creating opportunity

Sheila Fortson helps heal Chicago neighborhoods—with music and art

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Dr. George Sweeting speaks to the next generation.

r. George Sweeting ’45 hasn’t retired quite yet—and doesn’t plan on it. A week before his 95th birthday on October 1, Moody’s former president returned to campus to preach in chapel. Next to the walker he calls his horse, Dr. Sweeting sat on a chair and exhorted students to “single-mindedness for a lifetime.”

“The pursuit of excellence is impossible apart from the single mind,” he said, his voice strong and clear. “It’s impossible apart from a single heart.”

“Do you know what D. L. Moody used to say?” he added. “He said, ‘Give me a man or woman who says, This one thing I do, and not these fifty things I dabble in.’”

It’s a concept Sweeting first grasped as a young man after attending an art academy and then Moody. “I’m a lover of art,” he told the students in Torrey-Gray Auditorium. “When I graduated from here I struggled for a while with being an artist or being a preacher of the gospel,” he says.

But after reading about great artists like Michelangelo who recognized God in their life,
Sweeting got excited about combining artistry with the gospel. As an itinerant evangelist and chalk artist, he claimed verses like Psalm 115:1 to express his lifetime purpose: “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory.”

“I traveled all over the world drawing pictures on a large easel and then singing and preaching,” he said. Dr. Sweeting brought his evangelistic enthusiasm to The Moody Church as pastor in the 1960s and to Moody Bible Institute as president from 1971 to 1986.

Dr. Sweeting’s productivity as president caught the attention of a young Moody student from Spain, current president Dr. Mark Jobe ’84. “I remember running into him in the cafeteria downstairs,” Dr. Jobe recalled. “He was writing books and teaching and just had this energy about sharing Jesus with people, and as a 19-year-old student I asked him, ‘Dr. Sweeting, how do you get so much done? I’m a student and I’m overwhelmed already.’ He looked at me, and he said, ‘Young man, discipline, not desire, determines destiny.’ And I’ve never forgotten it.”

Before chapel, Dr. Jobe thanked Dr. Sweeting for his prayer phone call when Dr. Jobe was installed as Moody’s president. “I’ve told people that you were the one I wanted to pray for me. And even though you couldn’t be there in person, when you started praying over the phone, there was a hush in that place. I felt like it was a holy moment as you prayed for the mantle of leadership to come on me, that I would be faithful to the gospel, and I really felt like this was the way I wanted the presidency to start. I really, really appreciate that.”

Dr. Sweeting found out about Dr. Jobe’s presidency from Greg Thornton ’81, who gave a few biographical details. Jobe grew up in Spain, the son of missionaries, a Moody graduate. Thornton continued: “And he works in the inner city, and he has an evangelistic heart!” That was enough for Dr. Sweeting, who interrupted and said, “You don’t need to tell me any more. I’m for him.”

Dr. Sweeting arrived on campus with his granddaughter, Erica (Sweeting ’01) Dawson, alumni board member, and Jim Gwinn, a former Moody vice president. Hilda (Schnell ’46) Sweeting stayed home. “My poor wife, she would come, but she gets so nervous for me,” he explains. “She says, ‘When are you going to quit?’ I say, ‘When I get to Heaven.’"

A stream of friends and faculty stopped by to chat before chapel, including good friend Dr. Michael Rydelnik ’77, whom Sweeting remembers as a thin student with a Brooklyn accent, and Dr. Winfred Neely, who sometimes preaches at Dr. Sweeting’s church. Dr. Neely asked how he was doing.

“You know, I’ve got my limitations,” Dr. Sweeting said, “but my mind is still sharp. I don’t believe I will ever retire—until the Lord calls me.”

Dr. Neely nodded. “We want to be like you when we are your age.”

“Exactly,” agreed Dr. Jobe.

“Well,” Dr. Sweeting replied, “my motto is to be like Caleb. Give me this mountain! Just keep going.”
Alumni Travel Fund Helps Professors Serve Overseas

Thanks to help from the Alumni Faculty Travel Endowment Fund, several professors were able to minister overseas this summer.

Dr. Jonathan Armstrong traveled to Uganda with Yudah Tadeo Okumu ’19, a current student at Moody Theological Seminary, to deliver courses at two pastors’ conferences, including one inside the Bidi Bidi Refugee Camp near Yumbe in the West Nile region. The camp has about 270,000 refugees, most of whom fled from civil war in South Sudan in 2016, as well as hundreds of churches, Armstrong says.

“Despite the absence of hot running water, scarce electricity and internet, and signs warning about a recent Ebola outbreak, the education program we had prepared worked,” Armstrong says. About 100 pastors and lay leaders attended his course on Paul’s Epistle to the Romans, which a helper translated into Arabic, the common language everyone could understand.

Dr. Mary Cloutier traveled to Korea, where she served in Awana Korea’s Seoul office and an English camp at Youngcheon Church. She visited several cultural sites in Seoul, including EHWA Women’s University, whose founder and fourth president was Lulu Frey, a Moody alumna from 1893! Dr. Cloutier received books about Lulu Frey and a tour of the campus, museum, and archives. She also visited Yanwajin Foreigners’ Cemetery, where many Moody alumni are buried in the missionary section. The trip “reinforced our common love for the Lord Jesus Christ and our shared history through Moody Bible Institute,” she says.

Drs. Bob and Pamela (Kistler ’79 MA ’02) MacRae spent August and September in Europe, where they taught in two Moody Study Abroad programs and connected with 25 organizations that work with victims of sexual exploitation. “It was just stunning because in every country the commitment of people who work in this field is incredible,” says Dr. Pamela MacRae, program head of Ministry to Victims of Sexual Exploitation. “I would tell them about our program and then I’d say, ‘Do you need people like this—undergraduates who graduate from our program?’ and they almost would weep and say, ‘Yes, please, send us your graduates.’”

The MacRaes also met with alumni, including Heather Holdsworth ’10 MA and Aimee Tooth ’16 in Scotland, Daniel ’15 and Sarah (Huber) Deurbrouck ’15 in Greece, and Federica Selce ’16 MA, Jonatan Tello ’05, and his wife, Erika (Embaugh) Tello ’07 in Bologna at Vite Transformate. Erika has created the National Treasures Alliance for people involved in ministry to sexually exploited victims; Jon makes artistic pins to help support the ministry.

Additional fund recipients include Christopher Bowers ’03, assistant professor of Missionary Aviation Technology at Moody Aviation, with a trip to Papua New Guinea, and Jae Hyeok Jang, a professor of Music, traveling to Sweden.
Moody Radio Begins Broadcasting from Chapman Center

A
fter 80 years of broadcasting from Crowell Hall, Moody Radio began its first day of live broadcasts from the Chapman Center on September 9.

For the first *Karl and Crew Mornings* show, the broadcast was remarkably smooth. For example, Hannah Lynn (Pflederer ’15) Miller (Karl calls her Sputnik) figured out which buttons to hit simultaneously on the sound board to play a song and turn on the microphones at the same time, and Diana Berryman (Super Di), was able to search a larger array of songs to find the jingle “Funky Beats” in time to end the show.

Meanwhile, Karl Clauson, Ally Domercant, and Jonathan Renke ’18 (Young Thunder) tackled the weighty topic of secret sins to start off the new week. Hundreds of listeners texted in to request a free resource they offered. “Honesty and authenticity are a real high commodity here on *Karl and Crew Mornings,*” Karl said. “And people respond to that.”

After the broadcast, the crew reflected on ministry in the new studio. “More than just the equipment, I feel like we’re coming into a new season of powerful ministry,” Karl said. “Moving to this new studio caused us to think about programming elements, and we had a week of planning last week that was awesome.”

“I think we should always be asking the question, What can we do better to help our listeners grow?” he added. “If we weren’t doing that you wouldn’t know my name because I wouldn’t be here.” Ally agreed. “There’s a lot of change all at once in terms of the equipment but the mission is the same. We still are committed to helping people take their next step with Jesus. We take it seriously. And that’s still what we are going to do every day. We’re just privileged to have some more state-of-the-art technology to help make it happen.”

Chattanooga Station Renovated after Fire

Moody Radio dedicated newly renovated office and studios in Chattanooga on September 13. The station began broadcasting live after a yearlong repair, following extensive fire damage in February 2018.

Two faulty nine-volt batteries on a desk ignited the fire, which caused thick smoke to circulate throughout the building via the HVAC system and rendered all the equipment and studio space unusable.

Precept Ministries International, longtime partner of Moody Radio, loaned studio space on their Chattanooga campus while renovations took place. Upgrades were made to the exterior brick, HVAC system, lighting, studios, and technical operations center, creating a more efficient, welcoming, and secure space.

“It has been a long process, but God is faithful and has provided so that we can continue to minister to listeners in Chattanooga,” said Brent Manion, station manager in Chattanooga.

Karl Clauson (right) talks on-air with Jonathan Renke and Ally Domercant.
Laura Story performs in new studio

On September 13, singer/songwriter Laura Story gave back-to-back interviews on Moody Radio stations’ morning shows across the United States, all while sitting with her guitar in the new radio studio in the Chapman Center in Chicago. The first artist to perform live music there, Laura chatted with morning show hosts and answered listener questions about her life and music, based on her new book, *I Give Up: The Secret Joy of a Surrendered Life.*

The book and many of her songs grew out of circumstances she couldn’t control—her husband’s disability and eight years of infertility, for example—but God taught her that peace and joy don’t come from gaining greater control of our circumstances. “Peace and joy come when we learn to surrender our circumstances and trust God,” she says.

**The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy**

*Contributing Editors: Michael Rydelnik and Edwin Blum*

This comprehensive study resource makes the case for the Messiah from the Old Testament, with contributions from eight Moody alumni and seven Moody faculty, including Dr. Michael Rydelnik ’77. You’ll read clear and careful commentary on virtually every messianic passage in the Hebrew Bible, as well as gain insight on related theological and interpretive issues. The book is a great resource for pastors, Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders, and informed laypeople.

**Bible & Breakfast:**

*31 Mornings with Jesus*

_by Asheritha Ciuciu_

This clever book from Bible teacher and food enthusiast Asheritha Cuicui provides creative ways for busy women everywhere to fuel their bodies and souls every morning for 31 days. Choose between a quick devotional if you’re in a rush, or a longer study for mornings you can linger a bit. And of course, each morning serves up a tasty new breakfast recipe that you and your whole family can enjoy.

**Sharing Love Abundantly in Special Needs Families:**

*The 5 Love Languages for Parents Raising Children with Disabilities*

_by Gary Chapman and Jolene Philo_

Raising a child with special needs can be a daunting challenge. Dr. Gary Chapman ’58 and career educator Jolene Philo take the principles of the five love languages and tailor them to families with special needs children. You’ll get practical advice about how to protect your marriage amid stress, learn and speak your child’s love language, and stay connected with other family members despite limited time, money, and energy.

For more information, visit [moodypublishers.com](http://moodypublishers.com)
Vote for the 2020 Alumni Board Nominees

Jim Shoberg '87, '89 got an International Ministries degree at Moody and then served with Avant Ministries for 29 years. He and his wife, Debbie, spent nearly 15 years teaching theology by extension in Ecuador, serving a church association in the Amazon basin. Later Jim and his family spent 11 years church planting near Paris, France. In 2016 Jim became the assistant to the vice president of field ministries over Europe and the Americas. Now ministry director in Western Europe, he oversees Avant church planters in seven countries. Jim and Debbie work from Wheaton, Illinois, and have four children, including Julia, a senior at Moody.

Sara Nimori '19 was raised in San Diego, California, where she owned a small business and was involved in competitive speech and debate. While pursuing fashion merchandising, Sara was convicted to use her teaching and speaking abilities in ministry. She transferred to Moody in 2015. Sara mentored students through GRIP Outreach for Youth and taught debate at a high school with the Moody Debate Society. Sara later served as student body president, and graduated with a BA in Communications. She now works in wealth management and serves actively at Legacy West Ridge, a house church in Chicago.

Steve Dutton '87 is starting his second term on the Alumni Board. Steve graduated from Moody with a degree in Pastoral Studies and earned his MDiv from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He served as a pastor in the Chicago area for four years before moving to Athens, Greece. There he pastored an English-speaking international church for 16 years. When he became the international director for Hellenic Ministries, Steve moved with his wife, Karen (Pontier '87), and their family back to the States. Steve and Karen have three children: Kayla '16, Joshua, and Hannah.
hen the Alumni Association searched for a new print vendor to help with the rollout of Moody Alumni & Friends, the answer was close to home. Troy Van Dyke ’14 MA caught wind of the project and offered to help. He serves as co-CEO of Darwill, a printing and fulfillment company in Hillside, Illinois.

Moody’s project had a lot of moving parts—a magazine redesign, larger format, better paper, larger mailing list, complicated postal requirements—just the sort of needs that could be met by Darwill’s long experience in the printing industry.

The company began more than 60 years ago in Chicago’s Printer’s Row, started by Troy’s grandfather (who named the company after his children, Darlene and William). Troy planned to join the company at age 22, just after his marriage and college graduation, only to learn that his father had cancer. “That was a difficult season,” Troy says now, “because my dad actually passed away that first year I came into the business, so I never got to work with him.” But his mom, Janice, decided to keep Darwill going, which is now led by Troy and his brother, Brandon.

On the surface, it sounds like a printing executive wouldn’t need a seminary degree, but there’s more to the story. Troy invests some of his time in international relief efforts, traveling to Uganda for missions trips. His passion for ministry led to his desire for more training, and he found Moody’s online MA program to be an ideal fit.

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It started with my mother making me take piano lessons,” Sheila Fortson ’03 says, explaining what motivated her to start the FAME Center in Chicago’s South Loop neighborhood.

“Growing up, I had parents who loved music and believed in the importance of their children taking music lessons. My two siblings and I took piano lessons, and my sister and I took violin lessons. And when we wanted to quit, they said No!”

Now Sheila has the same conversations with the parents who bring their children to lessons. “We’re starting at square one. Ninety percent of our kids have never had lessons before. So they’re picking up an instrument for the first time—piano, violin, guitar, ukulele. We get to see it from the very beginning—and it’s awesome!”

We’re visiting FAME Center on a busy Wednesday afternoon, when students are arriving after school. Sheila stands at the door, directing them down the hallway to various studios. True to her roots, she’s recruited several other Moody grads as teachers.

BY KEVIN MUNGONS
PHOTOS BY DARRELL GOEMAAT
The first studio we visit is set up for a painting class, reflecting Sheila’s passion for teaching all the arts. After graduating from Moody with a music degree, she earned a master’s degree in interdisciplinary art, a program that broadened her understanding of other disciplines. “Our vision is to provide music and arts education to every community in Chicago,” she says. “There are communities where the schools don’t have adequate music and arts education. Funding has been cut. There are a lot of underserved communities where the tax dollars don’t pay for arts programs.”

She started teaching here three years ago, thinking of it as a business, and enjoyed a quick growth spurt. When she grew to where she needed to recruit more teachers, her father suggested a different path. Dr. Thomas Fortson earned a PhD in administration and higher education, and has served as a Moody Trustee for 30 years. He thought Sheila should turn her passion into a nonprofit organization, which turned out to be the right answer.

The next door down, Moises Pacheco ’06 sings and announces chords with the same start-and-stop delivery used by all guitar teachers:

“A-(G CHORD!)-maz-ing (G CHORD!) grace, how (change to C CHORD—no, no, C—that’s it) sweet the (G CHORD!) sound.”

Tekla, his student, sounds smoother with every line, followed by the final “now I see,” which they both strum without any pauses.

Later Moises gives us a condensed version of his life story: graduating from Moody with a music degree, leading worship at area churches, marriage and a family, followed by a growing attachment to his own West-Side community. When it came time to buy a house, Moises waded through the twists and turns (the word “crooked” has dual meaning here), leading him toward a new goal: becoming the honest real estate agent that his community needed. Now successful, he teaches music as a way of giving back. The students call him Mr. Mo, and on Saturdays he also teaches guitar classes in Cabrini-Green at a program called “Innovation City,” where the FAME Center partners with By The Hand ministries.

When Mr. Mo finishes, Josh Wen ’21 uses the same room for a ukulele lesson. A current Moody student, he studies piano with Dr. Un-Young Whang, who was also Sheila’s favorite professor, back in the day. Josh grew up in China and learned about Moody from Nathan Lam ’03, who ran sports camps in his hometown of Guangzhou. Anticipating graduation next year, Josh says his experiences have opened his eyes to nontraditional ways of using music in ministry. “I long to go back home to serve my people,” Josh says. “Music education can be a great tool for sharing the gospel.”

Sheila agrees, and came to view her work as a ministry. “That’s what I believe God’s called me to
do, I really do. I believe that through music and creativity and art, even through music therapy and computer coding, we can reach the world right here.”

In the last studio at the end of the hall, Lili Tinaglia ’17 listens to Emmy play “Jingle Bells.” Miss Lili started teaching here before she graduated, and now she also works as an office administrator and worship leader at The Orchard’s Chicago campus. She has several voice students, and credits Dr. Terry Strandt for the one piece of advice that helped her develop as a musician. “At Moody he taught the importance of practicing and what a difference it can make. Be diligent with the gift God gave you.”

Without knowing it, she’s giving us the same advice we’ve heard from each of the other teachers. Practice every day—a habit of personal discipline that quickly turns into a life lesson. Mr. Mo told us how his music degree had helped his real estate business—yes—for all the intangible ways it shaped his character. Above all, just like Sheila’s parents had said years ago, “keep practicing, don’t give up, and NO, you cannot quit!”

“I’ve never heard an adult talk about their music lessons and say, ‘I wish my parents had let me quit,’” Sheila says. “Never.”

Now she sees another benefit to community arts education, as a healing, hopeful way to mend fragmented communities. Everywhere she looks, she sees overscheduled kids (and their Uber parents). “They get burned out, trying to do too many things.” “Kids need help working through life,” she discovered. “And so do adults. And so hopefully I can impact every tongue, tribe, and nation—right here in Chicago. We can reach out to the South Side and the North Side and the West Side of Chicago, offering inspiration and creating opportunities.”

Kevin Mungons is editorial manager of Marketing Communications at Moody Bible Institute.
Darrell Goemaat is a Chicago freelance photographer.
SET FREE

Hearing Moody Radio in Prison Led to Seminary.

BY LINDA PIEPENBRINK
When Ronald Clay robbed an armored Brink’s truck, he tried using a gun to solve his financial problems. Instead he got charged with a felony and 10 years in federal prison.

Locked up in a Kentucky prison, Ronald’s life went from bad to worse. “I stole, gambled, got in fights, and a number of times went to the hole,” he says of his time in the isolation unit. “I felt disrespected, angry, upset, emotional, just really fighting. And the fight was real.”

The spiritual battle was also real. Raised in Chicago’s south suburbs, Ronald wasn’t like a lot of the guys in prison who grew up without a father. He had a mom and a dad and even a college degree. But as the son of a Bible-believing pastor, Ronald says he was rebelling against his strict Christian upbringing and against God. “That’s what my whole thing was,” he says.

Yet God, in His mercy, had a plan to break through Ronald’s stony heart and set him free from the bondage of sin. And God would use not only Moody Radio but also Moody Bible Institute’s seminary in Chicago to transform Ronald’s life.

Prison life was hard, Ronald discovered. “It’s hard because you’re isolated from society, you’re away from your family. You’re not doing much of anything. You’re told what to do on a daily basis. You’re told when to go to sleep, when to wake up, when to get out of bed, when to leave, when to walk around, when to go eat.”

His rebellion continued. Ronald stole food reserved for officers, ran gambling numbers for a bookie, sold cigarettes illegally, and involved himself with gang activities.

“Look, I was the dude who would get things done. I was grimy,” he says. “I did things I knew I shouldn’t do in prison. I wasn’t a righteous guy.”

Then in October 2012, news came that his dad had died from a brain aneurysm. Worse, his dad had tried unsuccessfully to get in touch with Ronald to say goodbye. “I was irate, emotional, angry at the prison and the chaplain who didn’t tell me,” he says. “I was really, really upset.”

Two days later, Ronald didn’t want to live anymore. He was walking the track and fell to his knees. “I said, ‘God, I surrender. I submit. I’m done. Lord, save me!’”

After giving his life to Christ, Ronald started reading the Bible and told God he wanted to work for the kingdom. “I was trusting God to put me in a position after I got out, but God spoke in my heart: ‘What are you doing for Me now? You have kingdom work to do for Me in prison.’”

DISCOVERING MOODY RADIO
About the same time, Ronald came across Moody Radio and listened to back-to-back preaching programs every day for three hours. He’d wear headphones while working out, listening to pastors like Erwin Lutzer and J. Vernon McGee. “Being fed every day was encouraging me to get out and start prayer groups and start a Bible study.”

So he did. Every night after all the inmates were counted, he would meet with a group of them to pray. “The most we had was 19 in the prayer circle,” he says, “and we had four or five guys for the Bible studies I was leading.”

Despite being in prison, Ronald now felt free
mentally and spiritually. “I walked, talked, and did things differently.” Besides reading almost 1,000 books, he started taking business planning classes they offered, and got certified as a welder.

Ronald felt an urgency to develop good habits and a daily routine that would continue after prison.

“I started waking up at five a.m., did five-hundred pushups, read my Bible, and went to work to do welding.”

God gave Ronald favor with the warden and some of the correction officers, so he was able to organize events, such as a mock election, a fundraiser to collect school items for kids, and a panel discussion about the transition from prison to the community.

“A lot of people wake up and just check off the day on the calendar as another day closer to getting out,” he says. “But your release starts before you’re released.”

Applying Christian principles he’d learned from God’s Word, he told the prisoners, “When you get out of prison, it’s hard to break bad habits, so while you’re in prison, stop stealing. While you’re in prison, stop smoking. While you’re in prison, submit to authority, work out and watch what you eat, write down your plans.” He explained that repeatedly doing the right things in prison would help them build up a resistance to the temptations they’d face on the street someday.

As Ronald grew in his faith, he desired to go to seminary to learn God’s Word. “I wanted to learn Hebrew and Greek and just be more involved with the Word,” he says. So he contacted the president of a nearby seminary but didn’t hear back. Finally a correctional officer who was a pastor said, “Why don’t you go to Moody?”

Ronald said, “Moody? Oh yeah, Moody Radio. Moody has a seminary?”

**FINDING MOODY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

After more than eight years in prison, Ronald was released in January 2017 and moved to a Salvation Army halfway house in Chicago. He was so busy searching for a welding job that he almost forgot about his plans for seminary. “But here’s the funny thing,” he says. “I still picked up Moody Radio and listened to it because it was encouraging.” And as he took the bus on his job search, he would pass by Moody Bible Institute every day.

One day he got off the bus and went inside to talk to an Admissions counselor. He was invited to return and sit in on a graduate class: Church History with Dr. Sajan Mathews. Ronald was impressed. “I’m listening, I’m learning, and wow—this is something I would like to do. This is speaking to my heart.”

“Then I sat in chapel, and the president preached about a guy who served 20 years in prison. I remember that sermon, and I see all these young people praising God with praise and worship. And it was like, ‘wow, this is beautiful,’” he says.

Ronald applied and was admitted to Moody
Theological Seminary for a Master of Divinity. “I just fell in love with the school here,” says Ronald, who is now in his third year of graduate school. He also fell in love with an undergraduate student, Nathalie Edwards ’18. Well, not immediately. Their first meeting at a table in the Student Dining Room ended in a political argument. “I hope I never see him again,” she told a friend. And Ronald ended the conversation with “God bless the man who decides to marry you.”

You can guess how this part of the story ends.

After Nathalie graduated in May 2018, they got married and moved into married student housing. While completing his degree, Ronald works for the facilities department at Moody and is glad to begin welding again. He’s especially grateful for his boss, Scott Schaeffer, who is also a mentor to him. “He has been what my father would be if my father were here, spiritually encouraging me to pray every day,” Ronald says. “He speaks into my life and marriage and finances—and he’s a 65-year-old white guy.”

Ronald says the Christian discipleship he learns from his boss transcends culture and color. “I need a man to say, ‘This is how you treat your wife, this is how you come home. You need to leave work at work, spend time with her every day, and when you pray with her listen to her heart. Eat every day without the TV on.’ These things are not about black culture; they’re about Christian culture.”

“God has led me here to do more than just schoolwork. And this is just the beginning for me, where I am,” explains Ronald. “But Moody Radio is a seed that was sown into me and the classwork at Moody is a seed that was sown into me, and now God is adding the increase. And I’m grateful for that.”
When I began to search for the marks of excellence in the lives of well-known Christian leaders, D. L. Moody, the founder of Moody Bible Institute, was one of the first examples I studied. Moody Bible Institute inherited its commitment to excellence from this spiritual forefather.

What an inspiration I discovered! Moody was like most of us. The word “genius” was not mentioned by those who described him. Instead they saw attributes that we could emulate: faith, action, prayer, single-mindedness, and God’s love.

LOVE

Henry Moorehouse, who was called “the boy preacher from England,” inspired Moody to pursue God’s love with great fervor.

Moorehouse preached at Moody’s church as part of a tour of America, but Moody happened to be out of town at the time. The first question Moody asked his wife, Emma, when he returned to Chicago, was, “How is the young [Englishman] coming along? . . . Did you like him?”

“Yes, very much,” she replied. “He has preached two sermons from John 3:16, ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have
everlasting life’; and I think you will like him, although he preaches a little differently from what you do.”

“How is that?”

“Well, he tells the worst sinners that God loves them.” “Well, he is wrong!” her husband answered.

“I think you will agree with him when you hear him because he backs up everything he says with the Word of God.”

An inquisitive Moody went to hear the young preacher, and he noticed that everyone was carrying a Bible, something strange to him. Again Moorehouse preached from John 3:16, and he gave chapter and verse references from Genesis to Revelation to prove that in all ages God loved the world.

“I used to preach that God was behind the sinner with a double-edged sword.... I preach now that God is behind the sinner with love, and he is running away from the God of love.”

For seven nights the young man preached on John 3:16. “This heart of mine began to thaw out,” Moody admitted. “I could not keep back the tears. It was like news from a far country; I just drank it in. So did the crowded congregation.”

To know the power of God’s love, the more excellent way, became Moody’s lifetime goal. Soon his ministry dramatically increased. “I used to preach that God was behind the sinner with a double-edged sword, ready to hew him down. I am through with that. I preach now that God is behind the sinner with love, and he is running away from the God of love.”

The Holy Spirit manifests Himself in the world chiefly as the love of God shining in and through individual Christian lives, Moody said. The Christian possesses joy (love exulting), peace (love in repose), long-suffering (love enduring), and goodness (love in action).

Love was the key to Moody’s theology and charisma; singlemindedness was the glue that held his exuberance in place.

**SINGLE-MINDEDNESS**

Moody often said, The trouble with a great many men is that they spread themselves out over too much ground. They fail in everything. If they would only put their life into one channel, and keep it, they would accomplish something. They make no impression, because they do a little work here and little work there. Lay yourselves on the altar of God, and then concentrate on some one work.

Moody followed this philosophy throughout his life, beginning with his decision to leave a secular career to pursue God’s work. Many milestones in his life can be attributed to a singleminded endeavor. For instance, in the winter of 1871, Moody focused his prayers on one desire: to know God more intimately. One day he was discussing his search with English evangelist Douglas Russell, when the preacher remarked, “Every believer is a child of God, being born of the Holy Spirit, but not every believer has received the filling of the Holy Spirit for service.” Throughout the night and the next day, Moody was on his knees praying for this commission. He became conscious of a supernatural power controlling him:

It is almost too sacred an experience to name.... I can only say God revealed to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. .... I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different, I did not present any new truths, and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you would give me all the world.

“It is through the Holy Ghost that we get life,” the evangelist later testified. “We would in reality not know Christ but for the Holy Ghost. There is no life or power for a man to serve God until he is first born of the Spirit, until he has been quickened by the Holy Ghost, until he has been raised as Christ’s dead body was raised.”

The next year, in 1872, Moody received the challenge from evangelist Henry Varley that I quoted at the beginning of this chapter: “The world has yet to
see what God can do with and for and through and in a man who is fully consecrated to Him.” “By the Holy Spirit in me, I’ll be that man,” Moody vowed. Once again, Moody made a single-minded decision that would change the course of his life. He “lost interest in everything except the preaching of Christ and working for souls.” Quickly, he broke the bonds of the busy-work that encumbered him—the rebuilding of his church after the Great Chicago Fire and the construction of a new YMCA building—and left for England to begin again, this time as a traveling evangelist.

At first Moody’s English trip seemed doomed. He arrived in England with singing evangelist Ira Sankey and their families only to learn that the men who had promised him financial support had died. Moody had only one other possibility: an invitation from the lay director of the YMCA in York to conduct meetings there, a suggestion he had ignored earlier. He descended upon York at the last minute, a hasty maneuver that crippled his efforts.

But Moody persevered. Despite the rocky start, he moved to Sunderland three weeks later, then for a short visit to the small town of Jarrow, and finally to Newcastle.

“Moody and Sankey entered Newcastle . . . almost as strangers in a strange land,” observers admitted. But day after day, the preaching proved to be of God. Attendance began to pick up. Enthusiasm spread. Moody and Sankey moved from the edge of disaster to the brink of their illustrious careers as a revivalist and a gospel singer.

A minister of the Scottish Free Church heard of the stirrings of the Spirit in Newcastle and invited Moody to come to Scotland. For the next two years Moody and Sankey traveled from city to city. “Wherever they went they attracted huge crowds. At the meeting in Edinburgh, held in one the largest meeting places in the city, crowds ‘densely packed’” every corner.” “. . .” a spokesman of the United Presbyterian Church asserted.

As enthusiasm in England built, the variety and length of the reports in American newspapers mounted. According to one magazine article, “By the time the evangelist reached London he was already being approached informally about conducting services in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia.” Moody’s single-minded concentration on one channel—evangelism—led to excellence.

One of Moody’s last utterances summed up the man as plainly as possible. “By and by you will hear people say, ‘Mr. Moody is dead.’ Don’t you believe a word of it. At that very moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall then truly begin to live. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever.”

D. L. Moody’s “proclamation theology” lives today in a way he never imagined. Moody Bible Institute, which he began in 1886, trains thousands of students each year. The Moody radio station, begun in the early 1920s, owns and operates more than seventy stations, and it produces programs aired on more than 1,500 stations worldwide.

Moody dreamed of mass publishing Christian literature. This vision has become a reality through Moody Publishers. Originally founded by D. L. Moody in 1894 as the Bible Institute Colportage Association (BICA), Moody Publishers has distributed over 300 million books in its history.

Moody was not a man too different from most of us. He was not a scholar. He was not a theologian. He was not a man of eloquence. During his lifetime he grew from an impetuous, undirected young man to a man who was single-mindedly committed to serve the Lord. If God could take Moody with his limitations and enable him to excel, what can He do for you?

George Sweeting '45 was president of Moody Bible Institute from 1971 to 1986. He lives with his wife, Hilda (Schnell '45), in Antioch, Illinois—close enough for occasional visits. Adapted from The Pursuit of Excellence by George Sweeting (©1985, 2019). Published by Moody Publishers, moodypublishers.com. Used by permission.
first encountered George Sweeting when I was a freshman at Moody in the fall of 1967. A bunch of us were playing ping pong—all teenagers, save for the handsome man in his early forties who slipped into line wearing a Moody Church windbreaker.

Who was this, and how tough could an old man be? I quickly found out. The new pastor from the church down the street had a devastating serve and more than held his own.

Four years later he became the sixth president of Moody Bible Institute. And three years after that he signed off on my hiring as editor of what was then known as Moody Monthly magazine. Over the next several years I became director of Moody Press and then vice-president for Publishing—which is when I learned what it meant to actually work for President Sweeting.

Eventually I was privileged to write his biography, A Generous Impulse, and by then my life had been wholly informed, and in many ways transformed, by the man we called Doc.

The first thing I learned was Dr. Sweeting’s economy of time. I made sure I showed up to my first cabinet meeting five minutes early, only to find I was already 10 minutes late. My new colleagues at that level apparently thought I should learn this lesson the hard way; in other words, no warnings. President Sweeting subscribed to the Vince Lombardi school of time. If you weren’t 15 minutes early, you were late.

Overnight I became obsessive over the clock. I also discovered that Dr. Sweeting’s Excellence
theme was more than just motivational happy talk. He did everything excellently and expected his people to do the same. Pursuits were to be planned with a purpose and executed with passion. And he was clear on the mission of Moody. He articulated it every chance he got.

We were to train church people to fulfill the Great Commission. Doc Sweeting is an evangelist and pastor at heart, and he longed to see Moody produce more of the same.

Less important, but fun, was that during his 28 years as president and then chancellor of the Institute, George Sweeting simply looked the part. In fact, he looked like someone the board of trustees had assembled from a kit. Tall and trim with clear blue eyes, his wavy hair went from gold to brown to gray and finally white.

Besides being a consummate preacher, Doc pastored, sang, painted, was a chalk artist, and had traveled the world as an evangelist and author. He married his childhood sweetheart, Hilda, in 1947. But his life was not without obstacles. While a student at Moody in the 1940s he was stricken with testicular cancer and not expected to survive, let alone become the father of four sons.

Love has been the theme of his ministry since the beginning, and if one trait is most frequently recognized by friends and acquaintances and family, it’s his generosity. He says, “Seldom repress a generous impulse,” and admits he has at times been openhanded to a fault. Even those with whom he has had grave differences are not able to find fault with him later.

Doc Sweeting traces his work ethic to his father, William Sweeting. William immigrated to America from Glasgow, Scotland, in 1923, and George became his third child the following year. Not normally an expressive man, William later frequently recounted his thrill at seeing the Statue of Liberty appear on the horizon.

Sweeting’s father, a bricklayer, was a feisty, overt witness, active in rescue mission work, evangelistic meetings, and music. He taught a weekly Bible class for 30 years.

William Sweeting was a strict disciplinarian and a man of intense principle. He wasn’t swayed by what anyone else did or said. He was quiet, but not about his faith. Though he brought to America some prejudices, on the positive side he instilled in his children the idea that can’t should be eliminated from their vocabularies. “I can do all things through Christ,” he would say.

Young George sold magazines and radio guides
and when old enough also helped on a predawn milk route. Ninety percent of his dollar-a-day wage went to the family kitty, and he was expected to tithe a penny from the remaining dime. He began at age 11 running milk from midnight Friday until eight in the morning. Though he learned how to handle all the money on the route, it was exhausting work. He hated the hours but loved the sense of independence and accomplishment the work gave him.

His father also wished his children would become grounded in the Bible and made sure to find an appropriate church, Hawthorne (New Jersey) Gospel. Amazingly, Herrmann Braunlin, a self-effacing man, would pastor that church for 62 years before retiring in the 1980s.

George cannot point to one moment when he received Christ as his Savior. During childhood he frequently and earnestly “prayed the prayer.” He believed, repented of his sins, and several times asked Christ to take over his life, until he learned it was a once-for-all transaction.

“In my early teens,” he says, “I realized that I knew the Lord, and I was His. I memorized verses that reassured me, and I would say, ‘Lord, You love me; You died for me; I’ve yielded myself to You. The Bible says that if I believe, I should not perish but have everlasting life. So that settles it.’”

After that he seldom doubted his salvation.

George Sweeting would not only solidify his relationship to Christ in that Hawthorne church, but he would also be baptized there, meet Hilda, marry, become ordained, and eventually return to accept an associate pastor’s role.

Doc’s parents were not given to overt praise of their children. His mother felt strongly that a person should not be unduly honored, even when honor was due. George cannot remember being complimented by his father. As he progressed to become a student leader, evangelist, chalk artist, pastor, and well-known evangelical, his parents rarely came to hear him speak. Even if other people tried to encourage him, it bothered his parents. “They were afraid I’d get bigheaded, and Scots can’t stand anyone who thinks he’s hot stuff.”

That may be why Doc Sweeting has always been adamant that “the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing,” referring to the Great Commission.

And at 95 he’s going strong. He still teaches Sunday school and accepts the occasional invitation to preach, including at Moody this past September.

I recall once congratulating Doc on a birthday and asked him how he felt. “I don’t feel old,” he said, chuckling. “I feel like a young man with something really wrong with him.”

Well, those who heard Doc Sweeting in chapel in September would be hard-pressed to describe him as old or as a young man with anything wrong with him. He may not be as mobile as he’s been, but his evangelistic fervor and pastor’s heart lives on, evident to all.

Jerry B. Jenkins ’70 is the bestselling author of 195 books that have sold 70 million copies worldwide. He formerly served as vice president of Moody Publishers and was a Moody trustee for 18 years. (Seen here at a 2010 tribute with four Moody presidents: Jerry Jenkins, Joseph Stowell, Paul Nyquist, George Sweeting, and Michael Easley). In September Jenkins was inducted into the Colorado Authors’ Hall of Fame. He recently joined the board of Colorado Christian University, where Donald Sweeting ’76 (son of George Sweeting) serves as president.
For her senior Communications project last spring, Tabea Martens ’19 wanted to capture the vast variety of stories and cultures that intersect at Moody. Here she interviews Timo and Katie Frugoni, two married students who always laugh when someone asks “but where are you from?” The answer sounds like Guatemala—Spain—Germany—US, but the path is a bit crooked. Oh, and Tabea is from Germany, making for an interesting conversation about culture and faith.

Timo, your mom is German and your dad is a Spaniard. How much are you personally influenced by both cultures?

Timo: When it comes to punctuality, I am German. I hate getting late to places. On the other hand, I really appreciate the culture of eating and going out very late at night—that is very Spanish.

Katie, you spent a dozen years in Guatemala as a missionary kid. What was most memorable?

Katie: I studied in Guatemalan schools, whereas most missionary kids from the US attend Christian or North American schools in Guatemala and don’t get as much Guatemalan culture. I am actually still in contact with most of my friends. A favorite memory is playing in the rain and dirt with the children in the villages. It was a fun and beautiful time.

What was it like to live in between American and Guatemalan cultures?

Katie: We would speak Spanish and do everything according to Guatemalan culture, but when you’d go inside our house, it was very Western and American. I personally always had a preference for the Guatemalan culture.

What did you love about Guatemalan culture?

Katie: The people. There is something very beautiful about the people. They might not have the resources, but they still want to help and give you everything they have. It is a kind and caring culture.

When you were in high school, your missionary parents relocated the family to Spain. How did you react?

Katie: I was so against it. I thought I would be in Guatemala for the rest of my life. So I told my mom that I wasn’t going to move. But eventually I knew it was time for us to go.
**Though Guatemala and Spain speak the same language, did you learn any cultural differences?**

**Katie:** We moved to southern Spain, where they speak faster Spanish. I spent my first few months in Spain not understanding anything that my teachers or friends said to me. It was also really hard for me to understand the way in which Spaniards care for others. You have to get past being made fun of to know they care for you.

**Timo, did you make fun of her too?**

**Timo:** No, I thought her Spanish was super cute. I wasn’t used to seeing someone that blonde speaking Latin American Spanish. But she wanted to learn. We watched her speak Latin American Spanish first, then southern Spanish, and a mix of both. That is super cool because she can shift from one culture to the other easily, and she understands both so well.

**What is it like to both speak multiple languages?**

**Timo:** Speaking different languages, even at home, can get pretty messy at times. However, if I miss a word in one language, I can steal a word from another language, and that’s fun.

**Katie:** We started our relationship only speaking Spanish. Five years into our relationship, I started teaching Timo English so he could talk to my family.

**Timo, what has Katie’s cultural heritage taught you?**

**Timo:** All I knew of America was based on movies and music—very hollow—so I have learned about American culture by going to Katie’s family’s house. I also got to learn about Latin American culture—how embracing and caring they are. And I learned that Guatemala is in Central America, not South America—they pride themselves in that.

**Did your wedding have cultural aspects to it?**

**Timo:** Yes, I wanted a talent show, where friends and family come out and perform for us. That was something I had seen and liked in German weddings.

**Katie:** We also decided to have a potluck, with people bringing in different foods from their countries. It was a multi-cultural buffet of foods, very influenced by our church culture.

**Timo:** So many cultures pitched in ideas; we would mostly say, “That sounds cool. Let’s do it.”

**Katie, what have you learned from Timo?**

**Katie:** I have learned a lot. In Guatemala, we think being direct about things might hurt somebody’s feelings. So you find ways to make it sound nice. The culture Timo grew up in is very opposite. Learning that it’s okay to say things directly was hard. I am still working on it. Also the definition of *lateness* in Latino culture is even later than it is in Spanish culture.

**Timo:** There are no clocks. Literally, no clocks.

**Have the cultural differences been a point of tension in your marriage?**

**Timo:** Oh, 100 percent. Sometimes we do clash, especially because I’m used to saying things pretty directly; Katie is teaching me how to be direct in a more loving and kinder way. That is the beauty of marriage, though. You get to learn about the other person, and you learn with them.

**What was it like to move to yet another culture—Chicago?**

**Katie:** For me, being back in the States has been very humbling. I was very against the idea of being back here. But God has used this time to let me see things that I actually do appreciate about here and opened my eyes to the things that are happening in this country. It also helped to be able to see my American family from a different perspective.

**What have you learned during your time here?**

**Timo:** I’ve learned to appreciate cultures even more. We have been able to connect with so many different people from so many different places here at Moody. Culture and the ability to celebrate culture can bring us together. It’s incredible to see how God can bring people from completely different backgrounds together in one place.

**Where do you hope to be ministering in the future?**

**Katie:** We have been dreaming about a lot, and we’re open to where the Lord leads us. For right now, our heart is to go back to Spain to serve the people and refugees there.

**Timo:** We just want to be tools used by the Lord.

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**Tabea Martens ’19** calls Moody “a place where stories and cultures intersect.” She interviewed international students for her senior capstone project, photographed them, then published the collection as Beauty Within Tension. Tabea now works as communications designer for VDM, a missions agency near Bremen, Germany.
More than a dozen alumni helped organize an Easter festival called Anastasi (Greek for “resurrection”), which took place April 25–30, 2019, in Thessaloniki, Greece. Dr. Samuel Naaman, a professor of Intercultural Studies at Moody, and Emanuel Padilla, an online Moody instructor, spoke at the event, which attracted hundreds of believers from Eastern and Western contexts (such as Greece, India, American Samoa, Germany, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, and Australia), and included workshops, a sunrise service, and Bible distribution. “I believe God is doing some amazing things through our alums,” Dr. Naaman says.

Moody alumni and professors involved in Anastasi: (top row) Alexander Macris ’18, Kendra (Orr) Macris ’19, Ian Williams ’18, Miriam (Raney) Macris ’84, Johnathan Macris ’85, Hanna Tamang ’17, Kyle Macris ’18, Dorothee Kern ’17, Emanuel Padilla ’14, Daniel Lim ’17, Justin Macris ’12, (bottom row) Jeannette Kern ’17, Mingto (Joseph) Siu ’18, Samuel Naaman, and Christiana Galea’I ’16. (Not shown: Renay McKelvy ’18) Several of them serve with Hellenic Ministries in Greece.

Not Just Nostalgia

The great hymns of the church are more than nostalgia for a bygone era, says H. E. Singley ’71. His new CD, Just Piano, Just Hymns, features 18 favorites, all recorded in the year since he retired from Moody’s music faculty.

Singley describes the songs as “an integral component of our Christian identity” that reach across cultures and eras to remind believers of our ongoing relationship to the church. The project was recorded and mastered by David Gauger II, music professor and director of Moody’s Worship Collectives.

Singley has stayed busy in retirement. He continues to serve as organist and choir accompanist at College Church in Wheaton, and gives piano and organ duet concerts with Billy Graham’s former organist, John Innes ’61.

Order the new CD online at squareup.com/market/moody-music-department.
Josiah Youngquist '14 was officially installed as minister at Ebenezer Reformed Church in Oregon, Illinois, on September 15, 2019. Several pastors from area RCA churches, as well as Josiah’s family and congregation, attended the installation service. Josiah graduated from Moody in 2014 and earned his MDiv at Calvin Theological Seminary two years later. Serving as senior pastor for the first time, Josiah lives in the parsonage with his wife, Emma, and their dog, Cooper.

Roland M. Eklou ’16 lives in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, with his wife, Alisa, and two-year-old son, Joshua. After graduating from Moody with his MDiv, Roland founded West Africa Leadership and Youth Ministries, an organization that trains servant-leaders in West Africa to reach their communities with the gospel through evangelism and discipleship. Since 2017 WALYM has trained 200 pastors and reached over 400 children with the gospel and is in the process of planting two churches. WALYM offers multiple opportunities for internships and short-term or long-term missions in Togo and Ghana.

Corey Fifield ’06 launched PHOKOS Mumbai in Mumbai, India, in November, its second nonprofit ministry site after starting one in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2016. Because finding affordable housing can be a challenge, PHOKOS provides free group housing for four qualified Christian men from Mumbai who, in turn, serve to reach people with the gospel; they pray, practice good works, preach the message of the cross, and partner with local Bible-believing churches. Indian ministry partner and pastor Chacko Thomas, his wife, and their son, James, oversee the missionaries in Mumbai. PHOKOS is accredited by the EFCA. Visit phokos.org; email info@phokos.org.

Hannah Lynn Pflederer ’15 and Johnathon Miller ’18 were married on September 22, 2018, in Oswego, Illinois. The wedding ceremony took place at the home of the bride’s parents, Kurt and Dana Lyn (Trumbower ’89) Pflederer. Johnathon serves as a youth pastor at Judson Baptist Church in Oak Park, Illinois. Hannah Lynn (on-air nickname “Sputnik”) works as a radio engineer for Moody Radio’s Karl and Crew Mornings. She is earning her MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Moody Theological Seminary.

Marilyn Fulford ’79, a retired registered nurse, married widower Dr. Bruce Pringle on July 10, 2019. Bruce is a semi-retired pastor, seminary professor, and marriage and family counselor who co-founded Christian Counselling Services in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. He has also served as a coordinator of Counseling and Follow Up with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the United States and Canada. Marilyn enjoys being grandma to Bruce’s two grandsons. Marilyn and Bruce live in Saskatoon.
David R. Haburchack ’95 is a professor of medicine at the Medical College of Georgia and a faculty member with the WellStar Kennestone Hospital Internal Medicine Program. David has experience at the medical school in Augusta, Georgia, in the US Army Medical Corps, and as the director of an internal medicine residency program for 28 years. He cared for patients with HIV-AIDS since 1982. He recently published a book entitled Kingdom Work: Redeeming Child Sexual Abuse (Lulu, 2019). David has been on missions trips to several countries and has served as deacon and elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Augusta. He and his wife, Janet, have two children and two grandchildren.

Tar Timothy Chen ABSC ’91 and his wife, Meei-ming, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on an Alaskan cruise in June 2019. In the past 15 years the couple served three Chinese churches in the United States. Now retired, the Chens live in Houston, Texas.

Robert Farison ’60 and his wife, Doris, celebrated their 70th anniversary on April 23, 2019. During their 59 years of ministry, Bob has pastored churches in Ohio, Michigan, and Florida and taught at two Christian schools and a Christian college. Five other members of Bob and Doris’s family have attended Moody, including their daughter, Gloria (Farison) Emmons ’74.

John M. Rood ’58 recently published his autobiography, My Life: My Adventures with God (Xulon Press). John spent 29 years in full-time ministry as a children’s worker and missions executive and 11 years as the general manager of a specialty advertising company. He has led short-term missions trips in the Philippines and Cambodia and currently lives in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where he attends Immanuel Bible Church. John met his wife, Betty Lou Vonk ’59, at Moody’s first dorm open house.

Myron (’58) and Millicent (Grubbs ’57) Young, of Bloomington, Indiana, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 18, 2019. The Youngs met as students at Moody and married a year after Myron graduated. They worked in full-time ministry for 48 years until retirement in August 2006. They remain active serving in children’s and music ministry at their local church, visiting hospital patients and shut-ins, and holding services in three nursing homes. The Youngs have three children, including Rusty ’83, ’90, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They welcome contact from classmates at myronwyoung@hotmail.com.

Andrew Watkins ’16 and his wife, Veronika, recently welcomed their second son, Nathan Andrew, born on August 28, 2019. His older brother, Silas Michael, is three years old. Andrew earned his MDiv in Christian Ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He is a stay-at-home dad while seeking his first ministry position.
Phil McGlaughlin ’55 has been in ministry for 63 years. He has pastored eight churches, traveled as a full-time evangelist, served as county director of Youth for Christ, and traveled to speak, teach, and minister in a leper colony in India, Burma, and Nepal. Phil was presented with a Doctor of Divinity degree by the Emmanuel Bible College and Seminary in Kota, Rajasthan, India. After pastoring a small church in British Columbia, Canada, Phil and his family traveled by freighter canoe to the wilderness near the Yukon Territory, where they reached out to trappers, hunting guides, and others. Phil and his wife, Kay, now live in Keystone Heights, Florida, where Phil serves as associate pastor at a Baptist church.

Ken ’58 and Darlene (Paquet ’49) Rokusek celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 20, 2019. The couple met at Moody. Ken served in the Air Force for four years and then worked at Outboard Marine. He was employed as a systems analyst by Abbott Laboratories until his retirement in 1999. Darlene also retired, having worked as a kindergarten teacher at Christian Life School and an activity director at Dayton Care Center. Longtime members of Gideons International, they have three children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

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GATHERINGS

Rev. Dean Monkemeier ’76, lead pastor of Western Springs Baptist Church in Western Springs, Illinois, spoke at the Bethany Beach Tabernacle service in Sawyer, Michigan, on August 25, 2019. Several Moody alumni attended. Left to right: Rusty Ingraham ’75, Steve Ingraham ’77, Dean Monkemeier ’76, Sherilyn (Kincaid) Monkemeier ’76, Julie (Laine) Espinoza ’76.

John ’63 and Donna (Aiton) Sahlin ’62, Gary ’70 and Carol (Bergren) Klingler ’68, and Dan ’71 and Glenda (Baker) Mielke ’69, former Wycliffe Bible Translators, enjoyed a gathering in Minneapolis on August 25, 2019.

Melanie Monteclaro ’85 unexpectedly met fellow Moody graduate and pastor Chad Williams ’95, his wife, Janelle, and their two children, Ellie and Malachi, at her cousin’s church during a visit to the Philippines on June 30, 2019. Pastor Chad Williams was installed as senior pastor of the Union Church of Manila (ucmweb@unionchurch.ph) in Makati City, Philippines, on July 7, 2019.

(R to L) Thomas Bartz ’08 was ordained at St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church in Denver on July 21, 2019. In attendance, Karen (Stewart ’10) Bartz, American sign language teacher; Chris Hilgeman ’97, a teacher in Kyrgyzstan; Judy (Marr ’78) Stewart ’10 BSBS (former Alumni Board member), and Glenn Stewart ’78 ’10 BSBS, Avant missionaries in Guatemala; and Ellen (Stewart ’04) Rosenberger, former missionary to Nicaragua now at East Bend Mennonite Church in Fisher, Illinois.
Dr. Renald E. Showers, a former Moody professor, author, and speaker, died on April 4, 2019. He was 83.

Born in DuBois, Pennsylvania, Dr. Showers answered God’s call early in life when he chose to attend a Bible college in Philadelphia after declining a full-ride scholarship from Cornell University. He would eventually earn a ThD from Grace Theological Seminary in 1975.

Dr. Showers taught theology for several institutions, including Moody Bible Institute, where he instructed and inspired students from 1977 to 1980. His long and distinguished teaching career spanned 54 years, and he received a Faculty Member of the Year Award from Philadelphia Bible College in 1982.

Dr. Showers authored 15 books about various theological topics. Perhaps his most popular title, What on Earth Is God Doing?, has been published into several languages. He also worked as a contributing editor for Israel My Glory magazine.

A highly educated professor and author, Dr. Showers was well-known for making difficult and complex Bible passages understandable for his students and readers.

In 1980 Dr. Showers joined Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, where he served for 36 years. During his tenure he spoke at conferences, colleges, and churches around the world. He retired from ministry in 2016 at the age of 80.

Amid his notable accomplishments, Dr. Showers was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. He leaves behind his wife of 56 years, Eleanor, their two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Kent C. Williamson ’89
age 52, Aug. 2, 2019, Buchanan, Michigan

Kent, known for making creative films, including the Emmy nominee By War & By God, died in an automobile accident that also took the life of his sister, Melissa Klint, her husband, Robert ’75, and their daughter Landyn. The accident occurred when a car ran a stop sign and struck their vehicle as they drove through Buchanan, Michigan. Kent was on vacation with his family in Sawyer, Michigan. Kent left an artistic legacy. He accepted Christ as an adolescent, then joined a musical missions group that traveled internationally to spread the gospel. Kent studied at Moody and later attended a Los Angeles film school. He married childhood friend Karen Holder and the couple had six children. He studied film and video production at Regent University, earning a master’s degree in communications. Relocating to Charlottesville, Virginia, Kent taught at the University of Virginia, where he made his independent feature When Love Walks In. In 1991 Kent launched Paladin Media Group and produced numerous videos and films including Rebellion of Thought and Stained Glass Rainbows. His film By War & By God won several awards. Kent helped found the Community Films Foundation, which connects mission organizations to filmmakers who can tell their stories. He also served with Transformation Incorporated and Vets with a Mission.

SUBMISSIONS:
alumnews@moody.edu
1970s

Robert Klint ’75
age 66, Aug. 2, 2019, Buchanan, Michigan
Bob, who lived in Sawyer, Michigan, was killed along with his wife, Melissa, their daughter Landyn, and brother-in-law, Kent C. Williamson ’89, in a fatal car crash. Bob and his wife, Melissa, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in May. Friends of the Klints remember how they served the Lord and spent their lives giving to anyone who needed anything. Left to cherish their memories are their five children and their spouses, siblings, and 11 grandchildren.

Emory Ray Helton ’74
age 66, Sept. 2, 2019
Ray earned a degree in Pastoral Studies at Moody before joining the military in 1981, where he served as a commissioned infantry officer until retirement. The discipline and integrity that Ray developed in the military prepared him for his role as the director of Operation Inasmuch, an organization that provides shelter and meals for homeless people. Ray helped establish programs at The Lodge in Fayetteville, North Carolina, to help free homeless men from addiction to drugs and alcohol, equipping them to work and live independently. The Lodge was recently dedicated in Ray’s honor. Ray was a Chicago Cubs fan and ran marathons. Those who knew him remember him as a kind man who was never too busy to stop and pray with someone in need of encouragement.

1960s

Bradford “Wayne” King ’62
age 82, Sept. 13, 2019, Gibson City, Illinois
Born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Bradford accepted Christ as Savior at age eight and received the call to full-time ministry as a teenager. Bradford attended Northern Illinois University, Briercrest Bible College, and Moody Bible Institute. On August 25, 1962, Bradford married Carol Zehr. In May 1964 the couple, with their baby, Danny, sailed to Israel where they served with Child Evangelism Fellowship and ministered to the Arab community in Nazareth. After 39 years they returned to the United States and served in the children’s church ministry at Gibson City Bible Church. They also hosted CEF five-day clubs for communities in Ford and Champaign counties.

Edward Pfiester ’60
age 82, Oct. 7, 2018, Tallahassee, Florida
Born in Clay City, Indiana, Ed married his wife, Nancy, on April 5, 1960. Ed earned degrees from Moody, the University of Dubuque, Rollins College, and the University of South Florida. For 36 years he worked as an education supervisor at the Florida Department of Corrections. Ed made three missions trips to Cuba and one to earthquake-ravaged Haiti. He attended Tallahassee Heights United Methodist Church.

Hubert Eugene Johnson ’62
age 90, Sept. 4, 2017, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Hugh joined the US Navy after high school and served on the U.S.S. Veritas during World War II. Upon his return home, Hugh enrolled in business college, launching his career as a small business owner. He married Joyce Fern Bernhoft on February 28, 1949. Sensing God’s call to ministry, Hugh sold his business and began his studies at Moody. He managed volunteer office workers for the Billy Graham Crusade in Chicago before graduating in 1962. During his career Hugh managed Calvary Baptist Bookstore in New York City and worked for Zondervan in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for 21 years. His passion for Christ led him to conduct Bible studies in his home and teach adult classes at Calvary Church in Grand Rapids. After retiring, Hugh ministered as a lay counselor and launched Truth Triumphant to help Christians “find their identity and freedom in Christ.”

Kenneth E. Anderson ’63
age 79, Feb. 9, 2019, Wilkesboro, North Carolina
The 11th child of 12, Ken transferred to Moody after attending a college in Wisconsin. While studying in Moody’s radio engineering program, Ken met Karen J. Neis ’61. They married, and after graduating,
Ken worked in Springfield, Ohio, as chief engineer for the WEEX radio station. Ken then served in missions as a radio technician with BEA Ministries in Brazil and Honduras and briefly in Bolivia and Alaska. The Andersons also partnered with Bible Basics International in Tampa, Florida, where Ken worked as a technician until he and Karen moved to North Carolina. Ken was active in Christian radio program production and belonged to the local Foothills Amateur Radio Club. He was also a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Robert Laney Taylor ’60
age 83, Dec. 13, 2018, Vincennes, Indiana
After studying business at Butler University, Robert completed the Pastors Course at Moody. At Indiana University, Bloomington, he graduated with a degree in Secondary History Education and earned his master’s degree in Counseling and Administration. Robert worked in ministry for a total of 44 years, serving with Youth for Christ and pastoring several United Methodist churches. Robert also worked in the Vincennes Community School Corporation. He taught history, served as guidance counselor, and later became the assistant principal at Lincoln High School. Robert sought improvements through technology, becoming VCSC’s technology director until promotion to the position of assistant superintendent. He retired after serving VCSC for 38 years. Robert enjoyed outdoor activities as well as singing and playing piano with his family. Robert and his wife, Gwendolyn Taylor, had three children.

1950s

Joyce J. (Clarin ’58) Nelson
age 84, Jan. 23, 2019
Born in South Dakota, Joyce graduated from high school in 1952 and earned a teacher’s diploma in Bible at Moody in 1958. Joyce married Warren Nelson in 1963. The couple had four children. The family lived in Minnesota, then relocated to Ridgecrest, California, where Joyce worked at an antique store and the village bookstore. Joyce also served in many capacities at Immanuel Baptist Church and was known for her warmth and kindness.

Rodney Milton Johnson ’56
age 91, October 25, 2019, Prophetstown, Illinois
Rod studied carpentry at Dunwoody Industrial Institute before marrying his high school sweetheart, Nancy ’56, on June 4, 1949. During the Korean War, he served as a staff sergeant and airplane mechanic in the Minnesota National Guard. The Johnsons studied missions at Moody, where Rod became the prayer band leader for Africa and Nancy sang in Handel’s Messiah with the Oratorio Chorus. Rod was ordained by the Conservative Baptist Church in 1959. The Johnsons served across the Midwest and in Ethiopia and Mozambique, and they were founding members of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Rod earned a BA in industrial education from the University of Minnesota and an MS from Bemidji State University. Rod was a carpenter, a mentor to young men, and a teacher. His survivors include Nancy, four children, and 12 grandchildren, including alumnae Rachel Beth Anne Paul ’18, Sarah M. Paul ’19, and Katja Ruth Johnson ’15.

Kahu John Luluhiualani Awai Kalili ’51
age 91, Jan. 28, 2018, Honolulu, Hawaii
John earned his Pastors Course diploma at Moody following his World War II service in the US Army. He followed the Lord’s call to pastoral ministry in his home state of Hawaii. In 1953 he married Peggy Yukiko Miura, who supported John’s ministry as it took them across Hawaii and as far as the East Coast. John earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1956, an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary, and an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Piedmont College in 1985. In 1965 John was called to pastor four churches which became the Four Cooperating Congregational Churches. During his 48-year service to these congregations, John led the construction of several new church buildings and educational facilities. John’s other ministries included
prayer meetings, summer Bible schools, family church camps, Youth Sunday services, missions trips, and designing a curriculum of Scripture memorization, worship, and missionary support. His legacy continues with pastors ordained in his ministry.

Thomas E. Loper ’52
age 92, Sept. 27, 2018, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Thomas spent his life in service to the Lord. He worked with Baptist Church Planters to establish churches across the United States. He also taught in various schools and served for 13 years as a counselor at Mel Trotter Ministries. Thomas was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Angela (Barker ’52) Loper, three children, 17 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

1940s

Alaire Chadel Sedgwick III ’49
age 98, Aug. 17, 2019

Al was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During World War II he served in England and France in the United States Army’s medical department in the professional services division of the chief surgeons’ office, European Theater of Operations. Al achieved the rank of tech sergeant. Following his military career, Al studied at Moody Bible Institute. In his senior year he served as student pastor at a South Side church, which he pastored full-time after graduation. During his time at Moody Al met Evelyn Joy (Wright ’48) of Bluefield, West Virginia. The day after Al graduated, they were married in the church that he pastored. Al worked as a Christian education consultant for Scripture Press in Chicago before serving for 20 years as the pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, and 13 years as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Brewer, Maine.

Ardis Jane (Brown ’42) Bystrom
age 98, Jan. 16, 2019, St. Petersburg, Florida

Ardis grew up in North Star, Michigan, and was called to be a missionary as a young adult. While at Moody she met her husband, Kenneth Neil Bystrom ’42. They served as missionaries in Colombia and Venezuela with TEAM Missions. While Ken was head of the American Bible Society in Caracas, Ardis worked at the Canadian Embassy and raised their two young children. In 1963, they moved to Mexico City, where Ardis worked for an executive recruitment firm. Her humility and wisdom, as well as her kindness and generosity, served as an example of God’s love to her family and friends.

Elizabeth (Brown ’45) George
age 97, Jan. 18, 2019, Harrisonburg, Virginia

Elizabeth was born in Brooklyn, New York. She married Homer Lee George ’45 on November 30, 1945. Elizabeth worked as a secretary at Tabor College and James Madison University. She was also director of the Pioneer Girls Club at Bellerose Baptist Church in Bellerose, New York. Additionally, Elizabeth taught violin, enjoyed needlework, and aided immigrants in passing the United States citizen exam. She attended Peoples Baptist Church in Harrisonburg.

Mildred Ruth (Hartson ’47) Voorheis
Age 97, Aug. 12, 2019, Clio, Michigan

Born on August 12, 1922, to Harry and Henrietta Hartson, in Wolverine, Michigan, Mildred attended Moody Bible Institute and, as far as records show, was the first woman to graduate as a pilot from Moody’s Mission Aviation program. She married Byron W. Voorheis Jr., and together they served as evangelists. Mildred had a special love for children’s ministry; she used gospel magic and ventriloquism to teach children Bible stories. Later in her life Mildred worked making signs at Meijers in Flint, Michigan. She attended Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Mt. Morris, Michigan, where she taught Sunday School, led Bible studies, and worked with the Awana program. She requested donations be made to Moody Aviation.

SUBMISSIONS: alumnews@moody.edu
Putting Her Money Where Her Heart Is

During Spring Share, Denise Hatton called Moody Radio with a pledge, and a Moody Bible Institute student named Kaci answered the phone. That call would expand Denise’s understanding of Moody—and her planned giving. “I had never made that connection with MBI. My connection was just radio, and I had never talked to a student,” she says.

Indeed it had been 30 years since she became a born-again Christian, and Moody Radio had been a daily companion. “I got so discipled by Moody,” she says. “I lived for Dr. Stowell’s messages on Sunday. I listened to Focus on the Family, Tony Evans, Chuck Swindoll, even Steve Brown, as crazy as he is. And the music carried me through a lot too.”

She even got to celebrate her spiritual birthday on May 20 with a visit to Moody Radio in Boynton Beach, Florida, the station that had helped her grow spiritually. She sat in on the WRMB morning show broadcast and then visited with the people behind the microphones. “It was such a special time because I’ve heard these voices for years,” she says.

Already a regular giver to Share, Denise had learned more about Moody as she talked and prayed with Doug Crisafulli, her Moody Stewardship representative. She heard how students are responsible for paying their room and board but donors provide the cost of tuition. This allows graduates to serve in ministry without being delayed by burdensome debt.

Kaci told Denise about an upcoming summer internship in Washington State and her future plans for international children’s ministry. “Kaci’s heart was so mission-minded toward the least of these,” Denise recalls. “When you say, ‘I want to give myself on the mission field in another country,’ it just did something for me.”

Then before hanging up, Kaci asked, “Is there anything I can pray for you about?”

“Oh, goodness,” recalls Denise, who shared about some family problems. “And the next thing you know, I’m crying my eyes out as this young college girl is praying for me and my family.”

A couple of days later, she told Doug about her wonderful phone call with Kaci. He found Kaci and shared Denise’s contact information. Soon they were communicating with each other and hoping to meet sometime.

Denise visited Chicago to tour Moody’s campus. She also met Kaci, who had just returned from her internship. “Missionaries, pastors, youth leaders, music worship leaders—they don’t often make a lot of money,” Denise says, “so I think it’s fantastic the vision Moody has to put people in the field without a lot of debt.”

Denise’s gratitude to the Lord for all He has done in her own life has led her to explore ways she can support the Christian ministries she loves. One
meaningful way was to update her estate plan through a Revocable Living Trust, naming Moody as a beneficiary. “I have named Moody to be remembered when I pass,” she says. “I feel very strongly about what Moody does, not just the radio ministry but also training leaders and aviation pilots and allowing people to go to college,” she explains.

“I feel very strongly about what Moody does, not just the radio station but also training leaders and pilots and allowing people to go to college.”

“God has provided for me quite well, and I don’t want the money for myself,” she says. “I want to be able to give to the kingdom, both now and in the future. What I love about Moody is that what they do, they do with excellence,” she says. “I believe that’s how God does things, and so I want to be a part of that excellence.”

—by Linda Piepenbrink

For Librarians (and Hoarders)
The recent name change to Moody Alumni & Friends might have provoked a bit of confusion for anyone who is keeping track of our publication history. The first issue of Moody Alumni News was published in December 1926 (Vol. 1, No. 1). The quarterly publication continued until 1949, when editors rebooted the numbering system (no one remembers why) with another Vol. 1, No. 1 (but it was still the same magazine). For those who might have stacks of back issues in their basement, the magazine was called onWord from 2007 to 2009 (though it continued in the same series of volume numbers). When the magazine changed names again in 2019, the editors continued with the same series of volume numbers.
his January marks one year since the Lord called me to Moody as the tenth president. Dee and I are very grateful for this incredible opportunity to serve at a place that deeply shaped me and is making such an impact throughout the world.

The phrase that has been echoing in my mind are the words spoken to Esther: “. . . for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). I firmly believe that God has placed us in the right place, at the right time, for His plans and purposes, for such a time as this. It is important that we not miss the moment.

Through Mordecai’s counsel and urging, Esther was able to understand and embrace her God-given opportunity to bring about the salvation of the Jews at that time. My prayer for you this season is that you also embrace where God has you in this moment of time, because it truly is for such a time as this.

Wherever you serve or whatever your profession, your main calling is to live on mission with Jesus. You have been called and placed where you are for such a time as this.

For this season and time at Moody, I am thrilled to announce that the Lord has brought Dr. Dwight Perry to serve as our next provost! Dr. Perry is no stranger to Moody, having served as a professor in our Pastoral Studies program and as our midwest regional coordinator for Moody’s evening school. He has the heart of a pastor, the experience of a seasoned leader, and the capability of a skilled educator. I look forward to working with him. Check out our news story at moodybible.org/news, and be on the lookout for a more in-depth profile in the next edition of Moody Alumni & Friends.

As we head into this Christmas season, we need to be reminded that Jesus, too, was born for such a time as this. His birth was missional; He came into our fallen world to break sin’s power over us and demonstrate God’s love through His death on the cross.

This is the life-changing message that we are equipping students at Moody Bible Institute and Moody Theological Seminary to share so that they can be change agents in this world for Jesus Christ.

Many of you have been faithful partners with us in prayer, encouragement and financial support this past year. I want to say thank you for your generous spirit.

As we approach the end of the year I’m grateful in advance for those of you giving gifts to help Moody Bible Institute finish strong.

I hope to see many of you at Founder’s Week, where we will explore the theme “For Such a Time as This.” I’m expecting a powerful week of teaching and worship together.

May you and your family have a meaningful Christmas season, celebrating the birth of King Jesus.

Mark Jobe ’84 MA ’98 is president of Moody Bible Institute and host of Moody Radio’s Bold Steps.
For many years cooking classes were required for both men and women who enrolled in Moody’s missionary course. No matter where God called you, a missionary would need to eat. Long before words like farm-to-table, organic, and locavore became food adjectives, Moody students were learning to take market foods and cook from scratch. And men—don’t expect your wives to do all of the work. To pass the course, all students needed to demonstrate basic butchery skills, meal planning and preparation for a variety of cuisines, and bread baking in camp ovens (shown here in a 1930 photo). The home economics and manual arts classrooms were located in a row of buildings along LaSalle Blvd., later demolished for the construction of Crowell Hall in 1939.

Want to be a missionary? Learn to cook.
Help build a strong network of Moody alumni by joining a Facebook group for your region. Share life together, plan events, and network for career and ministry. Make new friends and rediscover lost classmates.

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