

LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE  
CAPITAL SEMINARY & GRADUATE SCHOOL

## Start—or Restart— Your Education Online

Learn more about online, undergraduate and adult education programs in a variety of marketable fields at [lbc.edu/online](http://lbc.edu/online).



Equipping Change-Makers  
for a World in Need

This magazine is produced three times a year to provide students, alumni, parents, friends and donors with news from the institution, articles connecting our readers with our community and features on relevant Christian thought.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School exists to educate Christian students to think and live a biblical worldview and to proclaim Christ by serving Him in the Church and society.

#### VISION

Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School will be a premier learning community that intentionally develops the head, heart and hands of servant ministry leaders for global impact.

#### ACCREDITATION

Accredited through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation, LBC | Capital is also approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Association of Christian Schools International. LBC | Capital is approved to operate in Pennsylvania, Florida and Maryland. LBC | Capital is authorized to offer online programs in all states where our online students reside.

#### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Thomas L. Kiedis, Ph.D., D.Min.  
PRESIDENT

Judy Heckaman, B.S. ('97)  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Keith Baum, B.A. ('18)  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Daniel Spanjer, Ph.D.  
CHAIR OF THE ARTS & SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

Karen Perago, B.S. ('85)  
MARKETING & ECHO PRODUCTION MANAGER

Amy Mongiovi, M.A.  
MANAGING EDITOR & CONTENT CREATOR

Sandra Hess, B.A. ('19)  
CONTENT CREATION SPECIALIST

*The perspectives of the author(s) do not necessarily represent the perspectives of Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School.*

717.569.7071 [lbc.edu](http://lbc.edu)



# Contents

FALL 2020, Volume 20 | No. 1

4	20
The President Speaks	A Lifetime of Learning
6	22
Right at Home: Meet Shannan Kiedis	"He Became a Second Dad to Me"
10	24
'College Wasn't for Her'	Faculty
12	30
Taking a Biblical Worldview into a Broken World	Athletics
14	32
Blooming Where He's Planted	Graduation
16	34
Q&A with Dr. Tanya Solomon	Alumni
18	39
Capturing Passion Into a Career at Kodak	The Best Days Are Ahead



*COVER: Paulette McPherson ('18 & '20) uses her LBC | Capital degrees to counsel patients, doctors and nurses during a worldwide pandemic. This edition of The ECHO highlights LBC | Capital alumni who are also using their post-graduate degrees to impact the world. Photo by Sara Vars*

#### READ THE ECHO ONLINE

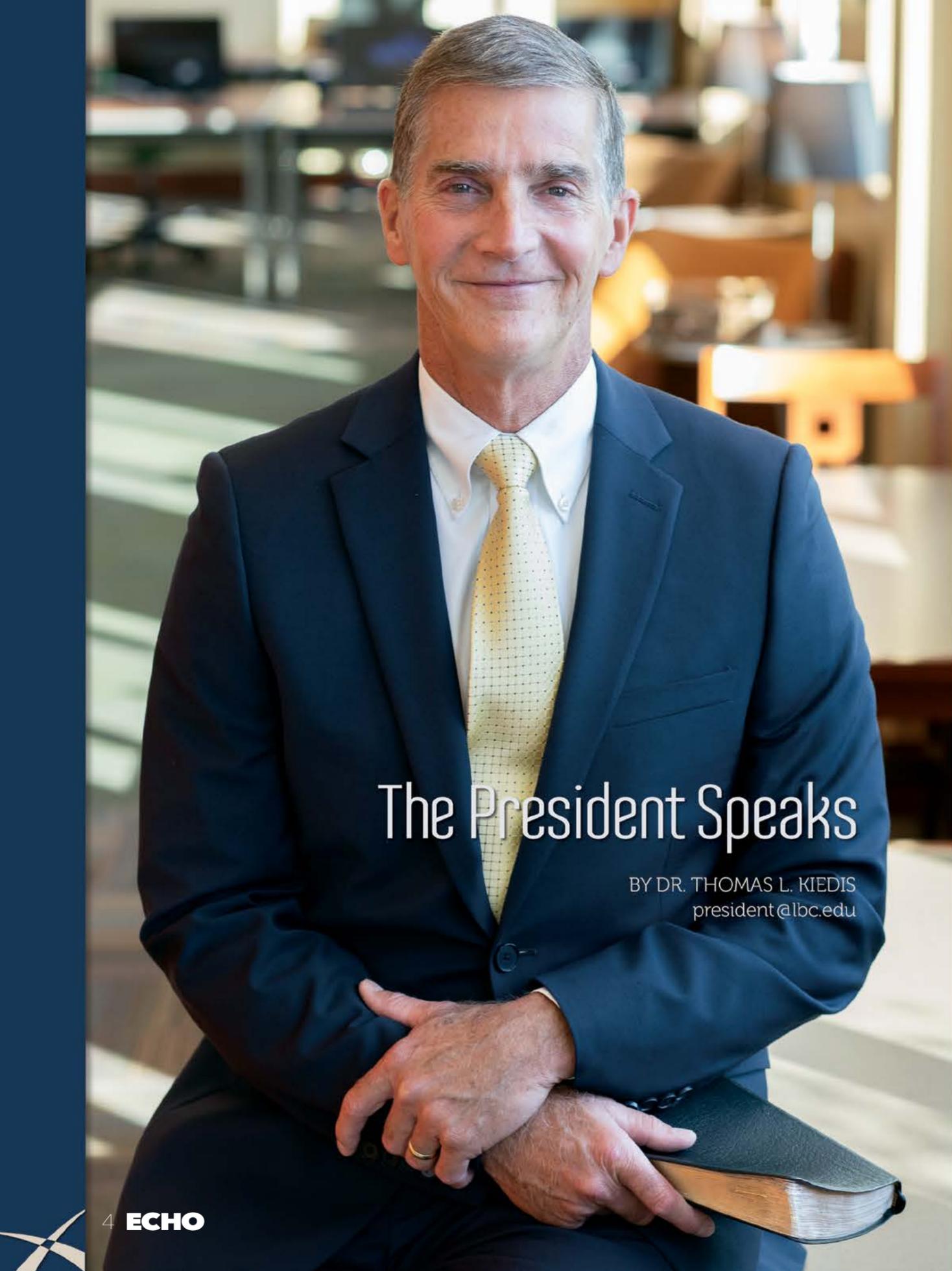
Find current and past issues at [lbc.edu/echo](http://lbc.edu/echo).

# #LBCtogether Again

Each fall is special, when the campus returns to life—but this year is especially meaningful, as we gather together again as a campus community and as the LBC | Capital family.



"So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."—Romans 12:5 (ESU)



# The President Speaks

BY DR. THOMAS L. KIEDIS  
president@lbc.edu

When the wife of Winston Churchill's doctor asked him which year of his life he would want to re-live, Churchill replied: "Nineteen-forty every time. Every time."

I find it fascinating that Churchill chose his most difficult year as his repeat year. Churchill became Prime Minister of Great Britain on May 10, 1940. He took the helm after years of British appeasement left Great Britain in a perilous position. Hitler and Nazi Germany seemed invincible. Nations fell like dominoes before them: Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and France all bowed to the Third Reich.

The United States, refusing to send its boys into battle, stood on the sidelines, leaving Great Britain to fight alone for freedom in Europe. In June 1940, more than 350,000 British and French soldiers were stranded on Dunkirk. Nightly bombings wreaked havoc on London. Death and destruction reigned. Britain was ill-prepared. Guns, ammunition, tanks, battleships and especially airplanes were all in short supply. And that was the year Churchill wanted to repeat?!

The theme he chose for the second volume of his history of World War II was "How the British people held the fort ALONE till those who hitherto had been half blind were half ready."

Churchill, facing the might of Nazi Germany, illustrated a word God expects of his people: Immovable!

Writing to the church of Corinth, the Apostle Paul penned these words, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV).

Immovable is a word that doesn't take a lot of explanation. Immovable people do not change their status. They stay the course even if it means standing ALONE.

As I reflect on Churchill and Paul, three things stand out.

First, without being overly dramatic, I wonder if 2020 is our 1940? A global pandemic. Crumbling economies. Racial tensions. Multi-trillion-dollar stimulus packages. Political angst. For LBC | Capital and hundreds of other colleges and universities, unparalleled challenges in higher education. Tight budgets, furloughs, layoffs and students having second thoughts about college.

Second, like Churchill and like Paul, LBC | Capital remains immovable. Immovable in our commitment to biblical integration, immovable in our commitment to a "student-first" orientation, immovable in being a leader in biblical higher education and immovable in our efforts toward a diversity and unity that reflects God's vision described in Revelation 7:9-10.

Despite hardships and setbacks and uncertainties, we will continue to do what we have done since 1933: "Educate Christian students to think and live a biblical worldview and to proclaim Christ by serving him in the Church and society." In many ways, there has never been a more important time for us to pursue our mission with the "always abounding" mindset to which Paul refers.

Third, and perhaps most important, we part from the great statesman on where we place our hope and where we draw our strength. As much as I admire Winston Churchill's resolve, *his* resolve was his source of strength. Churchill, no doubt raised up by God for his role (Daniel 4:25, 32), did not rely on God in his role. Christianity was a crutch. Fate dictated the affairs of men.

Against this background, we have the amazing words of the prophet Elisha who, encouraging a king facing his own daunting challenge, said, "This [challenge] is only a simple thing for the Lord, for he will make you victorious..." (2 Kings 3:18).

I am so grateful to be standing with an amazing team, surrounded by generous friends, all intent on serving mission-fit students, knowing these challenges—which are real and difficult—are a simple thing for the Lord.

Are these difficult days? Absolutely! But knowing He will make us victorious, we stand immovable!

~~~~~  
"Immovable is a word that doesn't take a lot of explanation. Immovable people do not change their status. They stay the course even if it means standing ALONE."  
~~~~~

# Right at Home

## Shannan Kiedis Settles into Her New Life in Lancaster and Looks Forward to Immersing Herself into the LBC | Capital Culture

By Amy Mongiovi

In the spring of 2019, Dr. Thomas and Shannan Kiedis made the move many empty-nesters make. With six kids living out of the house and with families of their own, they downsized their Florida home, simplified a bit and packed up for a summer trip.

After spending several weeks in Arkansas and returning to their new-to-them Florida home, Tommy received a phone call from then-LBC | Capital President Dr. Peter W. Teague. The “nest” would never be the same.

Fast-forward a bit to Jan. 26, 2020. The Kiedises spent a wonderful day saying goodbye to their church family at Spanish River Church in Boca Raton, Florida, where Tommy had served since 2007. That evening, the family gathered in Tommy and Shannan’s home, reminiscing, saying more goodbyes and looking ahead to this new chapter of Tommy at the helm of Lancaster Bible

College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School—excitedly but with a few tears, too.

On Monday at 3 a.m., the couple started the 17-hour drive from Florida to Pennsylvania. At this point in their lives, very little takes Shannan Kiedis by surprise.

“Everything about our life tends to be an adventure,” she said.

By the time they arrived in Lancaster late that night, the campus was quiet. The couple got some rest at the nearby Eden Resort, and Tuesday morning, their life at LBC | Capital began. Soon after the official presidential start date of Feb. 1, the Kiedises began to immerse themselves into the LBC | Capital culture—getting to know students, faculty and staff.

“The best way to learn about a culture is to listen to people,” Shannan said. “It was beginning that dialogue with people, getting to know them and getting to know their hearts.”

After a very busy January and February, they were looking forward to taking a little time off to coincide with LBC | Capital’s spring break. Three days into the break, however, tough decisions had to be made, and the “getting to know you” phase was short-lived. Six weeks after their arrival, LBC | Capital was closed due to COVID-19, students did not return from break, and all learning, teaching and administrative work moved online.

To say the first few months of the Kiedises’ time at LBC | Capital was unprecedented is an understatement. Beginning in mid-March, frequent meetings, decision-making and onboarding were the norm. It wasn’t until early June, Shannan said, that a Saturday felt like a true Saturday.

But the challenges faced early on in their time in Lancaster only reiterated that LBC | Capital was where the Kiedises were supposed to be.

“We believe wholeheartedly this is where the Lord wants us,” Shannan said. “That makes it easier to handle some of the challenges. God has gifted Tommy with being a good communicator and a great collaborator with people.” And God has certainly put those gifts to work thus far.

Shannan is the oldest of eight children (coincidentally, Tommy is the second-youngest of eight children), and her family moved to Tennessee during her childhood when her father started a business. She and her siblings worked holidays and summers, and it was here Shannan learned the strong work ethic she passed along to her own children.

As a high school student, Shannan, a talented musician who plays the tenor saxophone, was awarded a full music scholarship to Memphis State in Tennessee. In fact, Shannan was in a family band with her brothers and sisters, who were musical as well. But instead, career-wise, she chose an accounting route and began working for her father full time and taking night classes at then-Mid-South Bible College in Memphis.

At the time, Tommy was also a student at Mid-South, and the two had a few mutual friends. The young man stood out to Shannan when he stepped into what was called the Koinonia room at the college. Their friends jumped at the chance to introduce Tommy and Shannan, but he didn’t seem interested at the time. After all, he was dating someone else, and Shannan said she had to respect that he stayed true to his then-girlfriend.

By the time they actually started dating, it was Shannan who was still playing the field a bit. It’s a long-standing family joke that Shannan had a date with another young man the night before Tommy proposed.

She prepared for her date the next night with Tommy, who had impressed her so much over the past 10 months with his passion for life and his commitment to Christ. Her prayer for a life partner had always been for someone who would put God first in everything, even if that did not equal the most successful career but instead a life of service.

“When you do that, you will always have clothes on your back and food on your table,” Shannan said. “God will always provide.”

For their date that August night in 1980, Tommy had told Shannan he had four surprises—three were gray and one was not. After a dinner at a fancy restaurant, Shannan and Tommy went to a nearby park, where he mysteriously pulled a box from his trunk. Inside were three ceramic elephants he had made, with the smallest and final elephant pulling a cart with a wrapped box that held a ring.

“It was an automatic ‘yes,’” Shannan said.

Later, Shannan discovered that Tommy had gone to her father for permission to marry his daughter, which made the entire proposal even more special. “The reason that was important was that I loved my dad very much,” she said. “I had always wanted my boyfriend to ask my dad for permission to marry me.”

Tommy and Shannan were married on Dec. 27, 1980, while he was finishing his bachelor’s degree. “Tommy was the one for me, and I have been so blessed,” Shannan said. “I’m grateful for how God works—how He puts all the puzzle pieces together.”

Five years into their new marriage, the Kiedises moved from Tennessee to Florida. It was Shannan’s first time away from home. Her father still lives in Memphis (her mother passed away in 1998 at the age of 56). In Florida, Tommy’s mother resided with them for 20 years before passing away at the age of 98 in 2016. This tight-knit family began welcoming Tommy and Shannan’s six children along the way—all now married with children of their own, giving the Kiedises the blessings of 22 grandchildren, ranging in age from 12 years to just under a year.

Two of Tommy and Shannan’s sons live in the south Florida area. Paul, who is a Chick-fil-A owner-operator, is married to Sarah, and they have four children. Shannan was actively involved in Paul’s Chick-fil-A restaurant, helping with payroll and onboarding, and has continued that involvement on a smaller scale.

# Right at Home

C O N T I N U E D

Their son, David, and his wife, Jessica, have three children.

Three more sons live in Tennessee. Joel and his wife, Kelsey, have three children in the Germantown area. Zachary is married to Caitlyn; they have one child and live in Collierville. About three hours away in Franklin are Daniel and his wife, Katrina, and their seven children, including a set of twins. Shannan and Tommy's only daughter, Bethany, lives in Iowa with her husband, Brent Ripple, who is also a Chick-fil-A owner-operator, and their four boys.

Like the rest of the world, the Kiedises have relied on technology over the past several months to keep in touch with the "grands." They are especially committed to finding new ways to connect, as Shannan watches her grandchildren grow so fast before her eyes.

One way Tommy stays connected is by writing out a card or note to every person in the family—36 in all—every month. It's a gesture that has continued to amaze Shannan over the years, especially when she opens the mailbox to receive her own note each month.

Hundreds of millions of Americans likely spent more time in their homes over the past few months than ever before. For Shannan, that time was, in a way, welcomed as she settled them both into the President's Manse. During those first months, Shannan said, she became fast friends with members of the college's physical plant and facilities teams, who were an immense help getting her set up in the house. With the extra challenges of COVID-19, Tommy's time was taken up with numerous meetings and conference calls. Throughout the years, Shannan said, he was handy in their homes and also taught the kids how to work with their hands. But this move into a new house was different. "To know things have been taken care of has been such a rich blessing," Shannan said.

Shannan remembers the first tour of the Manse, which seemed expansive after the couple had downsized less than a year earlier. When she turned the corner into one of the lower-level rooms, the wheels in her mind started turning. It was just a concrete storage room with two plain tables in the middle, but an idea immediately popped into Shannan's head: "she shed."

Over the years, Tommy had garages and cars to fuel his passion for hot rods. In fact, the phrase "Shannan graciously puts up with his love of hot rods" is even a line in his official bio. But Shannan saw this nondescript room as a place she could make her own, to do crafting, work on family photo albums or have quiet devotional time. In fact, during this time at home, Shannan found the chance to "clean out and reset"—what she calls a blessing and a gift from God.

In raising six children, supporting Tommy in his career and helping to take care of his mom, Shannan found she didn't have much time for herself—and that was perfectly fine with her.

"I had always appreciated every season of our kids' lives, except maybe the early 20s. No one gave me the book on that one," Shannan said. "Everything for us has been 'a lot at the same time'—all in diapers, then all in elementary school, then graduations, then weddings, then grandkids. Then there was this transition (to LBC | Capital). We're always surprised by life. It's been an adventure, and it's been an amazing one."

Still, Shannan would hear some women declare: "When the children get to *this* phase, it will be 'my time.'"

"I would look at other women and think, 'How are they able to do that? I can't do that—what am I doing wrong?' But it's not about doing anything wrong. It's about where God has us," she said.

This point hit home when Tommy preached a sermon series at Spanish River Church in Florida on "Devotions 24/7," which made Shannan think about God's idea of time versus our human concept.

"Where in God's Word does it ever say anything about it being 'my time?'" she asked.

Today, that campus quiet time is a thing of the past, as students and faculty began face-to-face classes again Aug. 31, and the long-awaited hustle and bustle of a college community returned. Shannan said she admires those in leadership who had to make hard decisions to ensure this return was done with safety and security at the top of their minds.

"It is exciting to see the campus filled again," Shannan said. "There's an excitement when people are together, as we start meeting with students and faculty again. I'm looking forward to sporting events, seeing fine arts performances, visiting the Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia locations, and hearing what people have learned and how this has changed them."

In the few months she's spent in central Pennsylvania, Shannan already appreciates many things about the LBC | Capital culture and the Lancaster County community. "The people, even from the get-go, have been so gracious and so friendly," she said.

Before the shutdown, Shannan and Tommy were able to dine at a few of Lancaster's many wonderful restaurants and made plans to enjoy some of the well-known entertainment and cultural experiences, such as the nearby Sight & Sound Theatres. But those plans have been put on hold—for now.

One thing that wasn't put on hold in Lancaster County was the arrival of spring.

"In Florida, there are two colors—dull green and bright green," Shannan said. "And even though I was born in Indianapolis and lived in Chicago, I had forgotten what it was like to actually see spring come. We watched the flowers pop up and saw deer, chipmunks and rabbits in our yard. It was a wonderful reminder that spring still comes, no matter what, and the Lord is still on His throne."

“There’s an excitement when people are together, as we start meeting with students and faculty again. I’m looking forward to sporting events, seeing fine arts performances, visiting the Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia locations, and hearing what people have learned and how this has changed them.”



# 'College Wasn't for Her'

By Amy Mongiovi

Paulette McPherson Uses Her LBC | Capital Degrees to Counsel Patients, Doctors and Nurses During a Worldwide Pandemic

Several months ago, Paulette McPherson's ('18 & '20) usual work attire was business casual. But today, as a hospital chaplain in Washington, D.C., she's in scrubs.

For the past seven years, McPherson has worked for Chaplaincy Services at Sibley Memorial Hospital, which is part of John Hopkins Medicine. This year, COVID-19 changed her role drastically as Staff Chaplain, and the master's degree McPherson earned from LBC | Capital in spring 2020 helped in ways she could have never foreseen.

It was a common practice for McPherson to minister to families facing a serious illness or even the death of a loved one. But during the COVID-19 pandemic, family members were often not at the hospital, as patients braved admittance, diagnosis and treatment on their own. Instead, McPherson mainly served hospital staff—doctors and nurses who were overwhelmed by the stress and hopelessness stemming from heart-breaking scenarios and traumatic situations.

McPherson herself wasn't immune to this stress. At the beginning of the pandemic, she struggled with feelings of anger toward those not following stay-at-home guidance and potentially putting hospital workers at greater risk. She often wondered what she was bringing home to her family: husband John, who was working from home as a director for BBC News, and two children, one just starting college and one who was also working from home.

"It was almost like you were rushing into a burning building," McPherson said. "Everyone else is told to stay home, but we need to be at work. Sometimes, I was the only one on the street leaving the house."

As McPherson worked with both staff and patients throughout the crisis, she and other chaplains found tangible ways to make a difference. For instance, a repurposed room in the hospital continues to help staff find respite from the stresses, fears and discouragements of caring for patients during a pandemic. The serene room includes an easy chair, mindfulness activities, adult coloring books, a coffee station, daily prayers and copies of "Our Daily Bread" devotionals, among other things.

Besides spiritual and emotional needs, staff at McPherson's hospital faced physical needs as well. Many struggled financially because their spouses had lost their jobs. One helpful initiative at Sibley

Memorial enabled workers to discreetly visit a food pantry and use vouchers for grocery items such as milk, juice or eggs in the cafeteria.

No one, McPherson said, was immune to the negative effects.

"These are people who, if you didn't know them, you'd think they had it altogether," McPherson said. "There is no one this has not affected."

Even though the isolation factor for many patients was high, McPherson was able to interact with some families on a personal level.

For example, while visiting a patient on one of the units, McPherson noticed a family member taking a photograph of her badge with his phone. Immediately, McPherson thought she had offended him, and the patient would perhaps file a complaint with her supervisor. Instead, later that day, the man asked for McPherson by name, stating that he needed her support as he had made an important decision. He wanted his loved one's end-of-life prayers to be with the caring, genuine chaplain he had met earlier. McPherson was able to render prayers in the patient's room as well as provide comfort to the patient's sibling.

Another day, McPherson was able to comfort a family member who had lost a loved one. "Amid social distancing, I put my arm around the family member," she said. "I could not let him sit alone and watch his loved one pass away. The role of the chaplain is to be a supportive, compassionate presence. On this occasion, I was able to provide the ministry of presence, human touch and faith expressions. If you do this job long enough, you know when people might not make it unless God intervenes.

"This has been a very different experience," she added. "Some of it is sad. Sometimes you get rewarded when somebody pulls through or when a staff member says, 'Thank you for helping me.'" Another important aspect of her job, McPherson said, is realizing that everyone has different needs. "Being a chaplain in a hospital, you are there for all faiths," she said. "Ninety-five percent of what I do is listening and joining and connecting. When you connect with people on a personal level, most are open to talking about faith, depending on how you approach it. For me, it's not so much about bringing the Word per se, unless people are ready to hear it. It's about being present in the moment with them."

Although her LBC | Capital education came later in her career, McPherson first felt a calling to ministry at the age of 9. Born to Jamaican parents and raised in England, McPherson has worked in business management, in which she also has an associate degree, at the British International School of Washington, as a broadcast assistant for BBC News and for the United Kingdom National Health Service as a trainer.

But something was missing.

"I always knew I would do something like this," she said. "I wanted to be an evangelist, but as a girl in the '70s and '80s, I knew I couldn't say that without it being frowned upon. So, instead, I said I wanted to be a nurse, and that wasn't necessarily true, but I knew I wanted to help people."

Some of the cultural opinions instilled in her as a child stuck. By the age of 15 or 16, she had been told that "college wasn't for her" enough times at her predominantly white school to believe it.

But later in life while studying to become a licensed minister through Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church in Washington, D.C., she heard about LBC | Capital through the Calvary Bible Institute and a partnership between the two entities. McPherson knew her time had come: "It was now or never."

McPherson remembers her first LBC | Capital course, taught by Sherry Bell, Program Coordinator and Student Support Services Manager at the Washington, D.C., location.

"It was very hard," McPherson said, "and I asked myself, 'Can I really do this?' But then my grades improved, I began getting all A's, and then I made the Dean's List."

McPherson continued to be pushed along her educational journey. Another professor who drew out her potential was the Rev. Philip Béna, Professor and Program Director for the Master of Arts and Divinity Christian Care Programs at LBC | Capital. McPherson struggled in Béna's classes—three consecutive classes, in fact.

"Professor Béna stretched me, he pushed me, maybe he saw something in me that I didn't see in myself," she said.

McPherson kept working hard and graduated summa cum laude from LBC | Capital in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies. Just this spring, she completed her Master of Arts in Christian Care, with both online and in-person cohort work.

As the 2020 spring semester began, McPherson had no idea that her final few classes at LBC | Capital would help her counsel patients and medical professionals during a worldwide pandemic. But today, she calls her final class—Spiritual Formation and Discipleship with Professor Ron Stimeare—a "godsend."

"God does all things well, and there were reasons I had those classes toward the end, so they were fresh on my mind," she said.

McPherson has also completed Units of Clinical Pastoral Education and is eligible for board certification. For the first time in five years, she isn't studying during every spare hour. But that educational break will not last long. She returns this fall to LBC | Capital to complete her Master of Divinity degree, and she may enroll in the Doctor of Ministry program after that.

"I've come this far," she said. "I might as well go all the way. I just keep going back to LBC | Capital."

The irony of transitioning from someone who was told that "college wasn't for her" to a successful professional with three degrees—and possibly more—isn't lost on McPherson. But she has a simple answer.

"It can only be God."

*(To learn more about advanced degrees at LBC | Capital, visit [lbc.edu/capital/academics](http://lbc.edu/capital/academics).)*

PAULETTE  
McPherson

This year, COVID-19 changed her role drastically as Staff Chaplain, and the master's degree McPherson earned from LBC | Capital in spring 2020 helped in ways she could have never foreseen.



# TAKING A Biblical Worldview INTO A Broken World

By Daniel R. Spanjer, Ph.D.



“What the world needs now is love that flows from grace, sweet grace; the world needs the kind of love that Christ alone offers through His death and resurrection.”

Although already broken, the world seems to be disintegrating. This may be new to many of us, even though ruin is in fact routine in human history. For example, despite being the most advanced era yet, the 20th century was also the deadliest century as far as we know (except possibly the century in which the Great Flood happened.) Now the 21st century looks poised to tread the same deadly road as its predecessor. Despite so many modern advantages, humanity is once again living down to its reputation.

Dr. Stephen J. Nichols<sup>1</sup>, now the president of Reformed Bible College, explains this tendency in human society well. We often think of the fall of Genesis 3 as a one-time event—Adam and Eve tumbled to whatever is the bottom of God’s moral order. Now we live here on the bottom of a fallen world. In one sense, such a picture is a bit rosier than reality. In his book, “Welcome to the Story,” Nichols draws on Dietrich Bonhoeffer to explain the story differently. Adam and Eve fell out of God’s presence, and each subsequent generation of man then continues to fall since it is what he calls the “falling fallen.” The fall was not a once-and-done event, but rather a condition in which humans continually tumble from sin to sin. If he would permit me some license, I would like to change the verb to say that the human condition is broken yet continues to break—the breaking broken, if you will.

Our contemporary secular intellectuals have a different explanation for the myriad problems we face. They reject the ideas of sin and fallenness, and instead place the blame on biased systems and a number of bad people who use those systems to their advantage. The solution, by this reasoning, is some kind of revolution that will break up the existing status quo in order to clear the deck for a new kinder, more equal and supremely

tolerant society. The modern world is willing to commit suicide in order to be reincarnated as a utopia.

In rejecting Christianity, modern secularists have invented a new religion that calls us to worship not Christ but the world. In his book, “Heretics,” G.K. Chesterton<sup>2</sup> describes this new religion as the “worship (of) a being who is ninety million persons in one God.” Among the many intellectuals who have proffered this faith, the late Barbara Marx Hubbard<sup>3</sup> may have been its most prominent prophet. She states in her acclaimed book, “Conscious Evolution,” that “the whole evolutionary journey is seen as the story of the birth of a universal humanity. Our current crises are understood as the crises of the birth of the next stage of our evolution, dangerous but natural.” For Hubbard, our present problems are only a byproduct of an evolutionary process that is leading us toward a more perfect world. She warns us that this will be dangerous because evolution only proceeds upon the death of old-fashioned species. Thus, in order for progress toward universal and divine humanity, the existing world will have to break and shatter. Traditional families, morality and beliefs must all be destroyed so that society can evolve into one more kind, equal and just.

This new gospel is gaining converts at an alarming rate. Despite the fact that it is upending conventions and laying waste human lives, this way of thinking makes sense to the indoctrinated. At the same time, it is also spreading rapidly among young Christians who have become acutely aware of the world’s brokenness. Like most religions, this one has indeed correctly identified real evils. It has called out colonialism and racism, the abuse of women and the abuse of power. To make matters worse, it is clear that Christian churches have often taken part in—and even justified—such

brokenness. Salvation to a new future, then, is at hand for those willing to cast off antiquated ideas and help the world evolve into a place of universal tolerance.

This religion, while global, gives people local responsibilities. It has very rigid rules for living, so rigid as a matter of fact that even to think something different from the values of universal humanity can now be designated a thought crime. Like other religions, this one also has its sacraments, holy music and even a required pilgrimage in the form of protest marches. At the root of these duties lies a simple yet deceiving ethic that was best captured by Jackie Deshannon in her 1965 hit song, “What the World Needs Now Is Love.” Our culture now sings this song as an anthem to universal humanity: love in such a way that you are willing to accept all people on their own terms.

In saying that the world needs love, our modern secular intellectuals are closer to the truth than they are in explaining why it is broken. But their miss is as good as a mile. It is an axiom that the world needs a self-sacrificing, kind, generous and empathetic love to heal its brokenness. However, love that drives an evolutionary process of anger and retribution will only shatter into even smaller pieces that which is already broken. The world recommends the love of self, which is not only idolatry but ultimately destructive. St. Augustine<sup>4</sup> explained this in his book, “City of God,” when he said that “worldly society has flowered from a selfish love which dared to despise even God, whereas the communion of

saints is rooted in a love of God that is ready to trample on self.”

I take back what I said earlier; Jackie Deshannon was not as close to the truth as I thought. Yes, the world needs love, but not any love. What the world needs now is love that flows from grace, sweet grace; the world needs the kind of love that Christ alone offers through His death and resurrection. The world needs the grace of the King of Kings who gave His life as a ransom of many. The new secular religion, like all human religions, has some things right but at the expense of the only truth that makes love and redemption possible. The world, broken by racism, abuse, injustice and inequality, needs justice desperately but not the retributive justice of an evolutionary religion. Justice is exclusively the consequence of grace—this is what Christ’s resurrection teaches. He overcame the brokenness of this world by being broken by the Father for us.

Christ was clear about what the broken world needs when He stated the Greatest Commandment: love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. The world reverses Jesus’ commandment by having the love of neighbor determine how we love God. Such idolatry has been the cause of evil from Adam and Eve’s initial fall. Every tyrant and anarchist has first decided what is best for people, then clothed that decision with absolute authority. Scripture is clear that a love of man not defined by the love of God is deadly to human flourishing. According to Christ, true love for neighbor is that which

flows only from an all-consuming love of God. If we desire our neighbor’s redemption then we must begin with God’s understanding of love, which calls us not to retribution but rather to the same self-sacrifice that kept Him on the cross for His Father’s glory.

At LBC|Capital, we train students to move out into this continually breaking broken world with the truth of Christ’s love. Rather than wreck the world in the hopes of creating a better humanity, we take on the brokenness of our Savior as worship to God first, then love of neighbor second. Through years of study, our professors walk students through the Scriptures, train them in their chosen field and model spiritual growth so the students may direct their careers and personal lives by the gospel of Christ alone. The world will tempt all of us to a compassionate and empathetic love of universal humanity as the solution to our problems. But only the great power of the biblical worldview can give the world the real love for which it longs—love for God through Christ by the Holy Spirit. Into the broken world, this truth alone can bring peace and justice as the Church follows its Savior to the cross for the world’s sake. In reality, humanity is universal, not only in its rejection of its Creator but also as an object of God’s love—the only solution to every evil.

#### Bibliography:

- 1 Nichols, Stephen J., *Welcome to the Story* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2011), 45
- 2 Chesterton, G. K., *Heretics* (New York: John Lane Co., 1905), 96.
- 3 Hubbard, Barbara Marx, *Conscious Evolution* (Novato, CA: New World Library, 1998), 2.
- 4 Augustine, *City of God* (New York: Image Books Doubleday, 1958), 321.

# Blooming Where He's Planted

By Amy Mongiovi

## Jake Zaske ('15) Is Following God's Call to Lead Churches in Various Communities

“Honestly, I felt like I would be planting churches in New York for the rest of my life,” says Pastor Jake Zaske ('15). But God had other plans.

Today, Zaske, who graduated from LBC | Capital's Master of Arts in Ministry program with a Church Planting concentration, is leading a group of three churches in the Kansas City metropolitan area while working toward his doctoral degree at LBC | Capital. This current stage of life came after many stops across the country as well as across the pond.

While growing up outside Chicago, Zaske sensed a call to full-time ministry. His first post was Assistant Pastor at a non-denominational church near Manchester, England. At the age of 23 or 24, Zaske says he gained an “increased passion about giving myself to a community and planting a new work. I didn't think of it as church planting, but it was my entrepreneurial spirit coming out of me. I could see God calling me to plant a church, but I didn't know where or when.”

After about five years pastoring in England, Zaske served as the Associate Pastor of a church plant in California that began to thrive. It was, he says, “the ideal training ground to plant my own church.” Then Zaske and his wife, Sarah, started an autonomous, non-denominational church in their living room that God grew; they then planted two expressions of this church in two different neighborhoods. About four years in, these church plants merged with 10 other congregations, all under the Trinity Grace Church umbrella.

During that time, Zaske and about 12 other Trinity Grace pastors had a fortuitous lunch meeting with representatives from LBC | Capital and Spanish River Church in Boca Raton, Florida, where LBC | Capital President Dr. Thomas L. Kiedis was then serving as Senior Pastor. The college and the church presented the pastors a new opportunity to complete outstanding seminary work at LBC | Capital. At that

time, the Master of Arts in Ministry was brand-new, and Zaske felt he could be up close and personal with faculty and get in on the ground floor of an exciting program.

Of the dozen pastors at the table that day, six hadn't finished their Divinity degrees and, once they realized the financial feasibility, decided to continue their educational journeys together as a cohort. “It felt like an open door we needed to walk through,” Zaske says.

Around this same time, and after Zaske planted another congregation in New York City, he began assessing his future. “God began to stir my heart that my time in the city was done,” he says. “It became very clear to both my wife and me that this season was coming to a close.”

One of Zaske's friends had planted and pastored a church in Kansas City for over 30 years and also felt that season in his own life was ending. He contacted Zaske about possibly taking over leadership. Zaske, however, wasn't interested. “But God just wouldn't let me drop it,” he recalls.

After much prayer, Zaske eventually became one of the lead pastors at Hope Chapel, which had a large building and was also ready for a new season. Zaske was particularly interested in this revitalization phase. With the amount of space of a Super Walmart, he saw incredible possibilities for growth and educational opportunities for ministry leaders. And he was right. After three years, God opened the doors to two other congregations with two buildings, along with a Spanish congregation, spanning both Kansas and Missouri.

But beyond growth and revitalization, there's more to Zaske's calling. “My deep desire was not just to plant churches but also to walk alongside others in community,” he says. This is perhaps one of the reasons Zaske also enrolled in LBC | Capital's Doctor of Ministry program; he is currently in the applied

research phase of his dissertation. LBC | Capital adjunct faculty member Dr. Warren Bird, well-known for his church multiplication work, as well as President Kiedis, will serve as mentors and readers. “It was a chance to step into a D.Min. program with an institution I was already familiar with,” Zaske says.

As Jake continues his studies, ministry is a family matter for the Zaskes. Sarah, who has a counseling background, serves on the leadership team at Hope Chapel. They are “on mission” as a family, but their children—Caleb, 12, and Grace, 7—aren't on staff yet, Zaske jokes.

The church family's sense of community has perhaps never been more important than over the past several months. At Hope Chapel, Zaske and his team spent the first year turning around the church, with the second year spent in mergers. Then COVID-19 hit, and a new set of challenges came to light.

The Hope Chapel churches ceased meeting in person after Sunday, March 8, and the regathering process began this summer, with a goal to work with city leaders across three counties and two states while being a good community neighbor.

“Throughout the past 1,900 years, there have been seasons where the Church has gathered strong and seasons when it's been scattered,” Zaske says. “It can come back more diverse, strengthened and resolute. God has always been in the business of pruning the body to get it back to some of the things that really matter. I think that's the season we are in right now.”

*(Ready to take the next step in your ministry degree? Visit [lbc.edu/capital](http://lbc.edu/capital).)*



# Q&A with Dr. Tanya Solomon

This summer, Dr. Tanya Solomon was named Site Director for LBC | Capital – Philadelphia. Previously, she led the Philadelphia Ally Center team as the Faculty and Student Support Services Manager. Solomon brings a wealth of experience in education to her role at LBC | Capital. She earned an M.S.Ed. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Education and Learning Technologies. Aside from leading the Philadelphia location, she also teaches in the Arts & Sciences Department. Her passion to see LBC | Capital students reach their potential has helped many achieve success both in and out of the classroom.

“Dr. Solomon is a capable educator and leader who I anticipate will do extremely well leading the LBC | Capital – Philadelphia location to its next levels of achievement and impact in the city for the Kingdom of God,” said the Rev. Zachary Ritvsky, Vice President of Institutional Alignment.

Solomon participated in a Q&A for The ECHO about her passion for the Philadelphia location and her vision for the future.

**LBC | CAPITAL:** As you take on this leadership role at LBC | Capital – Philadelphia, what is your prayer for students and graduates?

**DR. TANYA SOLOMON:** Given the circumstances we currently face with the outbreak of COVID-19, I think we all need to hold onto hope as an anchor—and onto God as the source of our hope—to keep us fueled for the journey ahead. I draw my prayer for our students from Romans 15:13, which states, “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will

overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Despite the uncertainty and chaos of our coronavirus-impacted world, God remains unchanging, omnipresent and sovereign. It is God alone who keeps us grounded and secure when all else is shaken.

**LBC:** The Class of 2020 graduated under unprecedented and challenging circumstances. What advice do you have for them as they begin the next phase of their life journeys?

**TS:** I would tell them not to be discouraged or afraid—two things I would imagine they are feeling and that most of us are battling at this time. Yes, this is indeed a time of unparalleled challenge and unpredictability, but it is also a season of unrivaled opportunity. There has never been, in our lifetimes, a time when new ideas, creative ventures and collaborations have the potential to influence so many. The citizenry of the world is looking for individuals equipped to engender hope and a perspective broader and more purposeful than the materialistic and narcissistic one that our culture has previously produced. Our recent LBC | Capital graduates are poised to do just that; they are equipped to solve problems and address challenges from a biblical worldview, bringing the power of God to bear in a world in desperate need of Him.

**LBC:** How is LBC | Capital – Philadelphia poised to make a difference in the city and beyond?

**TS:** I believe that we make a difference in our city and beyond by looking at what is needed here in Philadelphia. The need we see has prompted us to create a space where students feel they are cared about and considered, and then give them tools that can assist them in helping their communities—a common concern of our students. This may be one of the reasons that the Community Transformation & Social Engagement degree was birthed out of the Philadelphia location. We are preparing students through providing a loving yet empowering environment. We endeavor to equip our students such that they get the requisite curricular knowledge, but they are also built up and strengthened by the Word of God, support from their peers and the wisdom and experience of their instructors. I admit that this kind of community-building is a work in progress and that we still have a great deal of work to do in creating, innovating and sustaining this type of learning community. However, we have dedicated faculty and staff who take the vision and mission of LBC | Capital to heart, and we continue to attract students who have

an empathy and a capacity to use the tools they have gained to impact the lives of others.

**LBC:** Amid racial, political, community and family division, unrest and tension, how can LBC | Capital graduates impact the nation and the world?

**TS:** At this time, LBC | Capital graduates need to listen, watch, ask questions and seek knowledge to understand the historical, political and economic origins of these racial tensions, divisions and unrest. These tensions are not new, nor are the anger and frustration that have been rendered visible and palpable in the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder at the hand of Minneapolis police. Our students will need this knowledge to not just have head knowledge and empathy but to begin to see how they can be a part of the solution—not only in their own communities but in our country and world.

LBC | Capital graduates should not close their eyes or harden their hearts to what is going on because it may make them feel uncomfortable or think that it’s over because the unrest seems to have died down. LBC | Capital graduates, as well as each and every one of us, need to check our biases and really embrace and understand what it means to see each and every other person as being created in the image of God. When that happens, it will be difficult—if not impossible—to sit back and ignore the issue or be silent when a fellow image bearer is being treated unfairly.

**LBC:** How do you envision LBC | Capital – Philadelphia being a leader in urban, biblical education?

**TS:** I envision that we will, out of necessity, develop a model learning community that prepares servant-leaders. We do this by filling a void in this city for the many adult students who seem to have nowhere else to go or have tried secular institutions and have not found a community that accepts them for who they are. We are not the last hope for some because what we offer is of low-value but because what we offer is biblical in content and design; we look at our students as fellow image bearers who are redeemable. We will be a leader in a city that is the poorest large city in this country for this reason. We will be a leader where students from myriad backgrounds can come and be successful because we affirm their value and prepare them to be foot washers who will go out and share lessons learned here with those they are purposed to serve.

*(To be a part of all that’s happening at LBC | Capital – Philadelphia, visit [lbc.edu/philly](http://lbc.edu/philly).)*

TANYA  
Solomon



“I think we all need to hold onto **hope** as an **anchor**—and onto **God** as the **source of our hope**—to keep us **fueled** for the **journey ahead**.”



# Capturing Passion

INTO A CAREER AT KODAK

By Sandra Hess ('19)



“A big goal of mine during the internship was to focus and work so hard that they are going to want me to come back.”

If you know Jake Ingle ('20), an LBC | Capital business major, you know his passion for photography is a big part of who he is. “I love art and creating different things,” Ingle shares. “Shooting on film allows me to do that, and the process you go through to end up with a photo is so analog and methodical.”

Ingle was ready to take his freelance photography to the next level by working with a business. And so, the search for the right internship began. When he saw both a tweet and a LinkedIn post about a Kodak internship, he immediately submitted his application.

After a pretty standard application process and submitting his resume, he earned the internship in the summer of 2019. It was a huge accomplishment to land a role at the globally recognized technology company, but it's not the full story.

“This whole process wasn't as simple as me just seeing a job listing and applying,” says Ingle. “What people won't see is that I applied for 10 other internships the previous year and didn't get any of them ... It's not easy to trust God in the midst of the rejections.”

Yet, this was the internship for him. Kodak helped to expand his perspective on the art of photography. “I've always shot digital photographs until I started my internship with film that summer,” Ingle explains. “Shooting film really forced me to focus and develop good composition instead of just snapping away.”

Ingle's internship entailed working with social media like Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube for Kodak's Motion Picture Division.

“I was working on some campaigns with massive budgets, which is kind of scary, but mainly working with different directors and directors of photography around the world who were shooting projects on motion picture film like music videos, short films, commercials and movies,” Ingle recalls. “It is honestly crazy how many things are shot on film, like 'Star Wars,' Nike commercials, Justin Bieber music videos and more, and how many people have no idea. A big part is communicating to people on social media that film still has a major impact in the industry.”

He loved the internship and working for Kodak, and as he was growing in his own career through the experience, his work ethic shone

through his projects. “A big goal of mine during the internship was to focus and work so hard that they are going to want me to come back. Thankfully they saw that!” says Ingle.

In January 2020, Kodak offered him a permanent position as a social media coordinator. Ingle credits LBC | Capital in part for preparing him for success. “LBC | Capital really provided me with so much knowledge of working in the business world, whether it was working on marketing campaigns, developing copy, creating and executing presentations for meetings or even just developing relationships and connections with people within the company.”

Ingle's story is one of capturing his passion and channeling it into a career. “I'm passionate about beautiful storytelling and working on social with Kodak—that's what it's about. Telling a story or showing someone else's story is extremely rewarding. Film strips away all the bells and whistles and focuses truly on good old-fashioned storytelling.

“God's timing is perfect, and we won't be able to see that until he blesses us with an incredible opportunity,” Ingle has come to realize. “This is where faith comes in. Stay faithful, and God always comes through. His timing—not yours.”

*(Ready to launch your career with a business degree? Learn more at [lbc.edu/business](http://lbc.edu/business).)*

Top and bottom photos by Jake Ingle

# A Lifetime of Learning

Don Lough Jr., President and CEO of Word of Life, Is Embarking on the Next Phase of His Own Educational Journey at LBC | Capital

By Amy Mongiovi

As a teen, Don Lough Jr. worked as a camp baker at Word of Life ministry, where his parents served as camp directors. Throughout a summer of making bread, donuts and muffins, Lough quickly learned that there was no typical day at Word of Life.

Today, Lough is the President and CEO of Word of Life Fellowship in the Adirondacks of New York, and decades after working in a hot camp kitchen, he is continuing his educational journey through the Doctor of Ministry program at LBC | Capital.

Lough's roots at Word of Life run deep. He calls it a "fantastic privilege" to have grown up in the context of the family camp his parents directed and to engage in a vibrant international ministry reaching this generation for Christ.

"The complexity and pace of our world today seem to offer an endless supply of fresh opportunities to consider in proclaiming the Good News about Jesus," he said. "With the ministry now extending to 81 countries with 1,800-plus staff and missionaries, something is happening 24/7. Whether sharing the gospel, assisting local church leaders with student programs, mobilizing children and teens to reach their friends with the gospel, teaching and discipling college students at a Bible Institute or operating a youth or family camp, every day overflows with opportunities to serve and reach people."

Over the years, Word of Life and LBC | Capital have enjoyed a long relationship. Many Word of Life Bible Institute students transfer to LBC |

Capital with significant momentum and preparation for effective service to the Lord.

Since 1940, Word of Life's mission has been the evangelization and discipleship of youth. Whether the camping ministry, local church ministries division or one of 16 Bible Institutes, Word of Life's vision is laser-focused on reaching students with the gospel of Christ and training them to reach their world with the same.

"We remain optimistic about this generation and firmly believe that young people possess an incredible potential to serve the Lord," Lough said. "We love seeing a 7-year-old leave our children's camp and promptly lead family members to Christ. What a joy to see Bible Institute graduates move out to serve



God as active members of their local church and as pastors, missionaries, leaders in the marketplace, authors, professors and so much more."

For instance, 40 graduates of the Word of Life Bible Institute in Belem, Brazil, are committed to reaching hundreds of remote villages along the Amazon River with the gospel. Another Bible Institute graduate became a model for Cover Girl, Tommy Hilfiger and other major companies, and today she shares biblical principles for modesty and purity in schools, churches and women's conferences worldwide. Two brothers learned to operate cameras at Word of Life Island, attended the Bible Institute, then developed a passion to leverage filmmaking for the gospel. Today, their movies such as "Woodlawn," "I Still Believe" and "I Can Only Imagine" impact millions.

"At Word of Life, we consider it a high privilege to sit in a front-row seat in witnessing God's transforming work in lives and its ripple effect on families and the world," Lough said.

Lough has seen God's hand create ripple effects in his own life. He began as a pre-med major at Cedarville University but sensed God moving him in a completely different direction. Dallas Theological Seminary was his next step, and those seminary years served as a pivotal time of discovering his spiritual gift of leadership.

"After two and a half decades of leading in various roles at Word of Life, I sensed that I was coasting a bit and needed the accountability of an academic program to grow further in my understanding and application of biblical leadership," Lough said of his decision to study at LBC | Capital. "The journey continues!"

Lough said he has especially enjoyed new friendships with LBC | Capital professors and fellow students, as well as how faculty consistently demonstrate genuine care and interest in the families and ministries represented in his cohort. "I admit that academic research and writing appeared daunting on the front end,"

he said. "Today, I love how the process has pushed me toward crisp and careful communication in all areas of life and ministry."

Lough is currently working through the prospectus phase of his dissertation, which will center on the demanding pace of ministry and the implications for ministry leaders' shepherding relationships.

"Pastors of local churches and leaders of faith-based organizations face a daily expectation to fulfill a plethora of administrative responsibilities while responding to new opportunities and challenges and maintaining constant accessibility to staff and constituents," Lough said. "These leaders also bear the pressure of positioning the ministry for financial sustainability and relevance to present generations. Recent events in our world add layers of complexity and urgency for leaders of churches and U.S.-based ministries.

"As a result, leaders are often left with little or no time to invest in shepherding relationships with subordinates and family," he added. "Knowing my situation and interacting with Word of Life leadership, pastors and leaders of other organizations, this topic appears to strike a nerve. Research in the Scriptures and academic resources continues to deepen my understanding of the issue and potential solutions."

As he reflects on the family dynamics of pastors and ministry leaders for his dissertation, Lough is grateful that ministry has been a family affair in his own life. He recently reread the etching on the back of his father's tombstone—3 John 1:4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (NKJV). While serving at Word of Life has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience, Lough loves seeing his wife, Darla, two sons and two daughters serve the Lord as well.

"With my heavy schedule and travel, Darla's faithful investment in our children has been vital along the way," he said. "While we are a flawed family always in need of God's grace and mercy, we are encouraged with how each one is taking steps in the right direction."

As the Lough children continue to learn and grow as young adults, their supportive response to their father heading back to class himself can be summed up as, "It's about time, Dad!"

*(To learn more about the Doctor of Ministry program at LBC | Capital, visit [lbc.edu/dmin](http://lbc.edu/dmin).)*

Don  
Lough



## 'He Became a Second Dad to Me'

### Students Reflect on Impact of 'Doc' James Ayers

By Jessica Whitmore M.A.  
Adjunct Professor,  
Communication & Media  
Arts Department

Since July 1993, Dr. James "Jim" Ayers (80) has been known as "Doc" on the Lancaster campus of LBC | Capital. He is, however, much more than just his lectures, his office and his ability to sit with a student, alumnus or colleague and talk over a cup of coffee.

"Doc is truly a man who embodies the love and care of the Father," said Dr. Richard Rhoads, Chair of the Church & Ministry Leadership Department and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program. "To be with him is to experience a fresh expression of God's unconditional love."

As students and faculty prepare for the fall 2020 semester, Doc is preparing for his next adventure in life, as he completed his service at the college on June 30, 2020. His journey included his own graduation from LBC | Capital in 1980 and continued with further advanced degrees and studies, even at Oxford University in England.

Throughout his 27 years of serving and leading at LBC | Capital, he has impacted individuals and communities. It wasn't just his service at the college, though; it was

his total of 45 years in ministry and education. It was serving as a youth, assistant, interim and senior pastor and hospital chaplain. It was being a professor, mentor, friend, counselor and fellow believer. It was leading groups to travel to the Middle East, including Israel, Jordan, Turkey and Greece.

"Doc Ayers is one of the most influential people in our lives," said Tony Villafane ('16 & '18) on behalf of he and his wife, Mary Beth (Dodson '17). "Our faith was deepened under his leadership as we traveled with Doc to Turkey, Greece and Israel. Comically enough, we attribute the beginning of our relationship to him because of these trips that Doc led! We were so impacted by his faith and leadership that we asked him to marry us. Doc is a man we will forever be grateful for and are honored to call professor, mentor, officiant and friend. He has influenced us toward Kingdom work more than he realizes."

It was also the godly example Doc set through his own personal journeys while following his professional path. This included the death of his first wife, Rae Ann, in 2001 after almost 29 years of marriage, along with the task of raising their three boys, eventually adding in daughters-

in-law and grandchildren and the joy of marrying again to Betsy. All while still teaching and leading his students.

"I wouldn't have made it through LBC without Doc," said Kelley Wood ('07). "I struggled on various fronts throughout my time at the college, and it was in the midst of these struggles that we connected. He poured untold hours of compassion, care, concern, honesty, wisdom and love into my life. None of that was an easy undertaking, and none of that was he required to do, yet he did it anyway. He is the most patient, gracious, loyal and kind person that I know. He has loved me unconditionally well beyond my time at LBC and become a second dad to me. The love that Christ has for me is demonstrated and experienced in the relationship I have with Doc."

Doc knows he reached thousands of students and colleagues during his time at LBC | Capital, and yet, he is the one to say thank you to them.

"SEASONS... Solomon, the wisest man on earth in one epoch of time, said, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven," he shared in a recent personal Facebook post. "Thanks for your part in shaping me into the man I am today."

"Doc impacted my life in profound ways throughout my four years as a student," said Annie Hoover ('14). "He taught ministry classes that broadened my perspective on people and serving others; he offered advice on friendship challenges and other aspects of navigating the world as a new college student and ultimately embodied Christ's love to me. He set an incredible example of self-sacrificial love for his students through offering a kind word of encouragement, a big bear hug or a word of challenge and advice. Since college, I've stayed in touch with him by dropping by his office to say hello and catching up over coffee. He has become more than a professor; he has become a friend and even a 'second dad' to me. I am grateful that the LBC community was gifted with the blessing of James Ayers for so many years. He has shown me, and so many others over the years, what true ministry looks like. He has been the hands and feet of Jesus in tangible, meaningful ways. My college experience would not have been the same without him, and I know that I grew exponentially from learning from Doc, not just in the classroom but in the way he lives his life. My utmost thanks and honor going out to him for the many years of dedication and sacrifice he's shown through loving and serving his students! Thank you Doc, we are grateful!"

## Social Work Program Reaccredited for Eight Years

In June, the LBC | Capital social work program within the Counseling & Social Work Department was granted full reaccreditation for the next eight years through the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

CSWE is the accrediting body for all bachelors and masters degrees in social work programs in the United States. LBC | Capital received the initial four-year accreditation in 2016 after a four-year process to align curriculum and student learning outcomes with national social work standards. In 2019, the LBC | Capital program finished an intensive self-study that was submitted to CSWE last August. The review process included a CSWE representative visiting LBC | Capital in January to meet with administration, faculty, students, field instructors and the advisory board. This report was then reviewed by the full Commission on Accreditation in early June.

"The reaccreditation process culminated extensive measures of student learning, a comprehensive self-study process and much effort by our faculty and students to meet the high standards for a premier social work program," said Dr. Kurt Miller, Social Work Program Director and Professor.

Students in LBC | Capital's social work program are encouraged to understand, evaluate and practice social work theory and methods from a biblical perspective to help and empower the forgotten in society. Courses include Cultural Diversity, Human Behavior and the Social Environment and Social Work Policy and Practice, as well as Social Work Practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

Ranked fourth in a list of the top 25 Christian colleges for a social work degree by the Social Work Degree Guide, the LBC | Capital program also enjoys an excellent placement rate for graduates—95% over the past five years—either in employment or in further education. Before their graduation from LBC | Capital, students spend over 480 hours in the community through service learning opportunities. Plus, those graduating from LBC | Capital with a bachelor's degree in social work can obtain their master's degree from a participating accredited program in just one year.

*(To learn more about the social work program, visit [lbc.edu/social-work](http://lbc.edu/social-work).)*

# Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Angela Becker



**Dr. Angela Becker**, Assistant Professor in the Education Department, participated in a panel presentation on "Developing Digital Books in Indigenous Languages in the Global South" with her research with SIL Africa on "Using Mother-Tongue Audiobooks for Language and Literacy Development in a Preschool in Rural Kenya" at the Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) conference in April 2020.

Rev. Clyde Bomgardner Jr.



**The Rev. Clyde Bomgardner Jr.**, Adjunct Professor in the Church & Ministry Leadership Department, completed his certification as a biblical counselor with the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) on March 30, 2020.

Dr. Debra Johnson-Cortesi



**Dr. Debra Johnson-Cortesi ('17)**, Professor and Senior Instructional Designer in the Office of Digital Learning, wrote and published "Building an Activity Catalog for Improving Course Design" as a feature entry for the Online Classroom section of the Teaching Professor Newsletter, a Magna Publication. The article shared the method of development used by the Office of Digital Learning to create a repository of effective and creative online activities for LBC | Capital professors to use in online courses.

Dr. Mark Eckel



**Dr. Mark Eckel**, Adjunct Professor in the Church & Ministry Leadership Department, published a biblical-theological-practical view of neurodiversity in his essay, "From 'Stranger' to 'Neighbor': Neurodiversity's Visionary Opportunities," in the summer 2020 edition of Christian Scholars Review. His essay, "Before Outsiders: Apologetics in Every Course, Across Curricula, for Life," appears in Wipf & Stock's "The Good, the True, the Beautiful" honoring Dr. David Naugle.

Ryan Geesaman



**Ryan Geesaman**, Chair of the Communication & Media Arts Department and Live Production Program Director, served as co-producer, first assistant director and editor on "Calf Rope," a short film produced entirely in Lancaster and Lebanon counties. The film recently won five awards from New York International Film Awards, including Best Editing. Learn more at calf-rope.com.

Dr. Kevin Gushiken



**Dr. Kevin Gushiken**, Director of the Ph.D. in Leadership Program, **Dr. Hal Pettegrew**, Professor Emeritus and Mentoring Professor, and **Dr. Richard Rhoads**, Chair of the Church & Ministry Leadership Department and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program,

collaboratively wrote a scholarly peer-reviewed article titled, "Effectively Navigating Leadership Transitions in a Higher Education Context." It will be published in the Journal of Scholarly Engagement in fall 2020.



Dr. Richard Rhoads

**Dr. Justin Harbin**, Assistant Professor in the Center for Teaching & Learning, published an article titled, "Learning Together: Employing a Faculty Learning Community at Lancaster Bible College," in the Association of Biblical Higher Education Journal's spring 2020 edition.

**Dr. Joseph Kim**, Professor in the Bible & Theology Department, published the article, "The Spirit of YHWH and Jewish Views of Transcendence," in the Journal of Theological Studies.

**Dr. Ryan Kuehner**, Chair of the Counseling & Social Work Department and Director of the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, continues to serve as a reviewer for the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology, a peer-reviewed scientific journal covering research in clinical and experimental neuropsychology.

**Dr. James R. Love Sr.**, Adjunct Professor in the Bible & Theology Department, is president of Love the Word Ministries in Mitchellville, Maryland. He has authored several books, such as "Get Over Yourself" (Creation House), as well as his most recent work, "So You Want to Preach?" (Harrod Publishing). He has taught philosophy and homiletics at LBC | Capital for several years at the Washington, D.C., location.

**Dr. Kenneth Quick**, Professor Emeritus in the Church & Ministry Leadership Department, co-authored a book on spiritual leadership with the Rev. Mark Barnard, Director of Blessing Point Ministries, titled, "The Dance of the Gifts: How Ministry Leaders Can Discern God's Will." Much has been written on how God speaks to us as individuals, but the bookshelves are bare when it comes to helping leaders know how God speaks to and guides a ministry. "The Dance of the Gifts" seeks to help fill that gap. It enables leaders to discern God's will for their ministries in a thoroughly biblical manner by developing a better understanding of how spiritual gifts work.

**Chris Wenden**, Adjunct Professor in the Business Administration Department, recently completed his MBA from Liberty University with a specialization in Nonprofit Leadership and Management.

**Jessica Whitmore**, Adjunct Professor in the Communication & Media Arts Department, published an article, "To Merge or Not to Merge," in the June 2020 issue of CU Management, which is a credit union leaders magazine published by Credit Union Executive Society Inc. She also continues to write articles and content published as ghostwritten pieces for businesses and organizations across the country.



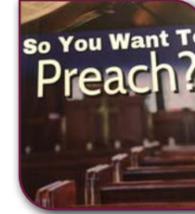
Dr. Justin Harbin



Dr. Joseph Kim



Dr. Ryan Kuehner



So You Want to Preach?  
by Dr. James R. Love Sr.



Dr. Kenneth Quick



Chris Wenden



Jessica Whitmore

# Three New Cabinet Members

## Using Skill and Experience to Take LBC | Capital Into the Future

This spring, LBC | Capital President Dr. Thomas L. Kiedis announced three exciting Presidential Cabinet appointments that will help take the college into the future.

In March, the college established a search committee to find the next LBC | Capital Provost. During this time, Associate Provost **Tricia Wilson** was asked to serve as Interim Provost. Wilson, who has worked at LBC | Capital for six years in both student services and academics, accepted the post while continuing work on her Ph.D. in Higher Education at Azusa Pacific University. Within a week of this appointment, the COVID-19 crisis struck, and Wilson faced the task of moving LBC | Capital to remote teaching and learning in a matter of days.

"Tricia's work then and now is nothing short of remarkable: change agent, crisis leader, team collaborator and a deep walk with the Lord," Kiedis said. "Leadership steadies the troops, points them toward the objective and encourages them practically and tactically. Tricia has become our academic general. She listened, built relationships, worked collaboratively, thought strategically and communicated effectively. In the end, other institutions aspired to be remote ready; we were remote ready."

Kiedis added that Wilson is a leader who understands LBC | Capital's culture and challenges and can help map a plan for the future. With the enthusiastic support of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, Wilson was named LBC | Capital Provost effective May 1.

Wilson brings a breadth of insight and expertise in student affairs, student services, human resources and academics through past experience in multiple sectors of higher education, including state colleges, community college and Christian higher education. In addition, Wilson has served in church ministry alongside her pastor-husband and professionally as Director of Christian Education.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Northwestern College in Christian Education and a M.S. from Western Illinois University in College Student Personnel. Through her doctoral work, she is actively participating in research dedicated to student, faculty and institutional thriving. Wife to Michael and mother to three, Wilson enjoys playing piano, singing and hiking.

With Wilson's appointment, Kiedis also created a new Cabinet position, Vice President of Institutional Alignment, to lead a critical function in moving from crisis to innovation. In this role, the

**Rev. Zachary Ritvalsky**, formerly LBC | Capital's Philadelphia Site Director, will lead efforts to assess, create, maintain and enhance strategic alignment as LBC | Capital migrates rapidly to an educational model that is missionally focused, biblically integrated, student-focused, organizationally aligned, tactically flexible and highly collaborative across all locations.

"This new position will help LBC | Capital exemplify premier institutional cohesiveness and flexibility and become a leader in collaborative partnerships in biblical higher education on national and international fronts," Kiedis said. "Zack's corporate background as a systems expert, combined with his pastoral experience and stellar Site Director performance in Philadelphia, will serve us well. His ability to assess, diagnose, plan and work with others across operational lines is more than impressive."

In addition to his roles at LBC | Capital, Ritvalsky has served as pastor of Sweet Union Baptist Church in Philadelphia for over 10 years. There, he was instrumental in forming Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild (P.O.W.E.R.), a social justice ecumenical organization comprised of more than 40 faith communities. Ritvalsky also oversaw the opening of the Carroll Park Center for Hope, Help and Healing, which

provides legal, housing and job placement services to residents of West Philadelphia. Additionally, Ritvalsky worked alongside community members to form the HMC2 Realty Development Corporation, a for-profit real estate development company financed, owned and operated by local community residents.

Ritvalsky earned a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies from Westminster Theological Seminary and also held positions of increasing responsibility with several corporations, including LF Driscoll, Bristol Myers Squibb and Ernst & Young. He has been married for over 25 years to Cherie, and they have two children and two grandchildren.

Also announced this spring was the promotion of **Dr. Lee DeRemer** to Executive Vice President, a role to support the president through representation and problem resolution, strategy development, strategic planning, special project leadership and selected department oversight. DeRemer will help facilitate presidential and institutional effectiveness through load sharing, private counsel and strategic management. The EVP focuses on the internal workings in a way that enables the president to give more attention to global and external matters.

"Many have witnessed Lee's impact in his previous role of Vice President of People &

Culture," Kiedis said. "Lee is a respected leader with his own trademark blend of intelligence, humility and compassion. He served our country for 26 years in the Air Force as a pilot commander and Pentagon strategic planner, retiring as Colonel. Lee has vast experience, a heart of gold and is absolutely one of the most effective and, at the same time, humble leaders I know."

DeRemer holds a Ph.D. in Values-Driven Leadership from the Center for Values-Driven Leadership at Benedictine University, as well as masters degrees in Public Administration, Strategic Studies and National Security. He has taught leadership, organizational culture and strategy at the doctoral, graduate and undergraduate levels and has also led a leadership and strategy consulting team in Washington, D.C., for the Booz Allen Hamilton company.

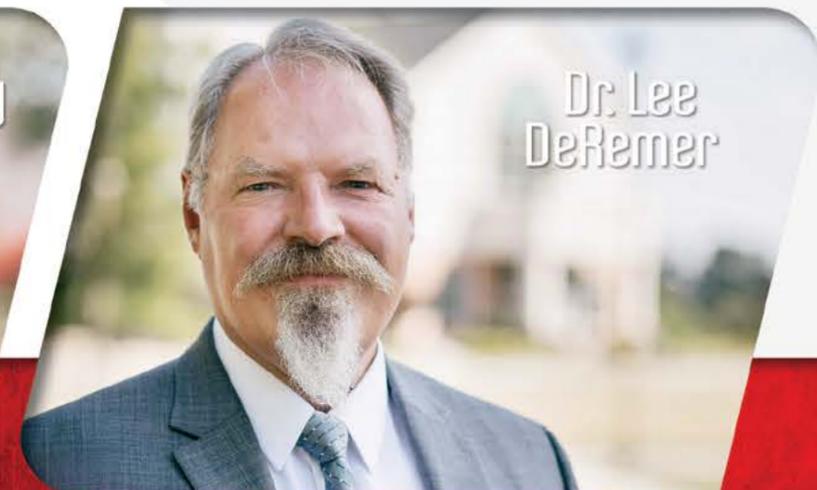
Additionally, DeRemer is the founding director of LIFECYCLES, a 501(c)(3) Lancaster-based youth bicycling ministry that reaches teens across socio-economic, racial and geographic lines. He is an elder at Community Fellowship Church in Lancaster, and he and his wife, Marcie, have two married children and two grandchildren.



Tricia Wilson



Rev. Zachary Ritvalsky



Dr. Lee DeRemer

## Faculty and Staff Promotions

**Aaron Brown** was promoted to Director of the Master of Arts in Ministry and Master of Arts in Formational Leadership programs. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies from Biola University and a Master of Divinity from Talbot School of Theology. His research interests include spiritual formation, discipleship and the influence of digital culture on individuals, communities and society.

**Dr. Vickie Byler** was promoted to Interim Chair of the Health & Physical Education Department. She earned her bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education from The King's College and her master's degree and doctorate in Sport Management from the United States Sports Academy. She has been in education since 1981 and joined the LBC|Capital staff in 1994 to help start the Health & Physical Education program and develop the Sports Ministry/Management program.

**Sean Dougherty ('05 & '13)** was promoted to Associate Provost for Student Success. He serves as Assistant Professor in the M.Ed. Professional School Counseling program and earned two degrees from LBC|Capital: a master's in School Counseling and a bachelor's in Biblical Studies. A second master's degree is from the California University of Pennsylvania in Sports Management. He is a certified school counselor and worked in public and private school settings for more than 10 years.

**Dr. Julia Hershey ('98)** was named Associate Provost of Academics to help oversee and coordinate curriculum, faculty development, policy and program assessment. She will continue to serve as Chair of the Education Department with the new Associate Chair. Hershey earned two B.S. degrees from LBC|Capital (Bible and Elementary Education), as well as her M.Ed. from the Pennsylvania State University and her D.Ed. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She has served at LBC|Capital since 2009.

**Beth Kachel** was promoted to Associate Dean for Traditional Undergraduate Students, providing leadership to key aspects of student life, residence life, student activities and health and wellness. Working at LBC|Capital from 1994 to 2000 and returning in 2013, Kachel has served the Student Development Office as Interim Dean of Women, as well as a Financial Aid Loan Specialist and Assistant Director of Financial Aid. The Taylor University graduate is currently enrolled in LBC|Capital's Master of Arts in Ministry, Leadership Studies concentration.

**Dr. Stacey Martin** was named Associate Chair of the Education Department. She will oversee all elements of LBC|Capital's undergraduate education programs in Early Childhood and Middle Level Education. Martin earned her B.A. degree from Grove City College, M.Ed. from Millersville University and Ed.D. from Capella University. She has served at LBC|Capital since 2012.

**Chris McNamara** was promoted to Director of People & Culture. She brings an array of leadership, organizational and human resource experience to the position, previously serving as Director of Ministries and Administration for Hopewell Christian Fellowship, as well as Director of New Mornings Prison Aftercare Program and Community Outreach Coordinator for Life Transforming Ministries. With leadership roles in ministry for over 25 years, McNamara has equipped ministry leaders through training, coaching and writing.

**Gwen Shenk**, formerly an Adjunct Professor at LBC|Capital for more than nine years, is now a Part-Time Professor in the Health & Physical Education Department. She received her undergrad degree in HPE from Grace College, then her master's in Teaching and Curriculum from the Pennsylvania State University. She taught for 30 years at the elementary and secondary levels and served for 25-plus years as an Athletic Director and Certified Athletic Administrator. Shenk also worked as a PIAA field hockey official for 12 years and coached various sports.

**Dr. Esther Zimmerman ('19)**, recently named Associate Professor, is now serving as Associate Chair of Church & Ministry Leadership (Undergraduate Studies). She brings vast international children's ministry experience and networking to the Church & Ministry Leadership Department. The Scottish-born educator earned degrees at LBC|Capital (Ph.D. in Leadership), Cairn University (B.S. in Bible and B.S. in Secondary Education) and the Pennsylvania State University (M.Ed. in Training Design and Development).

**Dr. Patricia Wright** retired June 30 as the Human Services Program Coordinator at the LBC|Capital Philadelphia location. She earned a Ph.D. in Religious Education and a master's degree in Human Service. A human service worker with over 26 years of experience, she worked tirelessly throughout her career to improve the lives of homeless families and adolescent girls. Wright also served in academia for over 18 years and received many accolades throughout her career. She considers her most notable accomplishment to be the success of her students, with a goal to equip human service helpers to understand the core values of inclusivity and social justice through a global perspective, empowering them to serve diverse communities in need of assistance. Wright will continue to serve LBC|Capital as Adjunct Professor.

**Celestine Wynn** marked her last day as Writing Center Coordinator at LBC|Capital's Philadelphia location on June 30. An integral part of developing the Ally Center, Wynn earned her bachelor's degree and teaching certification from the Manna Bible Institute at Temple University and her M.Ed. in Adult Continuing Education and Administration from Cheyney State University. She also completed further study toward a doctorate in Higher Education Administration at Morgan State University. Wynn has said teaching is a part of her DNA, and she has taught in both Christian and secular settings at the elementary, high school, adult education, tutoring and college levels since 1972. Wynn also served as an evaluator and reviewer for the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools.



# YOU Are Essential

Donors play an essential role in LBC|Capital students' education through gifts to the Community Scholarship Fund. In turn, our students are equipped to fulfill essential roles in their communities around the world. Thank you!

[lbc.edu/give](http://lbc.edu/give)



## Faculty Retirements

Dr. Patricia Wright



Celestine Wynn



# Joyous Tharrington Named Women's Basketball Head Coach

By Zach Freeman, Assistant Athletic Director for Athletic Communications

This summer, LBC | Capital and the Lancaster Bible College Athletic Department announced the hiring of Joyous "Joy" Tharrington as the 26th coach in women's basketball program history. Tharrington most recently served as an assistant coach at NCAA Division I University of North Carolina Asheville and takes over for Katelyn Vanderhoff who stepped down in May.

"I am honored and thrilled to be joining the LBC | Capital family," Tharrington said. "I believe strongly in the mission of the institution and know this is a special place. I look forward to building our young women through a commitment to relationships, discipleship and a culture of discipline. Our program's mission will be to grow disciples who exemplify Christ's standard of excellence in relationship to Himself, in how we treat our neighbors and in how we approach all endeavors. While we grow as disciples, we will also strive to increase our platform through success on the court. Our process toward winning will be characterized by integrity, discipline, purpose, passion and an unmatched work ethic."

Tharrington assisted UNC Asheville in four-straight winning seasons, including an NCAA Tournament berth in her first season in 2016-17. The Bulldogs also advanced to the Big South Conference semifinals or better in each of her first three seasons on the bench. Prior to her time in Asheville, Tharrington served as a graduate assistant at Liberty University in Lynchburg,



Virginia. She was a part of the coaching staff that guided the Flames to the NCAA Tournament during the 2014-15 season, as the team went 26-7 overall and 19-1 in Big South Conference play.

In addition to coaching at the NCAA Division I level, Tharrington also played at the top level for two seasons at the University of Richmond, followed by two years at George Mason University.

While at George Mason, Tharrington served as team captain and was the co-founder of the campus Athletics in Action group.

Tharrington's ability to lead, build relationships and live out her faith is what caught Director of Athletics Pete Beers' attention during the search for the program's next coach.

"I'm very excited for Joy, because not only does she talk about her faith, she walks her faith on a daily basis," Beers said. "We were blessed to have a number of qualified candidates apply for this job, especially our final two candidates, and I'm excited about Joy's credentials and equally excited for the path of the women's basketball program here at Lancaster Bible College."

LBC | Capital will be Tharrington's first head coaching position, but she said her previous positions as an assistant coach at two very strong programs have helped prepared her.

"Relationship building is my No. 1 goal, and when you have a good relationship with your student-athletes, you can eliminate a lot of issues," Tharrington explained. "I want to grow these ladies as disciples and really build the culture of

the program during the first year. I feel if we can build the culture, we can really build a great path forward."

Tharrington also said she wasn't concerned with moving from NCAA Division I to NCAA Division III, though she did say there are things she must learn.

"I believe I have a good idea of what this position will take to be successful, and I am looking forward to building something of my own," Tharrington said. "There is a lot to learn in switching divisions, but I'm excited to learn and truly feel as though I have been called by God to take this opportunity."

Tharrington has spoken with the returning members of the program and has watched a few games from last season as well, marking that she is excited to help the women realize their potential.

"There seems to be a lot of untapped potential with these ladies, and I'm excited to invest and develop that talent," Tharrington said. "I've had good conversations with some of them and can't wait to grow more with them. If you are eager to work and learn, which the team seems to be, then a group like that can do a lot."

In addition to helping the team realize its potential, Tharrington also wants to bring excitement to the program that will transfer to the school and local community.

"I hope my energy is contagious, not only for the program but for the school and the community," Tharrington said. "I want our ladies to carry themselves well and really bring a spark to the program."



## NEAC Cancels Fall Sports Season

By Zach Freeman

**LBC | CAPITAL STUDENT-ATHLETES WILL CONTINUE TO USE PLATFORMS TO SHOW CHRIST**

On July 17, the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) Presidents' Council unanimously determined that its eight institutions, including LBC | Capital, will not participate in intercollegiate athletic competition during the fall 2020 season. NEAC institutions will collaborate with the conference office and the NCAA to seek alternate opportunities to provide a meaningful student-athlete experience throughout the season. A decision regarding winter and spring competition will be made at a later date.

"We are going to focus all of our energies now on making this a positive experience for our fall student-athletes," said LBC | Capital Director of Athletics Pete Beers. "Our biggest thing is to stay connected with our student-athletes this fall and provide them with the best experience possible. We are all adapting to this new reality in real time, and we will be meeting to present best options for our student-athletes this fall."

Beers also said he wants student-athletes to understand that while the fall will look different, there are still lots of possibilities for growth.

"We continue to cherish the classroom of athletic competition and the platform that athletics provides for our student-athletes," Beers said. "Our student-athletes have always used their platform to show Christ, and this will be no different. There are ways we can deepen relationships with one another, and we can develop in our character from a biblical worldview this fall, and our staff, coaches and student-athletes are determined to pursue this concept."

Fall teams at LBC | Capital will still hold team exercises that will include practices, leadership training and other team activities as designed by each coaching staff and the Athletic Department. Stay connected with LBC | Capital sports at [lbccchargers.com](http://lbccchargers.com) or on social media, @LBCathletics.

## 136 Chargers Named to NEAC Scholar-Athletes List

By Zach Freeman

**LBC | CAPITAL SITS AT SECOND ON THE LIST AND MARKS SCHOOL RECORD**

The North Eastern Athletic Conference announced the annual NEAC Scholar-Athletes selections for the 2019-20 academic year in early July, and a record 1,026 student-athletes from 12 full-member institutions and nine associate member schools were represented. LBC | Capital finished with the second-most student-athletes on the list with a school record of 136. Keuka College led the way with 147.

Student-athletes who earned a spot on the list must have a 3.4 grade-point average or higher throughout the year. This is the first time LBC | Capital has had more than 100 student-athletes on the list, as the previous high was 99 last year. The annual list was once again very diverse, with scholar-athletes representing 33 states and 14 countries.

"I'm thankful we have students who excel at the 'student' part of student-athlete," said LBC | Capital Director of Athletics Pete Beers. "A 3.4 grade-point average is a high mark to hit, and to see so many of our student-athletes achieve that is impressive. I'm proud of our department and proud of our students."

# Lancaster Class of 2020 Honored at Graduation Ceremony

The Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School Class of 2020 will be honored at a special graduation ceremony at 11 a.m. Sept. 26 on the Lancaster campus. This unique drive-up event will welcome families and guests of undergraduate, adult education, online, seminary and graduate students. Commencement ceremonies for the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., locations will be announced at a later date.

Led by commencement speaker and LBC | Capital President Dr. Thomas L. Kiedis, the morning will include lighting and multimedia by Stray Production Services of Lititz, Pennsylvania, as well as Scripture readings, musical selections by talented LBC | Capital ensembles and uplifting words of wisdom from college leaders.

"The Class of 2020 has met many challenges in the final year of its LBC | Capital experience," Kiedis said. "These students persevered this spring through uncertain times and unprecedented circumstances. Looking to the Lord and staying focused on their task, they completed this phase of their education with grace and excellence. We look forward to honoring these graduates in September and welcoming them to the LBC | Capital alumni family."

Graduates may don their regalia for the in-person ceremony that considers the safety of all involved while following local, state and federal guidelines. Members of the Class of 2020 at all levels will be called one by one to receive their diplomas in front of friends, family, classmates, faculty and staff in recognition of their hard work and accomplishments.

In May, the college honored graduates of the Lancaster campus and Philadelphia location with outdoor graduation displays, pictured on these pages.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

JEREMIAH 29:11



## Join Our Alumni Facebook Group

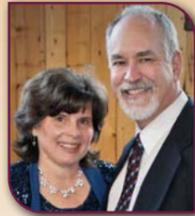
Hey there, alumni! If you're looking for another way to connect with LBC | Capital, join our Facebook group! This group is for our alumni, former and current students from LBC | Capital, Washington Bible College, Capital Bible Seminary, and all our locations and partnerships. You might even find some current and former faculty members in the group as well!

When you join, here's what you'll get:

1. Access to the network of LBC | Capital graduates and former students
2. Special updates
3. Exclusive offers ...and more!

What are you waiting for? Join the 1,200+ other alumni in our Facebook group today! Just login into your Facebook account and search for Lancaster Bible College Alumni.

Ronald Denlinger



### 1970s

**Rick Clark ('78)** became the Senior Pastor at E-town Grace Brethren Church in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 1, 2019.

Kelly Hope



### 1980s

**Ronald Denlinger ('83)** with his wife, Joan, recently published three books. "Joy in a Foreign Land" (a reprint) is their story of having two disabled children while serving in ministry. "Faith in the Heartland" tells of their five years living in an RV while being a resource to other missionary pastors. "Have We Lost our Head?" offers help for a church in finding life and light from Jesus. Learn more about all three, listen to their podcast and more at [joyinaforeignland.com](http://joyinaforeignland.com).

Mark D. Story



### 1990s

**Rev. Terry Brosius ('92)** and his family were appointed to a new charge at Richfield U.M.C. and Mt. Zion U.M.C. on July 1, 2020. Terry and Caren have two children: Grace is a senior at Bloomsburg University, and Scott is a freshman at Penn State Harrisburg. Terry has been ordained since June 2015 in the United Methodist Church and has been a pastor for 15 years.

Jodi Watson



Hannah Hardy



Jade Ranger



**Kelly Hope ('94)** is still using the knowledge she learned in her secretarial classes at LBC | Capital as a Project Administrator at an engineering firm in Charlotte, North Carolina. She attends a large, multi-cultural church and is involved with the children's ministry there. A few years ago, Kelly finally pursued her dream of being a

published author and wrote several children's devotionals for Keys for Kids Ministries. Visit her website at [kellyhopeauthor.wordpress.com](http://kellyhopeauthor.wordpress.com).

**Mark D. Story ('99)** is the Director of Development for The Tide, a global radio ministry with world headquarters in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The Tide broadcasts biblical messages of hope in nine countries and in 27 languages. In 2019, Mark launched a new fundraising initiative called Year Beard, where men grow out their beards for an entire year to raise awareness and funds for The Tide. Three LBC | Capital students and three alumni, including Mark, were among the participants. On June 2, 2020, The Tide received notice from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office recognizing Year Beard with a protected trademark.

### 2000s

**Dan Kell ('01)** and his wife, Erika, recently added a new member to their family. Natalie Ellen joined the world on March 31, 2020. Mom and baby are doing great. Natalie enjoys eating, sleeping and her big brother Noah's lullaby singing.

**Pastor Russ Hobbs ('03)** and his wife, Darla, retired from the Historic Coleman Memorial Chapel after serving 21 years in pastoral ministry with the chapel. They founded Russ Hobbs Ministries in 2019 upon retirement to continue ministry service and assistance to the local church. Learn more at [russbobbs.org](http://russbobbs.org).

**Jodi (Lee) Watson ('05)** married her love, Charlie, in a small ceremony

with his sister, parents and her parents on March 30, 2020. She is living in Knightsville, South Carolina. She has worked at Walgreens for more than six years and is looking forward to what God has next.

**Hannah Hardy ('08)** adopted her son, Matthew, in January 2020. After 29 months in foster care, Hannah is thrilled that Matthew is officially a Hardy!

### 2010s

**Jade (Landis '14) Ranger** married Samson Ranger on Nov. 8, 2019, in India. They now live in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains of Northeast India and are working at a children's home for orphaned girls. Jade and Samson plan to live in India long-term as full-time missionaries and begin their own ministry centered on discipleship and life skills training.

**Taylor Glessner ('15)** is opening a 10,000-square-foot event venue in New Holland, Pennsylvania. She started a cookie dough business, Dough and Co., two years ago and is moving forward in her entrepreneurial spirit by starting the venue venture in December 2020.

**Pastor John R. Martinez ('15)** is now serving New Beginnings Church in Morgantown, Pennsylvania. He is assisting Pastor Merle Stoltzfus, age 90, as he begins his retirement plans.

**Alex Wile ('16)** currently resides in Elkton, Maryland, with his family. He recently started working at Hooper Inc. as a sales representative focusing on construction equipment and is

also working with Kubota and Case IH products. Alex welcomes the opportunity to join his wife's family business serving the Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware areas.

**Rondell Rene Treviño ('16)** is the founder of The immigration Coalition (TiC), a nonprofit providing biblically balanced resources that show compassion to immigrants and respect for the rule of law. Before founding The immigration Coalition, Rondell worked as a Southeast Mobilizer for the Evangelical Immigration Table. He speaks on issues of immigration at churches, organizations and conferences throughout the country. Rondell is also a pastor at Hope Community Church in Austin, Texas.

**Naomi (Lemke '17) Valentine** married Colton Valentine in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic on May 22, 2020. They are now living in Dallas, Texas.

**David Opoki ('17)** lives in Jinja, Uganda. He is a professor at Alpha-Omega Seminary, Global University.

**James H. Pass ('19)** and his wife, Tanya, are now serving as Senior Pastor and First Lady of Living Word Ministries.



Taylor Glessner



Rondell Rene Treviño



Naomi Valentine



David Opoki



James H. Pass

## Alumni Passings

**Carla (Holtzapple '99) Bless**, 44, of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, went to be with the Lord on April 17, 2020, surrounded by her loving family. Carla was a member of the Conestogans Choir, which is now known as the LBC Chorale, and played softball for the Lady Chargers. She is survived by her husband and two sons.

**Rev. James Dowhen ('65)**, 85, formerly of Manheim, Pennsylvania, went to be with his Lord and Savior on April 11, 2020. Born in Paterson, New Jersey, Jim is survived by his wife, Karen, and they marked 13 years of marriage. Jim loved the Lord. He touched many lives through his ministry and led them to the Lord. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War.

**Steven Hain ('79)**, 67, passed away June 5, 2020, at his Manheim Township, Pennsylvania, home. He celebrated 46 years of marriage last Aug. 17 with his wife, Judy. They enjoyed living in Manheim Township and part of the year in Black Hawk, Colorado. Steve earned a bachelor's degree from LBC | Capital and a second degree in physical therapy from Daemen College in Amherst, New York.

**Daniel R. Rambler** of Leola, Pennsylvania, passed away on April 16, 2020. After high school graduation, the loving husband to Winifred attended Lancaster Bible College for a short time before joining the U.S. Army. Dan will be remembered for his love of music. He loved playing his guitar and sharing music with anyone who would listen.

**Rev. Otto J. Stahle ('55)** passed away on June 16, 2018. He was a graduate of LBC | Capital in the early days when it was known as Lancaster School of the Bible, where he also met his wife, Margaret Musser. He was in full-time ministry for the Lord, a husband and father of three. He pastored a church in Virginia, served as a missionary in Zimbabwe, Africa, was the assistant pastor to a church in Pennsylvania, where he also started a Christian school, was the assistant pastor to a church in New Jersey and then started a travel agency.

**John Paul Weyman ('66)**, 75, of Frederick, Maryland, went to be with his Lord on June 25, 2020. He graduated from Ashland High School then attended LBC | Capital, Calvary Bible College and Columbia International University. While attending LBC | Capital, he met his wife, Ruth Franklin. John spent several decades pastoring various churches and led home Bible studies until the last week of his life. He also served as a District Court Judge in Franklin County for 12 years. John is survived by three children and nine grandchildren.

**Anna Wivell ('45)**, 100, formerly of Denver, Pennsylvania, went to be with her Lord on June 26, 2020. She shared 53 years of marriage with her late husband, Claude. She also graduated from Boothe Memorial Hospital Practical Nursing Hospital in New York City. She and Claude were missionaries in the Belgian Congo (now called the Democratic Republic of Congo) for 10 years. They began their mission work with the Unevangelized Tribes Mission and later with the Baptist Mid-Missions of Cleveland, Ohio. They also served in Maine where they established two churches.

## The Company We Keep

LBC | CAPITAL LISTED IN SEVERAL EDUCATION RANKINGS FOR EXCELLENCE, ONLINE OPTIONS, SAFETY AND MORE

Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School has been named to several education rankings and lists to begin the 2020-21 academic year.

LBC | Capital is part of the top 25 list of "2020 Best Online Colleges in Pennsylvania" by BestColleges.com. The college's No. 13 ranking reflects undergraduate online degrees, as well as online work available for students working toward masters and doctoral degrees.

The numerous benefits to studying online at LBC | Capital include having classes taught from a biblical worldview and earning a degree from an accredited institution. Students can create a customized class schedule to fit their lives while working at their own pace.



Additionally, LBC | Capital is ranked as the No. 2 "Favorite College" and No. 3 "Place to Take College Courses" in the 2020 Readers' Choice Awards compiled by LNP | Lancaster Online.

Likewise, newspaper readers honored LBC | Capital for the second-consecutive year as one of three "Best Four-Year College/Universities" for the 2020 Central Penn Business Journal Reader Rankings Awards. The media outlet received nearly 24,000 votes in dozens of categories.

Finally, Niche.com, which ranks hundreds of colleges in various categories nationwide, lists LBC | Capital No. 27 in the "Best Colleges for Religious Studies in America" list, as well as No. 5 in "Best College Campuses in Pennsylvania," No. 5 "Safest College Campuses in Pennsylvania," No. 6 "Best College Dorms in Pennsylvania" and No. 6 "Best Christian Colleges in Pennsylvania."



## Homecoming 2020 Canceled

Save the Date for Sept. 24-25, 2021

In a decision aimed at the safety of our students and community, Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School is canceling all in-person events for Homecoming 2020, originally scheduled for Sept. 25-26. A graduation event for undergraduate, seminary, graduate and adult education students of the Lancaster campus remains on the schedule for Sept. 26 (see pages 32-33).

The health and well-being of the entire LBC | Capital family, including students, alumni, parents, friends and community members, is a priority. The college looks forward to creatively connecting with alumni this fall and is grateful for the way the LBC | Capital family has come together during this unprecedented time in our history.

Save the date for **Homecoming 2021**, planned for **Sept. 24-25!**  
#LBCtogether

Want to stream virtual chapel services from LBC | Capital this fall?  
Visit [lbc.edu/chapel](http://lbc.edu/chapel)

Visit [LBCExtraGive.com](http://LBCExtraGive.com) on November 20th

# THE EXTRA GIVE™ ORDINARY

NOVEMBER 20, 2020



## Add These Streaming College Musical Events to Your Calendar

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic places limits on live in-person events, the show(s) must go on for the students and faculty of LBC | Capital's Music, Worship & Performing Arts Department. They will be working this semester to present the following programs for the college family and community to enjoy from the comfort of their homes.

**'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown'**—This delightful Broadway musical was originally slated for performances this past spring. Now, students are back on the boards to bring the Peanuts gang to life in a videoed performance that will stream the weekend of Oct. 9.

**'Gospel Mass' and More**—Hear the LBC | Capital Chorale, Chamber Singers and Women's Chorus in a 2020-inspired concert titled, "Unprecedented: A Concert of Firsts." The performance streaming the weekend of Nov. 6 will feature a wide variety of first-of-their-kind works, including Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" and a world premiere by an LBC alumnus.

**'It's Time to Play the Music'**—Set your clocks to spend time with LBC | Capital's orchestra as it marks time playing Haydn's Symphony No. 101, "The Clock." The orchestra will then split into groups of strings, woodwinds and brass to feature timeless classics. Don't miss this event streaming the weekend of Oct. 30.

**Christmas Concert**—Featuring the college choirs, instrumental ensembles, student actors and worship bands, "Light of the World" is certain to lift spirits this Advent season. An annual Lancaster County tradition, this year's LBC | Capital Christmas celebration will stream the weekend of Dec. 13.

Visit [lbc.edu/events](http://lbc.edu/events) for information on accessing and viewing these programs.

## CHARLIE BROWN



# Life Changes. Quickly.

Have you reviewed your estate plans to ensure they reflect what is important to you?

These times are an important reminder to keep your estate and financial affairs up to date—and to look ahead to the future. When you include Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School in your will or trust, name LBC|Capital as a beneficiary of all or part of a life insurance policy, or take advantage of other tax-efficient giving opportunities, you provide future resources to equip our students to think and live a biblical worldview.

Learn more today at [lbc.edu/planned-giving](http://lbc.edu/planned-giving).



# The Best Days Are Ahead

Dr. Peter W. Teague, President Emeritus

**M**y friend, Dr. Jeff Myers, President of Summit Ministries and respected authority on Christian worldview and apologetics, recently conducted a poll to learn what key influencers shape the beliefs of young people today. He asked two groups of church-attending Christian young adults where they pick up their ideals. Sadly, the majority responded “social media,” while only 1% said the Church. Faith is nice, they say, but it is completely irrelevant when it comes to finding answers for today’s troubling issues.

In the midst of turmoil, unrest, pain, chaos and change, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Word of God is our only true hope. Through His life, death and resurrection, He is the only Redeemer of people enslaved to sin. He knows each one of us by name and has shown His steadfast love for us in that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). And when He returns, He will make all things new, and evil will be no more for those who believe in Him. Faith in Christ is hardly irrelevant as some may think; it always has and always will matter for now and forever. Thank God for institutions of higher learning, like LBC|Capital, who take seriously the biblical faith formation of every student under our care.

Each one of us who love and pray for LBC|Capital can be thankful for its commitment to safeguard the mission. We stay anchored during times such as these when our country is undergoing rapid and often incomprehensible change. Together, we rejoice we have an anchor—the written and living Word of God—that never changes and always holds.

The Prophet Jeremiah warned that we must never change God’s message to accommodate the times. Rather, we will be given power to withstand and prevail in the face of resistance. At LBC|Capital, we employ ideas and methods that actively cooperate in learning and discovering truth. However, truth discovered must always be within the confines of truth revealed through divine revelation, not human reasoning.

That is exactly the reason LBC|Capital intentionally provides an education with a thoroughly integrated biblical worldview. And that, of course, is why I am fond of saying the best days of LBC|Capital are ahead.

