



Report for 2015 Annual Convention

Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary & College

Seminary President • Dr. Rob Blackaby

Introduction

We have the privilege of working with a vibrant and growing student body. At the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College, our campus community is a strategic part of students' school experiences. The friends they make today are often their cherished colleagues tomorrow. The faculty members who mentor them throughout their time with us remain their steadfast partners in ministry in the years ahead. God uses the men and women on our faculty to refine students' characters, clarify their callings, and enhance their competencies.

For almost three decades we have been entrusted with the training and theological education of pastors and other church workers in order that they obey the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ in and through local churches throughout the world. To that end we work to provide them with training for ministry that is both biblically accurate and relevant to our context. We believe that it is not enough for us simply to impart knowledge. It is our vision to train God-called men and women for twenty-first century leadership in tough places. We want to foster in the next generation of leaders a desire to go into difficult places, and to face courageously the challenges that confront us there.

In the Report that follows I will outline ministry highlights that have occurred since our fall trustee meeting, and forecast significant events for our fall 2015 semester. I will then address briefly two of our critical issues as an institution. Individual members of the President's Administrative Team (PAT) will provide critical and timely complementary information in each of their reports.

Ministry Highlights

Early in our spring semester (February 11-13) we welcomed Micah Carter and Jeremy Howard as guests from Lifeway Christian Resources. In addition to speaking in chapel, they spent several hours with faculty members and the president, engaging us in meaningful discussions about the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation and revision process. The experience was edifying and encouraging, highlighting the ministry and academic experience of our faculty, and recalling the commendation given to our school by the Association



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for Biblical Higher Education for our “highly credentialed, globally experienced, and spiritually mature faculty.”

Again this year, during the first weekend of March, a collection of students and faculty spread out across Canada’s six time zones for Seminary Day (the president spoke in Royal Heights Baptist Church in Vancouver, BC). We all came back with wonderful stories of serving in our Canadian National Baptist Convention churches, and celebrating with them the warmth of camaraderie as we together train leaders for ministry. I encourage you to listen to student testimonies accessed through the link to chapel messages on our website:

www.csbs.ca

At our recent Preview Weekend, March 13-14, held in conjunction with a Disciple Now weekend by Calgary-area CNBC churches, we had an even higher level of exposure to youth than last year. We had 110 youth attend the event on Friday night (almost the same as our numbers from last year), and we had close to 70 continue throughout the day with us on Saturday and Sunday morning (up from about 25 last year). It was encouraging to once again have college and seminary-age young men and women consider if God intends for our school to play a significant role in shaping their whole-life development.

Our Missions Conference, typically held early in the semester, was held from April 8-10. Originally Jeff Christopherson was scheduled to be our speaker, but changes in his job portfolio with the North American Mission Board necessitated a change. God allowed for us to welcome Ian Buntain as our speaker. He delivered a powerful series of messages on the theme, “Urban Missions—Reaching the Nations.” His messages can be found through the “Online Chapel Messages” link at www.csbs.ca.

In mid-April (April 14-15) we welcomed guests from the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Todd Tidwell, son of recently deceased Gerald Tidwell (beloved Oklahoma pastor and long-time friend of our school), put together the vision tour. In addition to Todd, the team included David Whitlock (president of Oklahoma Baptist University), Galen Jones (professor of church planting at OBU) and Andy Harrison (program director of Falls Creek Encampment, hosting 53,000-58,000 youth each summer). There are already



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initiatives being developed for partnership between our school and OBU. As well, Todd will be representing our school at Falls Creek during the eight weeks of summer camps this year, where many youth will respond to God's call on their lives to train for ministry.

This May we recognized 26 students during our graduation ceremony. Also, we were pleased to welcome Dr. David Dockery, president of Trinity International University, and former president of Union University, as the commencement speaker during our May 9, 2015 graduation service.

We continue to make progress in the development of a RV storage park. An Alberta numbered company has been set up, with Rob Blackaby and Gerry Taillon as directors and the school as the sole owner. Phil Davidson has been working for us with the Town of Cochrane to clarify what steps are necessary and what is the sequence of those steps.

As we look toward ways to reduce our budget we are preliminarily exploring the use of solar energy to power the main administration and academic building (currently costing \$6,000/month for utilities). It is possible that a section of our land that has no intended future usage could be suitable for the installation of a solar power field.

As we come to the end of our academic year we are once again evaluating ways to strengthen our Bachelor of Christian Studies degree. As we evaluate the most effective ways to broaden our college programming through the BCS, we need to make further necessary adjustments in campus development and student services. We are challenged to find new ways to think about campus community life. In June I will meet together with the Academic Dean and members of the Business Office, Student Services Office, Facilities Department, and Admissions Department to address campus and community considerations, from housing to safety to recreation.

Early in the fall semester we will welcome Danny Siquefield (pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, Tennessee) to be our speaker for Spiritual Emphasis Week. Faith Baptist has pledged to cover all expenses related to Danny's travel to us. The special chapel services will run from September 8-11. Also in



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attendance will be Kim Margrave (Missions and Volunteers Coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention). She will bring special greetings from the TBC as we prepare to wrap up our nine-year partnership in November.

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is right now composing a visiting team to come to our campus from October 27-28 for a Focus Visit. Providing the visit goes as well as expected, the team will recommend a five-year extension on our accreditation (through 2020).

The ad hoc Name Change Committee met once since the fall trustee meeting. The team continues to pray and work for a suitable new name. A new name has not yet been discovered, though several have been field-tested.

Critical Issues

Since the beginning of the 2014/2015 academic year our school has been focused on four Critical Issues. These are: 1. Enrollment; 2. Institutional Advancement; 3. Community Enhancement/Infrastructure; and Future Focus. I will focus on the first two issues in this section of my report.

1. Enrollment

Mike Sharkey has provided valuable leadership to the Admissions Office since August 2014. In addition to Mike, Matthew Rowley has now been hired full time as an Admissions Counselor, beginning on May 18, 2015. In order to facilitate the expansion of Admissions Office personnel, Mike will transition from paid to non-paid status. He will continue to work 10 or more hours a week and will provide supervision and strategy. Matthew will be tasked with much of the day-to-day operation of the office.

2. Institutional Advancement

Barry Nelson and I continue to travel to meet with existing and prospective donors. In particular, this past year God has given us a growing number of donors throughout the state of Texas.



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We have already put one of our condos (located within the town of Cochrane) on the market for sale. The housing market has softened, so we are being patient. Our asking price currently is \$269,900.

Concluding Remarks

As I reflect on my past eight years of service as the president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College, I remain grateful for the opportunity I have been given to participate in the worthy goal of training God-called men and women for twenty-first century leadership in tough places. I feel privileged together with all of our faculty and staff to provide theological education for those called to lead in churches, marketplace ministry, and other Christian ministries seeking to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in Canada and around the world. As always, it remains my honour to serve as the president of our school at such a time as this.