to be a part of Moody and cannot wait to dive into training and inspiring the next generation of marriage and family pastors and counselors that are so needed. I truly believe there isn’t another position like this around in terms of its scope of impact on marriage and family ministry.”

Dr. John Trent holds a B.A. in Religion and Psychology from Texas Christian University and a Th.M. in New Testament Greek from Dallas Theological Seminary. He received his Ph.D. in marriage and family counseling from North Central Texas Federation of Colleges and Universities in 1984. He and his wife, Cindy, have been married for 35 years and reside in Phoenix, Arizona. They have two daughters, Kari and Laura.

For more information about Moody Theological Seminary where the Gary D. Chapman Chair of Marriage and Family is based, visit www.moody.edu/seminary.

Moody Publishers Announces Vice President of Publishing

Paul Santhouse ’81, a 30-year publishing veteran and Moody alumnus, has been promoted to vice president of Publishing at Moody Publishers. The announcement was made on May 23, 2014.

“Paul has been uniquely gifted and prepared by God to lead Moody Publishers at this time,” says Greg Thornton ’81, senior vice president of Media who oversees Moody Publishers and Moody Radio. “With great respect for the legacy and ministry of this publishing program, Paul has a compelling vision for the future and the staff to make it happen.”

During his time at Moody Publishers, Santhouse has served on the marketing team, as an acquisition editor, and as director of acquisitions. He has served as publisher since 2012.

Live Online Talk Show Encourages Pastors

Do you know a pastor who might benefit from some hope and encouragement to press on in ministry? To give pastors the opportunity to discuss loneliness, burnout, financial pressures, but also the lighter moments of pastoral ministry, Moody Radio has launched Pastors Only, a live online talk show exclusively for pastors.

The two-hour webcast is hosted each month by Dr. Dan Green, professor of Pastoral Studies at Moody Theological Seminary, and Moody Radio Chicago station manager Roy Patterson ’81. While interviewing a different guest pastor on each program, the hosts take listener calls and talk openly about the trials, troubles, challenging questions—as well as the triumphs—of life in the ministry. Only pastors who register online can access the program, and callers can be anonymous. Pastors may register to listen at www.PastorsOnly.org.
New Options for “The Land and the Book” Israel Tour 2015

Moody Bible Institute’s “The Land and the Book” Israel tour, from May 31 to June 11, 2015, has been enhanced to give first-time and repeat visitors a more customized Holy Land experience. Led by Dr. Paul Nyquist, the president of Moody Bible Institute, this tour allows travelers to select daily from three different tour options. Each “pathway” includes teaching from Scripture and is designed to inspire personal, biblical transformation.

“Classic Pathway—Casting the Net,” sets the foundation and is ideal for first-time sojourners; “Discovery Pathway—Excavating the Word” includes less familiar sites and deeper Scripture study; and “Adventure—Scouting the Land” explores the extremes of Israel’s terrain, such as a sunrise hike up to Masada and kayaking the Jordan River. Each tour through ancient and modern Israel includes visits to historical biblical sites in the Holy Land and the places where Jesus and His disciples walked and talked.

For more information, contact Morning Star Tours at 1-800-809-5412, email mst@morningstartours.com, or visit www.moodyglobal.org/Israel.

Candlelight Carols’ Alumni Discount and Reception

Celebrate the wonder and joy of the Christmas season this year at Candlelight Carols, Moody Bible Institute’s annual Christmas music/drama event held at The Moody Church in Chicago.

Alumni may purchase up to four discounted tickets at $10 each for the 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 5, performance. Come early to mingle with fellow alumni and Moody President Dr. Paul Nyquist at a special Friday night pre-performance hors d’oeuvres reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Moody Bible Institute’s Alumni Student Center.

Additional performances of Candlelight Carols take place on Saturday, December 6, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets go on sale October 20.

To register for the reception and to request discounted tickets, contact the Alumni Office at 312-329-4412.

Other Upcoming Moody Events

Handel’s Messiah, Torrey Gray Auditorium, November 16
Tickets for the 65th annual concert are available for $13 (prime seating) and $11 (reduced) beginning October 6.
Visit www.moody.edu/concerts.

Music Ensembles’ Winter Tours
On January 16–18, the Moody Chorale will perform in churches in Michigan, the Moody Men’s Collegiate Choir in Wisconsin, the Moody Symphonic Band in Indiana and Ohio, and the Women’s Concert Choir in Illinois.

For a detailed ensemble tour and concert schedule, visit www.moody.edu/music-ensembles.

Faculty Endowment Funds Used for Global Ministry

Each year, the Faculty Travel Endowment Fund assists Moody professors financially so they can teach at international seminaries during sabbaticals, lead Moody students on ministry trips, and encourage the ministries of Moody alumni serving around the world.

Here is how five professors recently used their awarded funds.

Ministering to Youth in the Czech Republic
Tim Downey, associate professor, and five of Moody’s youth ministry students traveled during spring break to the Czech Republic. The team held conversational English classes in high schools and promoted summer English camps for three local evangelical churches. They partnered with alumni Jonathan Rosen ’09 and Joshua Nelson ’08 of Josiah Venture, an evangelistic ministry in the Czech Republic that helps local churches reach high school students with the gospel. “This trip provides a fantastic opportunity for students to see how they can be involved in youth ministry internationally,” Tim says.

Teaching Biblical Hebrew in South Africa
Dr. Jim Coakley, who teaches Hebrew and other courses at Moody Theological Seminary in Chicago, traveled from April to May 2014 in South Africa, where he taught biblical Hebrew at Stellenbosch University near Cape Town. He was able to gain new teaching techniques and talk about current Bible translation issues with a Hebrew teacher heavily involved in Bible translation.

Another highlight was traveling to Wellington, South Africa, where he visited a church that Andrew Murray pastored in the 1800s. Murray, who was the catalyst for the South African revival of 1860, once came to Moody Bible Institute for two weeks to preach at D. L. Moody’s request. Moody Publishers has published several of his 240 books.
Moody Highlights

Studying the Bible and Culture in Greece

Dr. Dennis Fledderjohann, professor and chair of Educational Ministries, taught Bible study methods to English-speaking students in the Greek Bible College's International Student Program in October 2013. Students hailed from Belgium, Scotland, Albania, Portugal, England, Romania, and the U.S. The program included a field trip to ancient Athens, where they saw several sites mentioned in the Pauline letters that were part of their Bible study during those two weeks. “Besides becoming aware of the historical Greek culture and some of the influences in our world today, I gained a greater appreciation for non-native English speakers at Moody,” he says. “I now have greater empathy for students from different cultures and languages who study with us here.”

Learning from Church Planters in Europe

Tim Sisk, chair and professor in the Intercultural Studies department, went to Croatia and France with his wife, Donna, in July 2014. They visited alumni Benjamin and Heidi Turkalj ’06, who serve with Pioneers in a church in Belica, Croatia. The Sisks also visited missionaries serving in southern France. They interacted with church-planting missionaries and national pastors to learn from them. “I teach church planting and missions at Moody, so I am always interested in learning more about what’s going on with church planting efforts in these and other regions,” he says.

Teaching the Gospel of Luke in Italy

From May 18 to June 2, 2014, Dr. Gerald Peterman taught a two-week course on Luke’s gospel at Il Faro International Baptist Church near Naples, Italy. Several Moody students took the Bible course at the church, which was planted by Tim ’77 and Marca Monahan ’76. The course is part of Moody’s Summer Semester in Europe. “Teaching the course helps me expand Moody’s ministry beyond the Chicago campus,” Dr. Peterman says. “Good theological education is hard to come by in Italy.” While there, he also preached one Sunday and taught a seminar to the broader evangelical community on a Saturday.

To give a gift to the Faculty Travel Endowment Fund, visit www.moody.edu/alumni-projects, or contact the Alumni Office at mbialum@moody.edu or 312-329-4412.

Global Partners Training Advances in Ghana

Moody Radio returned to Ghana, West Africa, for the second year in a row, to lead a Global Partners Training conference, June 3–6, 2014. About 200 African broadcasters assembled from 15 different countries to take classes, network, and worship together as they learned to effectively use radio and media for the communication of the gospel.

Theovision International and Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB) partnered with a team of professionals from Moody Radio, including Stephen Asare ’08, Brian Dahlen, Jennifer Hayden Epperson, Lori Neff ’97, Jon Gauger ’80, Collin Lambert, Chris Segard ’95, and Roy Patterson ’81. Along with John Walton, media development manager at Awana International, the team members taught a variety of workshops, including Audio Engineering for the Church Service, Managing Life: Faith/Family/Work/Stress, and Publishing and Marketing Print and eBooks.

Moody communications major Hadassah Lachmann (class of 2016) served as an intern with the team. Dwayne Eslick ’98, pastor of New Life Church in Chicago and grand prize winner of Moody Radio’s “Global Trek” contest in 2013, made the trip with his son, Stephen.

The conference inspired participants to form an association of African Christian broadcasters to better influence the media landscape in Africa. “This effort really embodied the spirit of Moody’s move toward global partnerships,” says Jon Gauger ’80, who leads special projects at Moody Radio. “We were honored not only to lead seminars but also to learn from our African brothers and sisters.”

The next Global Partners Training takes place in Romania, November 17–20, 2014. Moody and its partners plan to offer training conferences every other year in Africa and Eastern Europe, beginning in 2015.

Global Partners Training team in Ghana: (l to r, back row) Jon Gauger ’80, Collin Lambert, Brian Dahlen, Roy Patterson ’81, Chris Segard; (front row) Jennifer Epperson, Monica Asare, Theo Asare, Hadassah Lachmann (class of 2016), Lori Neff ’97, Stephen Asare ’08.
Your Giving Supports the Next Generation of Christian Leaders

In fiscal year 2013–2014, 3,600 alumni gave more than $1.7 million to Moody Bible Institute. In addition, Moody received almost $1.6 million in deferred gifts from the estates of 16 alumni, bringing the total alumni giving for 2013 to $3.3 million.

These encouraging giving totals represent not just one or two wealthy individuals but the cumulative result of thousands of alumni who gave because they believe in Moody’s vision to richly equip people in God’s Word to impact the world for Christ. Yet these numbers also show that only 17 percent of alumni actively support the ministries of Moody.

Alumni who’ve had the privilege of studying at Moody can be an integral part of supporting our global ministries. “I encourage you to participate in advancing the cause of Christ through this new generation,” says Nancy (Andersen ’80) Hastings. “Together we can invest in this generation and leave a legacy of lives changed for eternity.”

Founder’s Week and Alumni Activities

Mark your calendar for Founder’s Week, February 2–6, 2015, in Chicago. You will hear invigorating Bible teaching from many respected teachers and speakers, including Josh McDowell, Billy Kim, Nancy Leigh DeMoss, and David Jeremiah. Speakers on Alumni Day, Tuesday, February 3, are Bryan Clark ’80, Mike Fabarez ’85, and Ron Hutchcraft ’65. The annual conference (coinciding with D. L. Moody’s birthday on February 5, 1837) will focus on “Running the Race.”

Take the opportunity to connect with former classmates and friends at various alumni events during the week. Reunion dinners will be held at Moody Bible Institute on Monday, February 2, for the classes of 1965, 1975, 1990, and 2005. All alumni are invited to the Alumni Banquet on Alumni Day, Tuesday, 12:15 p.m., as well as a reception honoring the Alumnus of the Year after the evening session at The Moody Church.

For details, call 312-329-4412, or email mbialum@moody.edu.

The Women’s Concert Choir will celebrate its 60th reunion during Founder’s Week by assembling an alumni choir to perform on Tuesday evening. If you were part of the Women’s Concert Choir as a student, you are invited to join the Reunion Singers at The Moody Church under the direction of Betty-Ann Lynerd, Xiangtang Hong, and Charles Thompson. Meet in the choir loft at 5:30 p.m. for choir rehearsal (the only rehearsal). A catered light meal will be provided at 6:30 p.m., followed by the evening session at 7:30 p.m. (Meet in the choir loft at 7:20 p.m.). For more information, email wcc60threunion@moody.edu or visit the Facebook page at WCC 60th Reunion.

For more details about Founder’s Week, visit www.moody.edu/alumni-association and www.facebook.com/foundersweek.

NEW BOOK BY MARK JOBE

TAKE THE QUIZ

at newlifechicago.org/unstuck

Please use coupon Code UnstuckMoody to buy the book at 50% off the retail price from ShopMoodyPublishers.com! Special offer is available until midnight on 9/30/2014. Free continental US shipping is available for purchases of $25 and over.
creative fundraising
Moody alumni and students raise money for ministry while doing what they love.

Fundraising is often a necessary challenge to gain support for ministry and mission endeavors. The following three stories describe how some Moody alumni and students faced the challenge with creativity and faith. In each case, they combined their passion with a mission goal, then invited friends to participate through their generosity and prayers.

Alumnus Ben Eli Cole ’14 and four Moody students pedal into Colorado at sunrise during their cross-country trip.

Inset—The Freedom Riders from Moody: (back row, left to right) Mitchell Treece, Benjamin Wallace; (bottom row) Ben Eli Cole ’14, Tim Schwan, and Jon Forsythe.

Five Moody Students Cycle to End Human Trafficking

The night before the NCCAA Division II men’s soccer championship game last November in Florida, most of the players from Moody Bible Institute were in bed dreaming about their third national championship. But junior Jon Forsythe and sophomores Tim Schwan and Benjamin Wallace stayed up late discussing another dream: riding bicycles from coast to coast to fight human trafficking.

That dream became a reality during the summer of 2014. On May 28, the students—joined by two more members of the Moody men’s soccer team, newly graduated alumnus Ben Eli Cole ’14 and sophomore Mitchell Treece—set out from Savannah, Georgia. They cycled 3,100 miles, an average of 80 miles a day, reaching San Francisco on July 11.

Calling themselves the Freedom Riders, the five men used their time on the road not only to memorize Scripture, pray, and enjoy the scenery, but also “to go across the country and demonstrate God’s love to people,” says Benjamin Wallace.

On one occasion, the team stopped to help at a ministry fighting human trafficking in Joplin, Missouri. On another, they spoke to more than 50 junior- and senior-high youth at a Wichita, Kansas, church where their Resident Assistant, Bryce Ballard, was interns over the summer. Carrying supplies on the racks of their touring bikes, they set up tents in the backyards of welcoming homes. Sunday was their day of rest, as they worshiped God and shared their mission in Bible-preaching churches along the route.
The team’s main mission was to draw attention to the scourge of human trafficking around the world and the efforts of the A21 Campaign, an anti-trafficking organization that was featured during Moody’s Missions Conference in 2013.

With an estimated 29.8 million victims of sex trafficking in the world, the Freedom Riders set out to raise a penny for every 10 people enslaved, for a total of $29,800. “We want to represent the enormity of the issue while still bringing it down to a singular person,” says Ben Cole.

“We’re riding for the abolition of slavery, both sexual and spiritual.”
—Benjamin Wallace, historical theology major, Moody Bible Institute

The team prepared for the journey during the spring semester, both physically and spiritually. Jon joined their Bible professor and triathlete Dr. William Marty for 60-mile rides on Saturdays. On Fridays, the team fasted and prayed together for the end of human trafficking and for the trip’s success. To raise awareness among Moody’s student body, they held a 5K run in Chicago’s Lincoln Park on May 3, attracting more than 100 students.

At journey’s end, alumnus Ben Cole blogged about true freedom, stating it is “part of the life God has given us.” Jon joined them. His wife, Sarah, is teaching at Moody and tends to cast a wider net of interest. “It adds some spice to the process and tends to cast a wider net of interest,” says Jon. “Doing it blindfolded was a unique little twist.”

The free throw event, which was picked up by the media and is being verified by Guinness World Records, was not just a publicity stunt. It was a creative way for Paul to combine his love for basketball with an effort to raise support for moving to Uganda for mission service.

This fall, Paul is serving as headmaster of a K–12 school affiliated with the Rafiki Foundation, which provides orphan care and Christian training in ten of Africa’s most impoverished nations. His wife, Sarah, is teaching at the school, and two of their children, Caleb, 11, and Joy, 6, are attending. They have four grown children who will remain in the U.S.

Several secular media outlets posted the record-setting story online with a link to a four-minute YouTube video of Paul making the free throws. Three of his sons helped with rebounding, handed basketballs to him, and offered information about each shot. Playing in the background of the video is a song describing what Jesus can do for children “when we love the least of these.”

The Sauer’s love for orphan care began when they signed up as foster parents in 2003 and later adopted their two youngest children. “As we ventured into orphan care, the Lord began to fan the flame of passion within our lives for that cause,” Paul says. More than 11 million orphaned children live in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the Rafiki Foundation. The Sauer’s signed a two-year contract to serve with Rafiki, but sold their house and most of their belongings in case they decide to remain in Uganda longer. “We didn’t want to have things weighing us down back in the States,” he says.

Paul and Sarah have sensed the Lord’s leading ever since they both received Christ more than 25 years ago at a college in Michigan through Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru). “We had a family of eight boys who came. All eight received Christ that day. “It was incredible!” he recalls. “To this day I think of them and pray for them.”

After graduation from Moody, the Sauer’s raised support to serve with Cru’s high school ministry in California for four years. Paul’s years in Detroit’s inner city public schools were invaluable in teaching flexibility and dependence on God. Although the basketball record hasn’t generated quite as much interest in support as Paul had hoped, many people have watched the video online that draws attention to the orphan crisis in Africa. “I would encourage creative raising of funds,” he says. “It adds some spice to the process and tends to cast a wider net of interest.”

(To watch the record performance, visit www.shoot2help.com.)

Paul Sauers ’91 shoots free throws blindfolded to raise missionary support.

Alumnus Sets Basketball World Record to Help Orphans

Paul Sauers ’91, a gym teacher for the last 15 years at Frederick Douglass Academy in Detroit, Michigan, set a world record when he made 483 free throws in an hour, blindfolded.

“I’ve always thought it would be fun to set a world record, and I know I can shoot free throws,” says 52-year-old Paul. “Doing it blindfolded was a unique little twist.”

The free throw event, which was picked up by the media and is being verified by Guinness World Records, was not just a publicity stunt. It was a creative way for Paul to combine his love for basketball with an effort to raise support for moving to Uganda for mission service.

This fall, Paul is serving as headmaster of a K–12 school affiliated with the Rafiki Foundation, which provides orphan care and Christian training in ten of Africa’s most impoverished nations. His wife, Sarah, is teaching at the school, and two of their children, Caleb, 11, and Joy, 6, are attending. They have four grown children who will remain in the U.S.
Pastor Runs 50 Miles for Ministry

“Instead of running for vanity’s sake to defy my age, I wanted to run for a cause,” says Pastor Mark Forstrum ’86 of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He ran his first marathon as a student at Moody Bible Institute. For his fiftieth birthday last April, he decided to run 50 miles—the distance of nearly two marathons.

The cause he chose to champion was the fight against sex trafficking, which he’d read about in Alumni News (“Moody Responds to Global Crisis of Sexual Exploitation,” Winter 2013). When a speaker from Tiny Hands International in Nepal spoke on the topic to 100 high school students at New Covenant Bible Church, where Mark has served as youth pastor for 21 years, he decided to raise money for Tiny Hands International. But how would he get the word out?

Mark waited as long as possible in case of a running injury, then sent a Facebook announcement to 1,500 friends about two weeks before his run. He suggested they pledge any amount—“a penny, a nickel, a quarter a mile, ten dollars a mile,” he recalls.

On April 15, with temperatures in the 30s and a dusting of snow on the ground, Mark began his run from Cedar Falls to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In the middle of the run, he decided to walk for about 10 miles because of an achy calf muscle, but he began jogging again when some friends joined him. Along the way he stopped at a favorite restaurant for a pre-planned birthday meal with his wife. “I ate a giant pork tenderloin,” he says. “After that I was able to run 13 miles.”

After 11 hours, he sprinted across the finish line. His older daughter was away at college, but his younger daughter, Lexi, cheered him on with other friends. “I knew I needed to save some energy for the end of the race so I wouldn’t embarrass her by limping across the finish line,” he says with a laugh.

The best part of the 50-mile run was the many people who supported the cause. He ended up with 240 supporters and an average of $70 per pledge, for a total of $17,000.

“I was very surprised,” Mark says. “I didn’t know what to expect. I thought I’d keep my expectations low, but people got excited about it.”

He asked his supporters to send the money directly to Tiny Hands International, thus creating new ministry partners for the organization. “I was glad I was able to help connect these 240 families with this organization,” he says.

Pastor Mark Forstrum ’86 ran 50 miles for Tiny Hands International in Nepal.
Liz Slinger grew up with a legacy of more than 25 Moody alumni among her family and relatives. Many of them devoted their lives to Christian ministry as missionaries, pastors, and teachers (see sidebar). Liz has followed in their footsteps, graduating from Moody in May 2014 with a pre-counseling degree and a plan to serve vulnerable women and children in South Asia. But her dream of full-time overseas ministry might have faded were it not for Moody Bible Institute.

“I can confidently say that I did not understand the gospel in the way I do now, before coming to Moody,” says Liz, who treasures the insights she learned in her counseling and theology courses.

Although Liz grew up in the church, she still had more to learn and apply. “Having a biblical foundation makes me feel like I can face the trauma of the people I’ll be working with,” she says, “because I’ve learned here that Christ already bore all of our suffering and actually provides us real hope.”

Prior to her time in South Asia, Liz practiced what she learned in the classroom by teaching women at Pacific Garden Mission, a rescue mission in Chicago, and serving in Haven, a support group for girls at Moody. She also helped found an anti-sex trafficking group on campus last year.

This fall, Liz hopes to work at a recovery home for exploited teenage girls in Ohio, but long-term she feels called to return to South Asia with the life-transforming hope of the gospel.

“Some of the best news you can share with anyone who’s suffering, but specifically women who’ve been exploited, is that they’re not alone in their suffering,” she says. “Christ came and has taken on all the suffering Himself, and He bore it on the cross.”

Liz has learned that God doesn’t necessarily give clear answers about the question of suffering. “But He does say, ‘I have entered into your suffering through Jesus Christ, and I do not stand far off. I’m always with you.’”

A Legacy of Moody Alumni

Beginning with Liz Slinger’s great-great-uncle Jacob Tieszen (1915–1916), who served as a pastor, many of her relatives are alumni who dedicated their lives to full-time Christian work. Two distant cousins served as missionaries: Loyal Bartel (1925) was imprisoned in China during the 1950s and ’60s; Martha Becker (1941) served with Avant in Ecuador and is still living at age 102. Great-uncle H. Jack Berg ’43 was a pastor, and Jack’s sister, great-aunt Alvina Berg VanAntwerp ’46, was a pastor’s wife. Liz’s grandmother Adeline (Berg) Slinger ’46 served as a teacher, as did her mother Lynda ’74. Her dad, B. J. ’74, works in Christian education ministries. Liz’s sister Sarah ’02 and her husband, Andrew ’02, serve in South Asia, where Liz looks forward to joining them in their work.
People with autism or other challenges are sometimes misunderstood or neglected, even in the church. But Christians are making a difference. Here are two stories about Moody alumni who advocate for children with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

**A Heart for All Children**

Joshua Vesely, a nine-year-old boy with autism, is soothed by nature. He likes memorizing Scripture in the forest preserve near home.

**Reaching a Son with God’s Love**

When six-year-old Joshua bolted out the door and into the street for the second time in two years, the police warned his mom, Elizabeth Vesely ’96, that if he was hit by a car, the charge would be a felony. “This was heartbreaking to me because I’m not a criminal,” says Elizabeth, who graduated from Moody with an education degree.

She and her husband, Dan, have four other “neuro-typical” children who respond to the giving of consequences and privileges, but not Josh. He would not obey rules and had no sense of right and wrong. At age six he was functioning at the cognitive level of an eighteen-month-old—unable to control his impulses or communicate with intelligible speech. In school, he would pinch and bite his teachers, push students, and take their belongings. He threw tantrums and didn’t make eye contact, even with his mother.

Through diagnostic testing, Josh was found to have moderate to severe autism, a developmental disorder that affects 1 in 68 children, according to the Centers for Disease Control. He was also diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other challenges.

Facing the reality that Josh would not “grow out of it,” Elizabeth cried out to God for help. “I didn’t know how to reach his heart and I didn’t know how to break through his inability to connect with me,” she says. “It was the lowest point in my life when I realized I wasn’t able to reach my own son.”

Yet having a child with autism did not come with an instruction manual, and Elizabeth often felt like a failure. Sunday mornings were a challenge as the Veselys struggled to find a church that had the staff and understanding to accommodate their son. Other children sometimes poked fun at Josh.

Elizabeth also sensed, however, that God had prepared her for this role. From the time her mom sent her, at age 10, to play with a neighbor boy who had Down syndrome, she developed a heart for people with intellectual and developmental disorders. In high school, she spent lunch hours feeding students who could not feed themselves. After she became a Christian in Navy boot camp in 1991, she attended Moody to learn how to help these children.

At Moody, her Practical Christian Ministry assignments often focused on helping the most challenging kids—from teaching her pastor’s intellectually disabled daughter Bible stories to mentoring a “little sister” from a low-income housing project in Chicago. “Because of the experiences I had, I was able to see that anything is possible with God,” she recalls.

Elizabeth spent one semester in an internship working with foster care children at Real Life Children’s Ranch in Okeechobee, Florida, where she learned the value of consistency in discipline. “I felt more strongly than ever that my gifts and calling were to help children who have various needs.”

In high school, she spent lunch hours feeding students who could not feed themselves. After she became a Christian in Navy boot camp in 1991, she attended Moody to learn how to help these children.

Elizabeth doing play therapy with Josh.
Some of the adults implied his behavior came from bad parenting.

Elizabeth asked a Christian friend, “What do you think Jesus would do for my son?” Her wise friend said, “He would have compassion on him.”

Pondering those words, Elizabeth searched online and discovered a family-oriented program called The Son-Rise Program, which emphasizes parents’ love for children with autism. After converting a room in their house into a distraction-free playroom with shaded windows, she put contact paper on the wall and joined Josh in scribbling on it. When he ripped the contact paper off the wall, she painted the wall with chalkboard paint, and they began scribbling again. “You learn to love first and react second,” she says. Within months, he made eye contact, and eventually he was drawing trees, rainbows, and people.

To provide more one-on-one help and time for exercise, Elizabeth removed Josh from public school and homeschooled him. The changes were remarkable. Six months into the program, which included diet changes and other therapies, he responded to the gospel through an Easter game and said, “Jesus, I want you in my heart.”

Elizabeth was encouraged. “That really convinced me that I was on the right path, that God was working through me to reach this ‘unreachable’ child,” she says.

Now age nine, Josh is potty-trained, calls out his siblings’ names, and functions like an average kindergartner. I have a list of thirty-five troublesome behaviors he doesn’t do anymore,” says Elizabeth. “And our family finds real delight in him.” She thanks God for College Church, a church they joined for families with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She also is grateful for the helpers she’s trained from her church and community. The support has been helpful not only for her son Josh but also for her marriage.

Parents of children with autism have additional stress, Elizabeth says, but her marriage is thriving “by the grace of God, which is sufficient even for autism.”

**Alumnus Pastor Adapts Church for All Families**

Sergei Marchenko ’00 and his wife, Gillian (Bayer) ’99, have four daughters, including two with Down syndrome, one which they adopted from Sergei’s homeland of Ukraine a few years ago. For the last seven years, Sergei has been pastor of Christian Fellowship Church in Chicago’s Roscoe Village, a church that offers respite care one night a week and inclusive Sunday morning programs for families with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Such help is not common in churches today. Yet it’s needed. Most of the families in Sergei’s church who have children with disabilities have had experiences where they were not able to attend church or were asked to leave due to a disruptive child.

Sergei’s congregation began to rethink its Sunday morning and children’s ministries about three years ago as awareness of families with various needs grew. Because children with autism need consistency and stability, the church began offering two worship services so trained volunteers could be “buddies” for the children and still attend a service. They adjusted the Sunday school curriculum to be less tied to a child’s age (“biological age doesn’t correlate in a special needs world,” Sergei says), and they incorporated both typical children and children with disabilities into the classroom. The church also set up a quiet room with carpet and soft lighting for children who felt over-stimulated. With these changes, more families have begun joining the church.

“This move largely has benefited the church, including people who have no connection with special needs aside from church,” Sergei says. The whole process made people aware of other groups that also needed attention, such as middle school girls, he points out.

Ultimately, adapting their church to accommodate families with disabilities was a decision made with the gospel in mind. “This is who God calls. God calls the weak and the broken,” Sergei says. “And this is one particular community in our city that hasn’t been reached very well with the gospel. So that was our motivation.”

**Children’s Ministry Major Includes Disabilities’ Training**

The children’s ministry major at Moody Bible Institute trains students to minister to children of all ethnicities, ages, and developmental needs. Through core classes, students are taught to minister to children in different ways depending upon the child’s developmental stage and ability.

“As our students progress through the major, they may take different classes such as Exceptional Children or Disability Ministry as Mission that gives special instruction for working with children who have unique needs, whether those needs be physical, social, or cognitive,” says Elizabeth Smith, assistant professor in the Educational Ministries department.

In addition to coursework, children’s ministry majors have many hands-on opportunities to further their learning and ministry. Practical Christian Ministry assignments and internships are tailored to meet the student’s desired areas of ministry. Partnerships are available with organizations such as By the Hand Club (a Chicago-based after-school program for at-risk youth) and Joni and Friends (a global ministry to families with disabilities). Some local and suburban churches also offer specific ministries to special needs families.

“Above all, Moody desires children’s ministry majors to be able to accurately, appropriately, and effectively communicate the gospel to all children,” Professor Smith says, “no matter their ability or life situation.”

For more information about the children’s ministry major, visit www.moody.edu or email elizabeth.smith@moody.edu.
Aaron Jordan BA ’14 created the coffee roast from Roast House Coffee in Spokane, Washington, that in February received the Good Food Award for best roasted coffee in the nation. Aaron started roasting coffee in his dorm room at Moody’s Chicago campus using a popcorn popper. Although he received a number of complaints for the smell it created, many would come to him for fresh coffee late at night before his dorm room coffee operation was shut down. When he moved to Spokane to continue his studies, he was employed at Roast House Coffee, where he continued experimenting and eventually became the head roaster.

Aaron and his wife, Allison (Buchanan ABS ’14) Jordan, live in Spokane, Washington, where they both work for Roast House Coffee. It is their dream to be used by the Lord in the business world to help talented entrepreneurs accomplish their goals and ambitions.

Ben BA ’14 and Kathleen (Chlasta’10) Struss both felt the call to missions at a young age while on short-term missions trips, and their passion for missions has grown ever since. Ben graduated with an International Studies degree and Kathleen with a Bible degree. As of mid-June, they are on their way to the mission field in Central Java, Indonesia, to continue pursuing their call to missions with Assemblies of God World Missions. They are excited to be able to live out their calling by ministering to the largest Muslim population in the world and to unreached people groups with no other access to the gospel. Initially they will be partnering with veteran missionaries and doing campus ministry, building relationships with Muslim students through English. In the long term, they plan to partner with the national church to plant churches among the 225 unreached people groups in Indonesia.

After graduating from Moody, Morgan Reed BA’10 and his wife, Ashley, moved to Dallas, Texas, to attend Dallas Theological Seminary. After taking some courses at DTS, he was accepted to the graduate program at Catholic University of America to study Hebrew and Syriac. He transferred in 2012 and finished his M.A. in December 2013. Morgan is continuing in the Ph.D. program at CUA, focusing on his doctoral research on the reception history of the Hebrew Bible into the Syriac tradition of the church. Ashley is an office manager and contracting/licensing coordinator for Northwestern Mutual. They have been attending an Anglican parish in Arlington, Virginia, where they currently reside. While attending CUA, Morgan became involved in a few publishing projects. He is currently collating Syriac Bible manuscripts for the Antioch Bible Project and has been working on translating three homilies of a 6th century church father, Jacob of Serugh, into English in the Texts from Christian Late Antiquity series. In their free time, Ashley and Morgan enjoy exploring Washington, D.C., and riding their bikes all over Northern Virginia.

Benjamin Hardee BA ’09 received a master’s degree in Ecumenical Theology from Bonn University in 2011. That same year, he married Sarah Liberty Woodhead, a graduate of Calvary Bible College. Benjamin served in Wellington, Missouri, as a youth and worship pastor for St. Luke Evangelical Free Church and is now at Living Water Evangelical Free Church in Oskaloosa, Kansas, serving full-time as the family pastor.

Benjamin and Sarah Hardee

Ernesto Alaniz BA ’02 and his wife, Angela, began developing the ministry Claycups in 2004, to minister to the Dalits...
of India. In 2009, they moved to India but were forced to leave the country one year later due to the government’s crackdown on Christians. Though they do not live in India, the ministry is still thriving, holding annual revival meetings and large events, supporting pastors and churches, and feeding orphans and widows. Ernesto goes to India every 15 months to check on the work and encourage the next generation of church planters. He says visa complications often make the journeys difficult, but God provides.

Ernesto and Angela have two children, Lina and Nesto, and currently serve in Waterford, Michigan, where Ernesto pastors the church he grew up in. They are still very committed to the Dalits of India. Ernesto says, “The God of heaven has wounded my soul for this work, and I will continue to give, to travel, to advocate as long as God gives me life and breath.”

Jeremy Writebol


Jeremy, his wife, Stephanie, and their two children, Allison and Ethan, live in Wichita, Kansas, where Jeremy is the community pastor at Journey the Way and the director of Porterbrook Kansas.

Kristin (Siirtola BA ’99) Neva graduated from Moody with a degree in Youth Ministry. She met her husband, Todd, in 2002 at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission in Wisconsin, where she worked as a tutoring coordinator for the after-school program and as a junior high youth group leader for six years.

After the birth of their daughter, Sara, Kristin became a stay-at-home mom. In 2010, when their second child, Isaac, was nine months old, the Nevas faced devastating news as Todd was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. It is a progressive neuromuscular disorder that results in total paralysis and eventual death, usually in three to five years.

Kristin and Todd published the book Heavy: Finding Meaning after a Terminal Diagnosis, A Young Family’s First Year with ALS (The Christmas Tree House, January, 2014). The Nevas hope their journey to find meaning, hold on to faith, and discover joy in the midst of pain will encourage others in difficult circumstances.

Richard Hight

Richard Hight ’90 is a Certified Speaking Professional through the National Speaker’s Association and a visual artist. Recently, Richard was invited to Egypt by the largest evangelical church in the Middle East to share Christ through art. Daily he spoke to crowds greater than 13,000 people.

Richard is married to Marty Hight, and they have two children, Averie (14), and Cole (9).

Rick Ostrander

Rick Ostrander ’87 recently published his fourth book, Reconsidering College: Christian Higher Education for Working Adults (Abilene Christian University Press, January 2014). This book follows Ostrander’s earlier work, Why College Matters to God (Abilene Christian University Press, 2009), which is used as a text for first-year students at a number of Christian colleges and universities. Rick received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of Notre Dame and currently serves as provost of Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He and his wife, Lonnie (Earhart ’85), are the parents of four children, Ryan (23), Tyler (22), Rachel (19), and Anna (17).

Following graduation, Tom Evans ’83 served as the operations director for the Buffalo Rescue Mission in New York with his good friend and fellow Moody alumnus Eugene VanDette BA ’85.
Eileen (Cundiff ’81) Poche recently published a book of poems, Jesus: My Heart’s Desire (Xulon Press, October 2013), written in the midst of much difficulty and pain through an unwanted divorce and losing her son to suicide.

Eileen lives outside the town of Harriman, Tennessee, where she is a member of Trinity Baptist Church. She teaches children’s Sunday school, works with the junior high group in the Awana program, and serves in the children’s church ministry.

Diane Wroge ’78 is the international assistant literacy and education coordinator for SIL International, where she works to stay informed about what is happening in literacy and multilingual education around the world.

Bob Craton BS ’76 recently retired from his position as the information resource coordinator for Academic Affairs at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana.

Bob completed the Moody Missionary Radio Technology program in 1971 and earned his B.S. degree from Moody in 1976. He and his wife, Linda, moved to Taylor University after serving many years at Operation Mobilization. While with OM, Bob served in a number of different roles. He was the project manager responsible for designing computer software to automate the finance, HR, and mass mailing functions of OM’s offices. The software was used in more than 70 of OM’s offices around the world. He also established a media center in OM’s international headquarters, served for several years as the coordinator of OM’s British headquarters, and pastored a small church. During that time, Bob ministered in Austria, Eastern Europe, Belgium, the UK, the U.S., and briefly on board the ship Doulos.

In retirement, Bob plans to stay active in the Upland Community Church in Upland, Indiana, where he has been a Sunday school teacher, elder, and chair.

Cynthia Ruchi

Cynthia (Johnson ’70-’71) Ruchti was recently honored with two Selah awards, one for her novel When the Morning Glory Blooms (Abingdon Press, April 2013), and the other for Ragged Hope: Surviving the Fallout of Other People’s Choices (Abingdon Press, July 2013). These two books, along with her latest novel, All My Belongings (Abingdon Press, May 2014), are finalists for other awards yet to be announced.

After 33 years in Christian broadcasting with The Heartbeat of the Home radio broadcast, Cynthia now serves as professional relations liaison for American Christian Fiction Writers, and has published eight books to date. She’s anticipating the release of the novel As Waters Gone By and the nonfiction work Tattered and Mended: The Art of Healing the Soul in 2015.

She and her husband, Bill H. Ruchti ’69-’71, live in the heart of Wisconsin, not far from their three children and five grandchildren.

Sharon and Larry Warnemuende

After 40 years, Lawrence ’69 and Sharon (Ficke ’68) Warnemuende retired from active service with Mission Aviation Fellowship on January 1, 2014. Larry served as a pilot/mechanic, and Sharon as an elementary school teacher. After studying French in Switzerland, they served in various countries in Africa for
Helen (Gibson ’37) Page celebrated her 100th birthday on October 12, 2013, at the Go Ye Retirement Village in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, surrounded by her four children, their families, and many friends. Although bedridden, she is fully alert and enjoys daily visits with her daughter, Sarah. They read the Bible, sing and pray together, relive memories, and read books. She and her husband, Robert Page ’37, celebrated 74 years of marriage in August 2011, just four months before God called him home at age 98.

Births

To Lacie (Schubert MA ’09) and Daniel Stevens, a daughter, Elsie Grace, December 24, 2013.

Since graduating from Moody, Lacie has received her M. A. in Teaching from the University of Alaska Southeast in 2011. She married Daniel Stevens in 2012, and they live in Juneau, Alaska, where she is taking a break from teaching to be a stay-at-home mom.

Adoptions

Darren ‘90–’91 and Alice (Nichols ’91) Daniels adopted their son, James Scott, on December 19, 2013. He joins big sisters, Lucy and Elaine. The Daniels family lives in Rockford, Illinois. Darren works for AON as a software developer, and Alice works at Rock Valley College as a transitions coordinator and at Judson University as an instructor. The Daniels family attends the Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley, Illinois.

Marriages

Beki (Rohan BA ’09) married Jeremy Helwig on November 2, 2013, in Richmond, Virginia.

After graduating from Moody, Beki began full-time missions work in Niger, West Africa. In 2012, she met Jeremy who was working in the capital short term. Thanks to Skype, they were able to keep in touch in between his short-term internships. They returned to the U.S. in the fall of 2013 and married. Jeremy has joined SIM as a missionary and the couple is now working towards moving back to Niger. They are planning to move to France in January 2015 for a year where Jeremy will study French, and then plan to return to Niger, where they hope to work with youth using sports in ministry. The two are excited to go back to Niger, but in the meantime they love hiking and camping in the mountains as they raise funds and visit family.

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Gatherings

Tampa, Florida, gathering—March 7, 2014

Boca Raton, Florida, gathering—March 9, 2014

Sebring, Florida, gathering—March 11, 2014

Orlando, Florida, gathering—March 10, 2014

Northwest Chicagoland gathering—April 12, 2014

Bridgman, Michigan, gathering—June 7, 2014

Denver, Colorado, gathering—March 29, 2014

The youngest and oldest attendees were Holly Gries ’11 Worley and Dr. Donald G. Smith ’43.
Lynne (Alexander BA ’94) Hutzel, age 47, November 17, 2013, West Chester, Pennsylvania, after a three-year battle with cancer.

Lynne was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and raised in the Philadelphia area. After graduating from Moody with a degree in communications, Lynne worked for Christianity Today, married, raised three children, and was active in women’s ministries at her church.

While speaking at a leadership retreat in the midst of her health battle, Lynne said, “God shows me over and over again that He is faithful to His promise to never leave me nor forsake me…God in His grace and mercy had a different plan in mind for me…I give Him all the glory and praise for the great things He has done in my life.”

She is survived by her husband of 19 years, James Hutzel BA ’92; children Ryan, James, and Bethany Lynne; her father, John A. Alexander; mother, Janice B. Gillen; sisters, Sharon Fleet and Barb Peterson; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Utha F. White ’91, age 84, February 10, 2014, Miami, Florida. Lynne Hutzel

Utha F. White ’91, age 84, February 10, 2014, Miami, Florida. Lynne Hutzel

Utha was born in Fitzgerald, Georgia, on May 17, 1929, to Emma and William Felts. She moved with her family to Miami, Florida, where she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. Utha attended Miami Christian College for two years and then moved on to study at Moody. She married Lucious White and gave birth to two children, one of whom passed away in 1977.

Utha was a part of Israel Bethel Primitive Baptist Church since 1946, and in 1978 she, along with six other members of the church, organized New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church. Here she served in many capacities throughout the rest of her life. She also worked in various positions for the Veterans Administration hospital in Coral Gables, Florida, from 1957 until she retired in 1989.

She is survived by her daughter, Debra Rollins Dawkins; two grandsons, Caleb A. Dawkins and Michael White Jr.; and many great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

George Knoop ’81, ’82, ES ’85, age 74, May 13, 2014, Delma, Haiti, after being stabbed in his home by an unknown assailant.

George was originally from Chicago, where he is remembered as a faithful and active member of The Moody Church, dedicated to helping behind the scenes and serving in any way possible. After a devastating earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, George dedicated his life to the impoverished country.

He volunteered for a mail-forwarding service, Missionary Flights International, used by many missionaries. He was deeply involved in the discipleship of young men, teaching Bible studies and the practice of prayer, as well as building homes for those displaced after the earthquake.

George is survived by two sisters.

James F. Stanicek ’71-’72, age 66, January 25, 2014, Hagerstown, Maryland.

James was born in Yankton, South Dakota, on July 1, 1947, to Melvin and Evelyn Lubbers Stanicek. He was a member of Hagerstown Bible Church, where he sang in the church choir.

He was also a member of the TriState Astronomers, an amateur radio operator, and a volunteer at the Discovery Station in downtown Hagerstown.

James is survived by his wife of 40 years, Margaret; two children, Crystal and Andrew; and two grandchildren.

Celeste (Stickling ’71) Sebastian, age 63, December 20, 2013, Bensenville, Illinois, from colon cancer.

Celeste received her degree in church music from Moody and subsequently earned a master’s degree in music theory from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago in 1977. That same year she also became a registered nurse. She served as a pianist and choir director for various congregations in Chicago, Baltimore, Elmhurst, Illinois, and most recently Bensenville, Illinois. She served as a leader in the Awana ministry.

Celeste is survived by her husband of 36 years and their two children.

Patrick Kamm ’81, age 60, May 9, 2014, Flora, Indiana.

Patrick was born September 4, 1953, to Robert and Frances Kamm. In 1982, he married Denise (Sipress ’79-’81) Kamm. He graduated from Proviso East High School before attending Moody and later served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Russiaville, Indiana.

Patrick is survived by his wife; mother; two sons, Nicholas and Seth; a daughter, Jessica; and two brothers, Donald and Michael. He was preceded in death by his father.

Patrick Kamm ’81


Etta was born in Darien Center, New York on June 5, 1916, to William and Grace Nichols. In addition to being a pastor’s wife, she was a homemaker and a chaplain for various nursing homes. She was an honorary member of Friendship Bible Church in Keystone Heights, Florida, and a member of the West Chicago United Methodist Church.

Etta York

Present with the Lord

Etta is survived by her two sons, Brian J. York ’67 and Dennis; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Dorothy Van Valkenberg. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Rev. Edward J. York ’55, and eight siblings.


Jonathan was the son of David and Lila Forsythe. He was married to Thelma [Breiner ’70], and the two served as missionaries together.

Jonathan is survived by his wife, Thelma; three sons, Jonathan, David, and Matthew; a daughter, Elisabeth Heidebrecht; a brother, Paul Stanton; and 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Susan.


Brenda and her husband, Dr. David Dillon ’60, lived in Washington, Illinois, where Dave served for several years as an interim pastor and continues to serve in a counseling ministry which, among other things, helps clients suffering from post traumatic stress resulting from the tornado in Washington in November 2013, which ultimately caused Brenda’s death. Brenda and Dave had escaped into the crawl space under their home as the house collapsed on them. Brenda sustained jarring injuries while entering the crawl space, and bleeding injuries during their rescue. Due to those injuries, compounded by 44 years of chronic, debilitating illnesses, she was physically unable to recover.

Brenda’s memorial service characterized her demeanor: “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

She is survived by her husband, David, daughter, Amy, and son, Mark.


Bryan and his wife, Joy R. Thompson ES ’59–’60, came to Moody in the late 50s to study, returning to England upon graduation. Bryan continued a lifetime of ministry, particularly in expository preaching, which he learned and came to love at Moody.

Bryan first assisted Dr. Alan Redpath at Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh, Scotland, and later returned to Bristol where he served Hebron Evangelical Church as pastor. In 2005, the couple retired and moved to Norfolk where Bryan still continued to preach monthly.

Bryan is survived by his wife, Joy, daughter, Amy, and son, Mark.

Jo Ann (Klopfenstein ’58–’60) Conrad, age 85, April 8, 2014, Dallas, Texas.

Jo Ann was born in 1929 in Bremen, Indiana, to Gary and Clara Klopfenstein. She graduated from Mishawaka High School before attending Moody. In 1954, she married Bob Conrad ’60, who was named the Moody Alumnus of the Year at Founder’s Week in 2007. In 1960, the two joined Wycliffe Bible Translators and, after training in Mexico, traveled to Papua New Guinea where they served together for over 40 years. Jo Ann also taught conversational English for eight years to many visiting students at Dallas Baptist University.

Jo Ann is survived by her husband of 60 years; sisters, Eloise, Mary, Kathleen, and Helen; a brother, Richard; a son, Kevin; a daughter, Kristen; and many grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brothers Eugene, Robert, and Gary.

Donald White ’56, age 79, April 15, 2014, Carol Stream, Illinois.

Donald was born in 1934 in Chicago, Illinois, to Ernest and Catherine White. He graduated from York High School and attended Moody and Wheaton College. In 1957, he married Sherry [Dausey ES ’62]. He served in the United States Army as a chaplain’s assistant from 1958 to 1960, primarily in Germany. He then served in the Army reserves in the Chicago area with the rank of Specialist 5.

Donald felt called to the mission field from an early age, and in 1966, he and Sherry and their four children went to...
Austria with Greater Europe Mission to serve in church planting. The couple spent 37 years in Austria and continued after retirement to serve short term in both Austria and the Czech Republic.

Donald loved jogging, and when his Parkinson’s disease, which he battled for 21 years, stopped him from jogging, he took up bowling with friends.

Donald is survived by his wife; sons Daniel White ’82, Timothy White ’87, and James White, whose wife, Jill, is a Moody faculty member; daughter Deborah (White ’87) Nichols and son-in-law Gregory Nichols ’89; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by five brothers and four sisters. Rosemary L. Parmley ‘53, age 83, March 3, 2014, Calumet City, Illinois.

Rosemary was born in 1930 in Mounds, Illinois, to Devere and Nellie Parmley. After Moody, she studied at Southern Illinois University. Rosemary worked in church libraries, taking classes two nights a week. In retirement she enjoyed volunteering as a teacher with Child Evangelism Fellowship, ministering to children at neighborhood clubs with flannelgraph Bible stories, and was involved in inner-city ministries for underprivileged children. As an active member of Wayside Chapel, she taught Junior Church and was a MOPS leader for 22 years.

Rosemary is survived by her sister, Frieda Christian, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and a grandson, Colton White.

Rosemary was born in 1930 in Mounds, Illinois, to Devere and Nellie Parmley. After Moody, she studied at Southern Illinois University and then began working as an elementary school teacher. In retirement she enjoyed working in church libraries, taking care of other people’s pets, and rescuing homeless animals.

Rosemary survived her sister, Frieda Christian, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by five brothers and four sisters. Norma (Wyllys ’49–’51) Kendall, age 83, San Antonio, Texas.

Norma married Ronald Kendall ’51 with whom she had three children. She later served as a secretary for Youth for Christ where Ronald was the director. Norma also volunteered as a teacher with Child Evangelism Fellowship, ministering to children at neighborhood clubs with flannelgraph Bible stories, and was involved in inner-city ministries for underprivileged children. As an active member of Wayside Chapel, she taught Junior Church and was a MOPS leader for 22 years.

Norma is survived by her husband of 62 years; two sons, Mark and Doug; a daughter, Sue; eight grandchildren; a great-grandchild, with another soon to be born; and two sisters, Marilyn Fershee and Dana Catlin.

1940s

Kenneth Noyes ’49, age 89, April 3, 2014, Jackson, Mississippi.

Kenneth was born on September 16, 1924, in Dubuque, Iowa, to Floyd and Neva Noyes. Ken was saved in 1942 as a high school student and felt called into full-time ministry.

After graduation he worked in a local factory. He was active in his church, Dubuque Bible Church, and he and a friend conducted a children’s Bible class in a nearby town.

During WWII, he was drafted into the Navy and served the next three years on board the USS Zellin in the South Pacific as a cook and a baker. He was discharged in April 1946 and enrolled at Moody. There he met Madge (Ohlert ’48) whom he married in 1949. Ken was then recruited to teach at Open Door Bible Institute in Jackson, Mississippi, where he served as a teacher and then the dean of the school for the next four years. In 1960, the couple moved to McComb where they shared the Word in public schools and in Vacation Bible Schools. He also taught evening Bible classes two nights a week.

Ken is survived by his wife; four children, David, Sharon Causey, Janis Fallow, and Stephen; eight grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.


Charles was born in 1917 to William and Carrie (Benner) Sine. He and his late wife, Harriet (Heavener ’49) Sine, both graduated from Moody and served as pastor and organist in Traverse City, Michigan, Cleveland and Swanton, Ohio, and North Hills, Pennsylvania.

For several years, Charles was employed in the offices of Pennsylvania Wire Glass Company, Philadelphia. He was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of WWII, having served as a sergeant in the Signal Corps from 1941 to 1945.

In 1975, Charles married Trudi Sommer. From 1977 to 2004, the two were involved in ministry using chalk art and music. They were long-time members of Calvary Church, Souderton, Pennsylvania.

Charles is survived by his wife of 37 years, Trudi; five children, Heather Hegedus, Hedy Eckel, David, Daniel, and Spring; 14 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Harriet, a sister, and three brothers.

Charles Sine

1940s

Margaret Bell

Margaret [Horton ’48] Bell, age 91, November 5, 2012, Sebring, Florida.

Margaret was born in Rootstown, Ohio, and graduated from Kent State University before attending Moody. She served as a school teacher for many years and also as a church choir director. Margaret married Duane Bell ’49 in March 1950, and in 1992, they moved to Sebring, Florida, where Margaret was a faithful member of Maranatha Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, daughter Marilyn Parker, son Donald, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Lucille (Williamson ’47) Burdette, age 95, May 10, 2014, Osage, Iowa.

Lucille was born in 1919 at a farm near Shell Rock in Butler County, Iowa, to Roy and Abbie Williamson. She graduated from the Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota, in 1942. There she received a scholarship for further studies at the University of Minnesota where she graduated, with distinction, with a B.S. in Public Health Nursing, in addition to graduating from Moody. She worked in many different capacities in the health care system, including the Chicago Maternity Center where she worked with doctors and medical students delivering babies in poor homes in the city.

In 1947, Lucille was accepted as a missionary to Nigeria by SIM. She sailed
to Africa in 1948, where she worked with leprosy patients, in hospital surgery and anesthesia, and in an outpatient clinic. Other ministries included teaching Bible school, superintending Sunday school for hundreds of children, writing for a publication about Nigerian Christians and missionaries, and training young Nigerians to staff clinics in isolated areas.

In 1971, she married Forrest Maynard Burdette, and the two took care of his father and mother.

Lucille was a member of the Osage Christian and Missionary Alliance Church (now known as Osage Alliance Church) where she served faithfully.

She is survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Lucille was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and a brother.

Charlotte June Daggett ’44, age 93, April 6, 2014, Machias, New York.

Charlotte was born in 1920 in Delevan, New York, to Claude and Georgia Daggett. After graduating from high school, Charlotte attended Houghton College for two years before coming to Moody. She then worked as youth director at Michigan Center Bible Church, followed by a year singing with the radio choir on *Back to the Bible Broadcast*. She went on to continue her education at St. Paul Bible College in Minnesota where she enjoyed singing with the St. Paul Choral Club throughout the Midwest.

She worked as a secretary at the Independent Bible Church and the Florence Crittendon Home in Nashville, Tennessee; Calvary Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina; and College Church and Christian Day School in Wheaton, Illinois.

Following the death of her father in 1962, she returned to Delevan, New York, to care for her mother. Here she worked in the office at Delevan Elementary School for 25 years.

Charlotte devoted much time to serving in many different capacities, including choir leader at Elton Baptist Church in Delevan. At her funeral, many shared how blessed they were because of her witness for God.

Charlotte is survived by one sister, Joan Daggett ’49 Akers. She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters.

Melvin E. Brewer ’42, age 91, April 6, 2014, Denton, Texas.

Melvin was born in 1922 in Dallas, Texas, to Ernest and Effie Mae Brewer. He graduated as valedictorian from Dallas Technical High School in 1940 and then attended Moody before enlisting in the United States Seabees during WWII, where he served at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific for three years. In 1949, he graduated from Southern Methodist University and became a Certified Public Accountant. He was a lifelong member of the Texas Society of CPAs.

Melvin and his wife, Loma Roselle "Winkie" Morrow ’43, along with two other couples, founded Sky Ranch, a Christian children’s camp. He wrote a book about the founding as well as a few books on genealogy. He was a longtime deacon at First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, and a trustee of the Dallas Life Foundation. Melvin was an active member of First Baptist Church in Denton, Texas, at the time of his death.

He is survived by his three children, Maribeth Koch, Tom, and Becky; eight grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years.


Kenneth was born in 1914 in Ashland, Wisconsin, to Swedish immigrant parents, Israel and Ingeborg Bystrom. He became a Christian at an early age and felt called to ministry as a young adult, which led him to attend Northern Baptist Seminary and Moody. At Moody he met his wife, Ardis Brown ’42, whom he married in 1942. Kenneth and his brother Dale Bystrom ’42 ran the sweet shop when they attended Moody, and Ardis fondly remembers how he used to buy her malts instead of ice cream cones when they were dating.

Kenneth also studied at Princeton Seminary in New Jersey and was ordained in 1948, after his first term on the mission field. Kenneth and Ardis joined Team Mission as missionaries and served in Colombia from 1943 to 1946 and then in Venezuela. In 1952, Kenneth joined the American Bible Society to head up the Caracas office. In 1963, he was asked to assume responsibility for a new distribution program for Latin America, which led to a significant amount of travel around the world. In his lifetime Kenneth visited 66 countries.

Kenneth is remembered as a humorous, fun-loving, well-read, humble, deep-thinking, and loving husband and father with a strong sense of fairness.
He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Ardis; a daughter, Nancy; a daughter-in-law, Wanda Rowley; two grandchildren; and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his son.

Phyllis (Long ’38) Ross, age 97, December 27, 2013, Princeton, Illinois.

Phyllis was born in 1916 in Grundy City, Iowa, to Roscoe and Vera Long. Before coming to Moody, Phyllis graduated from Grundy Center High School. After being accepted as a missionary to Brazil, she traveled alone by ship to study Portuguese for one year. She married Raymond Ross ’35 in 1940 in Taunay, Mato Grosso, Brazil. The two had met at Moody and got engaged by mail. The couple served with the South American Indian Mission, working with the Terena Indians in Brazil. They lived as pioneers, traveling by horseback to 13 different villages doing medical work, establishing churches and schools, and raising four children on the mission field.

After retiring from the South American Indian Mission, Phyllis continued teaching children through Child Evangelism Fellowship and Kids Klub. She was a charter member of Princeton Bible Church and a member of the South American Indian Mission for 75 years.


Herbert was 30 days shy of his 105th birthday when he passed away. He and his wife, Mabel [Philips ’35–’36] Farrar, served together in many capacities for 70 years, beginning with evangelistic meetings throughout the East Coast with his dad, Herbert Farrar Sr., and his brother, Eldon Farrar, in the 1930s. Herbert organized many children’s choirs. He and Mabel then served with Mel Trotter Ministries in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for two years and were also involved in Christian radio broadcasting. In the 1940s, the two moved west and Herbert pastored many churches with Mabel working by his side. Herbert was instrumental, along with several other young pastors, in starting a school for Christian training, Western Baptist Bible College, where he served as the first president. After retirement, Herbert often filled pulpits and used his glorious tenor voice to proclaim Christian joy.
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