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Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry: Equipping Under-resourced Urban and Rural Ministry Leaders

Loyal Juraschek, Lucas Hagen and Dr. Hank Voss
Taylor University



BACKGROUND

Christian Tradition

• Elizabeth Fry, John Wesley, and A.W. Tozer each created spiritual transformation and equipped leaders in their respective times and places through the reading and distribution of collections of spiritual classics.

Today

- Pastoral leaders in urban and rural communities today are largely uneducated and ill-equipped to face the unique challenges of their ministry settings.
- SRTM seeks to equip and resource these ministry leaders by providing spiritual classics which have proven faithful and fruitful over centuries directly to pastors serving among the poor.

PURPOSE AND HYPOTHESIS

- Taylor University's Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry (SRTM) Project seeks to develop and encourage peer groups of congregational leaders serving in under-resourced urban, rural, and incarcerated communities. The five-year Lilly Grant will equip at least twenty locale-based pastoral mentoring groups to develop and strengthen ministerial friendships through the use of guided conversations around sixteen spiritual classics.
- The purpose of Taylor University's SRTM Project is to resource and develop congregational leaders serving in under-resourced urban and rural communities by providing resources and structured mentoring centered on spiritual classics and ministerial friendships.
- The 16 Spiritual Classics will be published in four categories: Biblical Studies, Theology and Ethics, Christian Ministry, and Mission and Evangelism. The chart at the bottom of this poster provides a general layout of how these will be published.



2017 Graduates of The Urban Ministry Institute in Los Angeles, CA.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Roller, Julia L., editor. *25 Books Every Christian Should Read: a Guide to the Essential Spiritual Classics*. HarperOne, 2011. Roller's collection of spiritual classics has served as a great foundation for our research and has provided a good base of twenty-five spiritual classics to consider.
- Toon, Peter, editor. *Spiritual Companions: an Introduction to the Christian Classics*. Baker Book House, 1992. More extensive than Roller's collection, Toon has helped greatly to expand our research and our sphere of consideration while looking for spiritual classics. By choosing one hundred spiritual classics, Toon has gone further than merely the obvious choices, and has brought to light some wonderful resources that may have slipped through the cracks otherwise.
- Foster, Richard J., and Emilie Griffin, editors. *Spiritual Classics: Selected Readings on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines*. HarperOne, an Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, 2007. This collection provides readers with a year's worth of selected readings and is organized into twelve different spiritual disciplines, which has helped us while trying to organize and find connections between different spiritual classics.
- Russell, James M., editor. *Spiritual Classics: The Thinking Person's Guide to Great Spiritual Books*. Magpie Books, 2009. Russell organized his collection of spiritual classics both thematically and chronologically, which has been helpful in our research to see which texts build off of each other and in order to focus in on certain themes by following Russell's organization.
- Goggin, Jamin, and Kyle Strobel, editors. *Reading the Christian Spiritual Classics: a Guide for Evangelicals*. IVP Academic, an Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2013. This text has served as our textbook this semester and has provided both an extensive recommended reading list as well as fourteen chapters of background information for spiritual classics and certain camps of Christian spirituality.

GOALS OF SACRED ROOTS THRIVING IN MINISTRY

The 3 Goals of the Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry Project

Structured Mentoring and Cohort Development

- The development of cohorts seeks to provide spiritual and ministerial friendships in order to strengthen pastoral leaders who are mostly bi-vocational.
- Cohorts of about ten congregational leaders each.
- Criteria for selecting leaders:
 1. Congregational leaders serving among the poor in urban and rural communities.
 2. Church planters in the first three years of their church plant serving in under-resourced communities.
 3. Congregational leaders serving among incarcerated communities of faith.

Resource Development

- Sixteen contemporary editions of spiritual classics that include an introduction, translation update, textual notes, and a further reading section.
 - The current master list of spiritual classics that we have compiled lists about 800 texts!
- A mobile app that will include e-book and audio-book formats of each of the sixteen spiritual classics.
- Forty undergraduate students from Taylor University will conduct research related to SRTM.
- At least forty commissioned peer-reviewed journal articles, research presentations, books, and popular media publications.

Research and Research Dissemination

- Encourage and assist academic researchers to investigate questions and relevant issues related to developing congregational leaders who thrive in exceptionally difficult ministry settings.
- Share the stories of ministry leaders who are thriving in urban and rural ministry in order to fight against the dominant negative narrative in America concerning pastoral leaders in these demanding ministry contexts.
- The SRTM project recognizes and seeks to satisfy the need for academic, peer-reviewed research that takes seriously the agency of the incarcerated as bearers of the Spirit's gifts and callings (Sexton, I. Voss).

Spiritual Classics			
Biblical Studies	Theology and Ethics	Christian Ministry	Mission and Evangelism
Vol. 1	Vol. 2	Vol. 3	Vol. 4
Vol. 5	Vol. 6	Vol. 7	Vol. 8
Vol. 9	Vol. 10	Vol. 11	Vol. 12
Vol. 13	Vol. 14	Vol. 15	Vol. 16

CURRENT STUDENT RESEARCH

Morgan Benson: "Discussion Questions: Seeking Deeper Understanding of Strobel and Goggin."

- Articulate questions that provide a reader room for deeper discussion, inward focus, and practical implications for change.
- Clay Wright: "Exploring Secondary Sources related to *Spiritual Friendship* by Aelred of Rievaulx."
- Compiling a list of secondary sources which analyze and discuss Aelred's treatment of spiritual friendship in his writings.
- Trayvon Estey: "Exploring Spiritual Friendship in Augustine."
- Mary Hawthorne: "A Study of Spiritual Friendship Among Puritan Women."



Trayvon Estey



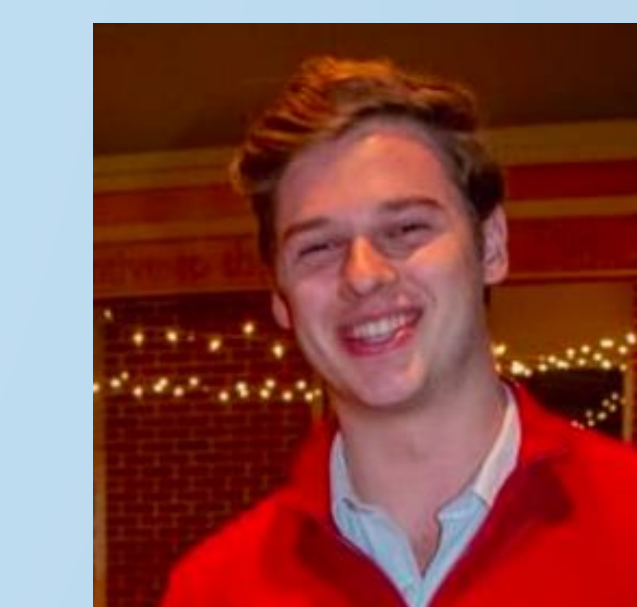
Mary Hawthorne



Morgan Benson



Clay Wright



Lucas Hagen



Loyal Juraschek



Dr. Hank Voss



Isaiah Swain

UPCOMING STUDENT RESEARCH

Isaiah Swain: "Calvin and the Spiritual Classics: Lessons for Congregational Leaders."

- What spiritual classics did John Calvin read?
- How did Calvin use spiritual classics in his own spiritual development?
- How did he instruct others in incorporating spiritual classics in a curriculum of discipleship?

Lucas Hagen: "A Study of the Current Collections of Spiritual Classics: Their Breadth and Purpose."

- What collections of spiritual classics have been produced?
- What is the purpose of these collections of spiritual classics?
- Which spiritual classics are most consistently included in these collections?