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Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America’s oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 45 states and 27 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 64 fields of study are available. For the fifth year in a row, Taylor University is the number one Midwest University in the category Best Regional Colleges in the 2012 USNews & World Report survey, America’s Best Colleges.

The mission of Taylor University is to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need.
The truth conundrum

“What is truth?”
Pontius Pilate. Prefect of the Roman province of Judaea, from AD 26–36

What is truth? It was not the earnest inquiry of a seeker. It was a cynical, dismissive question that, perhaps, was birthed across years of seeing what an awful place the world could be. Maybe it matured through the deals he had cut to become the governor of this Judean outpost. And could it have come to fruition as this man, whose power went no further than what God had granted, used that power to order the executions of hundreds of prisoners?

After nearly 2,000 years, we don’t seem to be any closer to an answer to this question. We are confronted with famine, war, atrocities and parsing of truth to fit our individual desires.

But that gives me hope. It was into just such a world that Jesus sent his followers with the command to make disciples. For 166 years Taylor University’s mission has been to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need.

For Matt Johnson ’02, that call led him to do something about the newest crisis in the Horn of Africa. For Steve Bedi ’65, the call was answered through sometimes difficult service to his alma mater for more than 20 years. And for student Libby Trudeau ’12, it means objectifying truth in the market place of ideas.

The challenge of compiling a group of writings on the subject of truth is that we cannot tell every story from among our 20,000 alumni throughout the world. Again, that is reason for hope. I pray that each of us will faithfully do those works to which God has called us.
An expansive project to renovate Jim Wheeler Memorial Stadium is underway and officials say it will transform the facility from hosting only football games into a football and soccer venue with new, permanent seating, an artificial turf field, and permanent lighting.

A group of benefactors has pledged $3.2 million to fund the project, which also includes a new scoreboard, a full-sized football/soccer practice field with artificial turf and lights, as well as one one-half size field with natural turf.

University officials say construction should be completed by August 1, 2012.

“Taylor University has long recognized the value of our intercollegiate athletic program is not measured only in terms of wins and losses, but also by their impact on the lives of our students, community and alumni,” said Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68, Taylor president. “We are so grateful that this vision is shared by these friends who have shown their approval with their sacrificial and generous support of this important project. We are very excited that in the coming months our football and soccer athletes will be able to practice and play in facilities that match their outstanding achievements.”

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Dr. Angie Fincannon said the complex is the first step of several needed improvements to Taylor’s athletic facilities and program. Future initiatives, also dependent on gifts, include: enhanced scholarship/financial aid, football locker rooms, offices, meeting rooms and a weight room; enhancements to the Glass Track and Field; and lights and press box for baseball and softball fields plus artificial turf for the baseball infield.

“Watching the transformation that occurs in the lives of athletes through lessons learned in athletics has been a privilege to experience,” said Fincannon. “It is exciting and gratifying that those who understand this process share a vision of what Taylor University athletics can and will be. This addition to our athletic facilities will make a positive and immediate impact for the campus, for our entire intercollegiate program, and particularly for men’s and women’s soccer and football. This is a great leap for Taylor University.”

$3.2 million to transform Wheeler Memorial Stadium

We are very excited that in the coming months our football and soccer athletes will be able to practice and play in facilities that match their outstanding achievements.
The Taylor group visited art galleries and universities, and most important, saw firsthand how forgiveness has brought healing to the nation of South Africa.

A deeper understanding of forgiveness

Who is my neighbor? It was a question asked of Jesus nearly two millennia ago, but it is still pertinent and its implications are being studied this year by students and faculty in the Taylor University Honors Guild.

Led by Drs. Scott Moeschberger ’97, Rachel Smith and Skip Trudeau, the Guild’s students, known as Ockenga Honors Scholars, have pursued the theme Restoration of the Other during the current academic year. The Guild sponsored special campus speakers, a trip to South Africa, and will host a special Honors Dialogue Conference in late March.

During the South Africa trip, Moeschberger and his wife Jennifer (Burke ’96) led a group of 30 Taylor students – 27 of them freshmen – on a study experience titled Art and Restorative Justice. The group visited art galleries and universities, and most important, saw firsthand how forgiveness has brought healing to the nation of South Africa. And they learned while the nation has come a long way, it still has a long way to go.

“A great way to learn about the culture is to learn about its art. We were deeply confronted by the inequalities between the rich and poor in South Africa and called to a deeper understanding of the power of forgiveness in the face of oppression,” said Moeschberger. “It was the experiencing what apartheid would have been like. It was a modern-day form of segregation that broke down in their lifetimes. While the civil rights era might seem a little more distant to them they could see this is something that happened more recently.”

“I think that lots of times Africa gets painted in America as a wild and different place from the U.S. and one thing I noticed on our trip is that it’s really not. Humans are humans wherever you go in the world,” said Andrew Whitworth ’15, an international studies and political science major from Frankfort, Ky. “It was very evident forgiveness was such a key part of the culture shift since the apartheid era. After roughly fifteen years it’s not going to be perfect, but the way people were able to forgive and reconcile with people who had oppressed them, or even the oppressors going out of their way to make peace with the people they had oppressed, was their way of saying we want to move on from what is in our past. It was very powerful.”
Three Taylor University alumni, Dr. Shani (Gray TUFW ‘99) Wilfred, Dr. Rhonda Jeter-Twilley and Manuel Rosado ’96, are the newest members of the Taylor Board of Trustees.

The trio brings numerous qualifications to their new responsibilities. Rosado is a Milwaukee-area investment specialist and past member of the Taylor Alumni Council. Jeter-Twilley and Wilfred are both tenured faculty members – Jeter-Twilley serves as associate professor and chair of the Department of Counseling at the University of Pennsylvania and Wilfred is an associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Valdosta State.

Taylor President Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68 says the appointments are in keeping with an effort called the Mosaic Initiative – a plan to create a more diverse Taylor community. “As a Christ-centered institution of higher learning, we must begin to look more like our Lord’s John 3:16 world,” said Habecker. “This diversity represents the global Christian church. It represents the changing nature of our country. These differences in cultures and colors enrich the community and learning at Taylor. Remaining true to our values of being Biblically anchored and Christ-centered informs who we hire, how we teach and how we live together.”

“One of the things that was important to me as I considered the invitation to join the board was what my role would be and what the focus and structure of the board would be,” said Wilfred. “As I learned more about the Mosaic Initiative, the board’s desire that the broader Taylor community would reflect what Christ intended – a diverse, multicultural group of individuals that are united by their faith and love and belief in Christ.”

“I want Taylor to maintain its commitment to Christian higher education. That is the core – the identity of the university,” said Rosado. “On more of a personal level, my goal is to see growth in the lives of the students. I’m just very impressed with the quality of the students who are here. I’m not just committed to the growth in the academics but also in the spiritual growth of our students as they go out into the world.”

Diversity represents the global Christian church. It represents the changing nature of our country. These differences in cultures and colors enrich the community and learning at Taylor.
Ryan Schlosser ‘12 was 13 years old when he suffered a stroke. For the past nine years his recovery has had its highs and lows. An exercise science major, Schlosser is a believer in the impact activity can have on someone in a similar situation. This semester he is putting that belief to work.

Schlosser, or “Schloss” as he is known by his friends, fellow exercise science major Kate Bolinger ‘12, and their advisor Dr. Matt Renfrow, is studying the impact that walking can have on a person who is putting his or her life together after a stroke.

The study has attracted six participants from Upland and the surrounding community. The youngest are in their 50s; the older members of the study are in their 70s. Schlosser says their mobility is as varied as their age.

“Generally speaking, the more severe the stroke the person has suffered, the more difficult it is to take as many steps,” Schlosser said. “One individual has had severe impairment and another participant – you can barely tell she’d had a stroke.”

“Our vision for this program is to help people develop an exercise program they can participate in, in their homes or here on the Taylor campus,” Renfrow said. “Numerous studies have shown that activity levels and quality of life have been increased in the lives of people who have suffered a stroke. Our goal is to take a handful of these people and help them build a program of exercise and relative fitness that they can continue long after the study ends. This is something that was especially exciting to our students.”

The first step of the study was to establish a baseline said Bolinger, adding that she, Schlosser and Renfrow hope that outfitting each of the participants with a pedometer will increase their motivation to walk.

“We want to give our participants a good experience – not just with increasing physical activity, but with us,” Bolinger added. “We want to show them that we care about them on a personal level and are glad to have the chance to get to know them.”

Schlosser, who still experiences some aftereffects of the stroke, is active in intramurals, running and weightlifting – at least within certain constraints.

“My recovery has gone very well,” he said. “I’m not where I would like to be, but God gives you things for a reason, such as the stroke. You don’t know why, but you keep pushing.”

Stroke survivors get help at Taylor University

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Asian initiative gaining momentum

The likelihood of Taylor University students studying at universities in China and South Korea, and increasing numbers of Asian students coming to the United States to attend Taylor, took a big step forward in recent days. Dr. Charles J. Brainer, who joined Taylor’s faculty in January, will serve as associate dean for International Programs, focusing on Asian Initiatives.

Prior to his appointment at Taylor, Brainer served for 16 years as provost at the English Language Institute/China (ELIC), overseeing the English language training programs of ELIC teams at 40 universities throughout China.

Brainer says while plans are conceptual, he is excited about future cooperative possibilities with universities in China, South Korea and beyond. “It is connecting the character and heart of what Taylor University has been for 160 years plus,” he said. “We want to create servant leaders and really serve and connect with a very vibrant, dynamic part of the world. And we want to see how Taylor can serve and connect to that growth in the societies and cultures of Asia.”

“There is a need for institutions like Taylor that have a long tradition of Christian higher education and the integration of faith and learning, having strong academic standards and intentionality about faith and the whole person,” Brainer said. “We will be exploring ways students coming from Asia and China will enrich the campus and build something into Taylor to make Taylor stronger in its understanding of the local church and the world, and make Taylor’s mission much more relevant for the 21st century.”

Brainer will also have oversight of Taylor’s TESOL and ESL programs.

“We are thrilled to welcome Charlie and his family to Taylor University and the Upland area,” said Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68, Taylor’s president. “He brings tremendous experience and insight into Asian culture and education that will help us develop new programs that provide engagement opportunities for our students, and will attract increasing numbers of Asian students to Taylor.”

New provost announced

Veteran educator and administrator Dr. Jeffrey A. Moshier has been named provost at Taylor University following a nationwide search. “Dr. Moshier brings a distinguished record of academic achievement and excellence to Taylor University,” said Taylor President Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68. “During his career, he has demonstrated a deep understanding and appreciation for Christ-centered higher education. He is a worthy successor to our current provost, Dr. Steve Bedi ’65.”

Moshier’s career has included service at Messiah College, Johns Hopkins, Wayne State and most recently, Wheaton College, where his administrative responsibilities included professional faculty development and oversight of summer school, international travel, study abroad, and graduate programs. He will begin work at Taylor this summer and steps into the role being vacated by Bedi.

He holds a PhD and Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology from Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Md.) and Houghton College in New York.

“The reputation of Taylor University as one of the nation’s premier universities of evangelical excellence is worldwide,” said Moshier. “It is both thrilling and humbling to join the Taylor faculty and administration. It is with great anticipation that my wife, Peggy, and I look forward to beginning our service at Taylor.”
Faculty members author new books, perform research, present overseas

**Dr. Beulah Baker**, English, wrote *Seamus Heaney's Penitential Journey in "Station Island,"* which was published by the University of St. Francis (Fort Wayne, Ind.) in September.

**Dr. Chris Bennett**, Spencer Centre for Global Engagement, participated in an exploratory tour of higher education in India during December as part of a group of US state legislative leaders, educators and business executives, all associated with the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) in Washington and the Alliance for US and Indian Business (AUSIB). He also delivered a paper titled, *Higher Education Capacity Building in Turbulent Times* at the Indo-US Higher Education Conclave in Pune, India.

**Dr. Mike Guebert**, Earth and Environmental Sciences, completed a $40,000 contract with the Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District to perform a Watershed Diagnostic Study of the Middle Mississinewa River watershed in Grant County, Fall 2011. While Guebert was primary investigator, additional participants included Drs. Rob Reber, Jan (Wallace ’89) Reber and Dan King, and Taylor students.

**Dr. Cathy Harner**, Social Work, met with government officials, church leaders and social service agency representatives in Nassau, Bahamas, to explore the possibilities of bringing a group of junior practicum students to learn from the social workers. A cooperative will begin in January 2013.

**Dr. Al Harrison**, Music, served as conductor for the Indiana Bandmasters Association District Honors Band and as an adjudicator for the ISSMA solo and ensemble contest.

**Dr. Ed Meadors**, BSCEP, wrote *Creation, Sin, Covenant, and Salvation* which was published by Wipf and Stock in 2011. He also has a forthcoming article that will be published in the 2nd Edition of *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* by IVP.

**Dr. Lorne Mook ’87**, English, had six poems from his book, *Dream-Crowned* published in the online journal of translation, Ezra. The poems were part of his translation of Rainer Maria Rilke’s poetry collection.

**Dr. Mike Guebert**, Earth and Environmental Sciences, completed the first year of a three-year study of dune and swale plant communities found in Indiana’s near-costal Lake Michigan region. The research is supported by a $110,000 contract administered by The Nature Conservancy, and is aided by three to four student researchers per year.

**Dr. Paul Rothrock**, Earth and Environmental Sciences, completed the first year of a three-year study of dune and swale plant communities found in Indiana’s near-costal Lake Michigan region. The research is supported by a $110,000 contract administered by The Nature Conservancy, and is aided by three to four student researchers per year.

**Dr. Bill Toll**, Computer Science and Engineering, served as an external reviewer for the Computer Science program at Biola University, Calif.

**Drs. Art White, Jonathan Geisler and Stefan Brandle**, Computer Science and Engineering, and five students are performing externally-funded research for the Lockheed Martin Corporation.
Dow-to-earth, talented, godly and unassuming, Professor of Mathematics Matt DeLong is recognized throughout the Taylor campus for his ability to challenge his most gifted students and nurture the ones who struggle with complex mathematical theories and equations.

DeLong is the recipient of the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The nationwide award is one of the Mathematical Association of America’s most prestigious and is accorded to only three mathematics professors each year.

The MAA created the Haimo Award to honor college or university teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions. In addition to DeLong’s academic role, he authored a book with his late friend and then-Harvard colleague Dale Winter, sings with a faculty quartet known as Quadrivium, coaches youth league baseball, soccer and football, and is active in his church and area civic theater productions.

“It’s hard to articulate (what this award means) because it’s humbling, of course, and so much of what we receive is part of a direct blessing that involves other people and the good work that they do for the Lord,” said DeLong. “We have a great math department with great students and colleagues. It is difficult to be singled out like this. You want to handle it well and give the honor to where it is due and not look away.”

This isn’t the first time the MAA has accorded national recognition to DeLong. In 2005 he received the MAA’s Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching – an award that recognizes mathematics faculty in the early stages of their teaching careers.

Delong, originally from Fort Wayne, Ind., earned his bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University and master’s and Ph. D. from Michigan. He joined the Taylor faculty in 1998.

“I am so very grateful to my colleagues Ron Benbow, Jeremy Case and Mark Colgan for instigating my nomination for this award,” said DeLong. “Although it is reminiscent of many athletic clichés, I certainly believe that this is a ‘team award.’ What successes I have had are due in large measure to their encouragement, partnership and leadership.”

Sports recap

Men’s Basketball

Hall of Fame Coach Paul Patterson recorded his 700th win during a win over MCC rival Bethel in December. In his 33rd season at Taylor, Patterson became the only coach in history to record 700 wins while coaching at a four-year Indiana college.

Milestones: Casey Coons ’13: 1,500 career points, Nate Kasper ’13: 1,000 career points, Jake Burkholder ’12: 500 career rebounds.

With 435 career assists, senior Kyle Hanaway is fifth on Taylor’s all-time assist list.

The team defeated five top 25 opponents: #14 Columbia (Mo.), #14 Indiana Wesleyan (twice), #24 Marian, #7 Grace.

Coons and Tommy Peller ’13 were named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team.

Women’s Basketball

Erin Guarneri ’13 and Tess Rudolph ’13 were named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team.

Rudolph became the 18th player in school history to reach 1,000 points for her career making her and older sister Paige ’10 (1,558) the only sisters at Taylor to each reach 1,000 points.

Guarneri has surpassed the 500-rebound mark for her career.

The team defeated two ranked opponents: #21 Marian; #16 Grace.

Tena Krause is sixth on the NAIA D-II active wins list with a record of 421-295 to start the season.

Coons Named Capital One Academic All-America® of the Year

Casey Coons ’13 became the first Taylor University student athlete to be honored as the Academic All-America® of the Year to lead the Capital One Academic All-America® college division men’s basketball team. Selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), Coons is the 16th Academic All-American in Taylor history and the first men’s basketball recipient.

“They couldn’t pick a better example of a student-athlete,” Taylor Head Coach Paul Patterson said. “Casey is a guy who is passionate about his sport and works very hard at it, but he is a guy who is really serious about his academic work. He stands for what you want a good leader to stand for.”

A health and physical education major from Indianapolis, Ind., Coons carries a 3.69 grade point average. He has been the Trojans’ leading scorer for each of his first three seasons. He was third highest among Mid-Central College Conference (MCC) scorers with a 20.0 points per game and was named to the All-MCC first team. His 101 three-pointers for the season set a Taylor record as Coons, led the Trojans to 20-11 overall and 9-9 MCC records.

Academic All-American student-athletes must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.30 on a 4.0 scale, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his current institution, and be nominated by his sports information director.

The College Division Academic All-America men’s basketball teams are comprised of student-athletes from NCAA, NAIA, Canadian and two-year institutions.
Junior guard and NAIA Academic All-America Casey Coons looks for an opening during Taylor’s 82-73 win over seventh-ranked Grace College.
GRITTY, PAINFUL, JOYFUL AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

Steve Morley '00 and Jim Garringer

What images come to mind when you think of the word “Discipline?” A set routine or regimen? Practices that lead to spiritual growth? An area of specialty in training or education? Now thinking of discipline specifically in the context of a university or college setting, does confrontation come to mind? Meetings? Tears? Anger? Punishment? Dismissal? Some of the most painful, difficult moments of my professional life have come during meetings with students to deal with disciplinary issues. But they have also been among the most rich and fulfilling experiences I have ever known.

It is safe to say that each of us have had to endure discipline in our lives. And generally speaking, those memories are not pleasant ones. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was martyred by the Nazis in the closing days of World War II, had much to say about discipline, its impact on the individual and the community. But it is not what you might expect.

In his book Life Together, Bonhoeffer lays out what a biblical, countercultural and authentic community really looks like. Although it is different from what some might suppose, it is exactly the type of community we pursue at Taylor. And if you are thinking that Life Together and Taylor’s Life Together Covenant are similar, you are right.

In context, Bonhoeffer wrote much of Life Together while being hounded and imprisoned by the Nazi regime of Adolph Hitler. It is that perspective that makes Life Together such a wonderful blueprint for the community life to which we aspire. While we cannot begin to comprehend these circumstances, the lessons are still life enriching and applicable to our lives.

Bonhoeffer asserted “community” is what is achieved when people authentically live their lives together — not by some superficial human plan whose goal is an ideal. Instead, it is what happens when sinful, fallen people live alongside one another in genuineness and authenticity. When life is lived together in this way there will be messes. There will be misunderstandings. Everything won’t look pretty and neat and nice.

But what happens is that enduring through those times, in spite of our failures, allows us to find what we actually have in common. That is good. Someone looking from the outside would see a sense of community here. But our goal has never been the preservation of this pristine, polished thing that is displayed on someone’s curio case. Community is what happens in the living out of life. And often times in the living out of the gritty, harsh realities of life.

Thus confrontation, when it happens and not if, isn’t a diversion from the ideal. There is also a more individualized version of that which Bonhoeffer talks about in terms of the need for confession, because it can become increasingly hard to be real with another person. There is a role for confession — we break through the isolation to community. The person who holds back isolates himself or herself from those people who love them — the rest of the community — because they are hiding something that is going on in their real life.

In trying to preserve our own sense of pride, justify ourselves and hide the truth we can miss out on one of the most comforting truths known to humankind. Yes, I am sinful. But, I am not alone. Through confession we reveal what we have in common with everyone else. It is our dependency on Christ to justify us and our need for His grace and forgiveness.

Sometimes we hold back, perhaps, because we have not experienced it before in our own lives. Or maybe we have endured a bad experience. Discipline is a word in our human nature that conjures up this sense of something I want to avoid. But in the scriptures, discipline is something a father who loves his children does for them. It is our way of saying, “I love you and I’m going to pursue this with you whether it is comfortable or not.” Of course it is awkward. And for many of us, our natural bent is toward preservation of a relationship because we fear confession or confrontation will damage it. From my experience, going through with that, and pursuing that, demonstrates the actual depth of a relationship. If a relationship is anything in the first place, beyond just a superficial contact, if it is based on genuine care, wouldn’t you want to say what is in the best interest of that person’s life?

Perhaps you are thinking you would rather keep things “nice.” Then “nice” will be all you have. True, our confrontation or confession will upset the norm. It will be uncomfortable. But I hearken to the words of Paul to the Ephesians. “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.” If we are to grow in this manner it will be together, with one another, living life together.

It is the difficult, messy part of living that has cemented us together. It has created community that is not limited to four years in Upland, Ind., but one that will last forever. And that is worth the discomfort.

Steve Morley is associate dean of students and director of residence life at Taylor University. Jim Garringer is the editor of Taylor.
Euler dedication planned for Homecoming 2012

Taylor officials are focused on identifying the final $1 million to complete the Euler Science Complex project. The remaining funds will cover furnishings and equipment. The $41.4 million facility is scheduled for occupancy for the upcoming fall semester, with dedication ceremonies planned for Friday, October 19, during Homecoming. For more information, contact Dr. Ben Sells, Vice President for University Advancement: ben.sells@taylor.edu.

New York City Trip for Women
September 13-16, 2012

Hosted by Marylou (Napolitano ‘68) Habecker, Sherri Harter and Joyce Helyer

More information to come, but inquiries may be directed to Sherri Harter, Associate Vice President for Development, at sharter@taylor.edu or 765.998.4956.

Friday, August 10, 2012

Contact: Kyle Gould, head baseball coach, 765-998-4635 or kygould@taylor.edu.

or

Angie Fincannon, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, 765-998-5317 or anfincann@taylor.edu.
As I look back at my time at Taylor, I can clearly see how valuable it was in shaping me into the man I am today. As a husband with children and a busy career, I sought an efficient way to leverage my regular gifts to Taylor. After researching several options, we determined that a life insurance policy would accomplish this goal. The small, tax deductible insurance premium we pay creates a much larger tax-free benefit to Taylor (at our death) than we could ever have made with lifetime gifts. – Rob ’99 and Jennifer Hayworth with children Grant, Cole, Chase, and Luke.

The Bishop William Taylor Society honors those who have included Taylor University in their estate plans or have established one of several planned gifts that include: bequest, beneficiary designation of a retirement plan or life insurance policy, or establishing a charitable gift annuity or charitable trust that provide an income for the rest of your life.

The 390 society members have touched the lives of thousands of students and will preserve and strengthen Taylor University for God’s intended purposes – now and in the future.

Contact Michael Falder or Nelson Rediger in the Office of Planned Giving at 765.998.5538, or email mcfalder@taylor.edu or nlrediger@taylor.edu.

www.taylor.edu/giftplans
John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
A FEW YEARS AGO I HAD A CONVERSATION WITH MY NEIGHBOR THAT MARKED ME DEEPLY. CHET, A HUSBAND AND FATHER OF TWO BOYS WHO DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A RELAPSED AND TURNED OFF CATHOLIC, STOOD IN OUR DINING ROOM WITH A DAZED LOOK ON HIS FACE.

“I CAN’T BELIEVE IT,” HE SAID.

“CAN’T BELIEVE WHAT?” I RESPONDED.

“I CAN’T BELIEVE THAT WE’VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR SIX MONTHS AND YOU HAVEN’T BEAT ME OVER THE HEAD WITH A BIBLE YET OR TOLD ME I AM GOING TO HELL FOR NOT BEING IN CHURCH.”
Many of the skeptics I interact with say they are open to the truth that Jesus spoke about and embodied. In fact, they tell me that they find it intriguing and attractive, but they are often turned off by the manner in which truth is communicated by so-called followers of Jesus.
I thought he was kidding. I was about to laugh when I realized he was completely serious. “Is that what he thinks a pastor is supposed to do?” I thought. Did he think that was my plan of engaging him in conversation about Jesus?

Two questions have dominated my thinking lately: What role does truth play in the life of a Christian? And how should truth be embodied and lived out in our daily lives? A biblical worldview informs us that truth is essential to right and meaningful living, rooted in the person of Jesus. Simply possessing the truth, however, is not enough to compel others to a life of truth as well.

Many of the skeptics I interact with say they are open to the truth that Jesus spoke about and embodied. In fact, they tell me that they find it intriguing and attractive, but they are often turned off by the manner in which truth is communicated by so-called followers of Jesus. They observe a message of love and compassion laced with arrogance and judgment. It is this disconnect that they find so puzzling and perplexing. The world, including my neighbor Chet, is listening to what followers of the Way, the Truth and the Life have to say, but they are also watching closely for how we say it.

The Puritans had a saying, “God loveth adverbs.” In other words, God cares deeply about how we do things, not just that we do them. I am reminded of the words of Peter, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15). Communicate the truth, Peter says, but be mindful to communicate the truth with the right posture.

Much of the manner of how we live is revealed in our posture. When I tell my wife that I am listening when she is speaking, in reality she can tell if that statement is true or not by my body language. Numerous studies have shown the overwhelming amount of data that our non-verbal communication speaks much louder than our verbal communication. Hugh Halter, in his book The Tangible Kingdom, writes that “words communicate what we know, but posture represents what we believe and feel.”

When it comes to the Christian story, our posture is more about helping people want to hear the truth, than about the truth itself. It is the vehicle by which the truth can be communicated effectively. Simply possessing the truth is not enough. Our posture must match the nature and character of the original messenger of that truth: Jesus. When the message of the truth is met with a method of grace and humility, the congruence is powerful.

It is worth noting that when Jesus lambasted the Pharisees in the gospels he was not accusing them of lies. He confronted the attitudes of their hearts: pride, elitism, judgmentalism, arrogance, condescension and mere external piety. They were showing off, hoping others would take notice of their religious devotion. In a sense, Jesus was confronting the fact that the religious leaders were so right they were actually wrong.

Stewarding the message of the gospel means we must possess a confident, hope-filled and humble posture. On one end of the truth posture spectrum is timidity; on the other end, arrogance. Neither posture faithfully represents the truth of the gospel that Jesus imagined his followers embodying. A clear and compelling – even winsome – approach to truth, in our thoughts, motivations, actions and behaviors is what the world desperately longs to see. It is in that posture that we are most Jesus-ish.

Last week a friend emailed me a comic. In it, St. Peter, surrounded by clouds at the pearly gates and wearing a white robe, was standing at a podium, pen in hand, looking over a big, thick book. Speaking to a man who seemingly had just arrived, Peter said, “You were a believer, yes. But you skipped the not-being-a-jerk-about-it part.” I chuckled – and grimaced. Have you ever noticed that when we are convinced we are right we oftentimes feel we are at liberty to be mean-spirited about it? Why is it that the more right we think we are the less kind we think we have to be? Jesus believes that being kind is as important as being right.

Paul, writing to the church in Ephesians, identified how truth-bearing expresses itself in the context of community when he wrote, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:14-16). If the posture is not love, the truth will be muffled and misconstrued. However, the good news is that truth rooted in genuine love is a compelling message to a world longing to see truth embraced and lived out.

J.R. Briggs ’01 serves as cultural cultivator of The Renew Community in Lansdale, Pa., and is the founder of Kairos Partnerships, an initiative that partners with leaders, pastors and church planters. J.R. is also the creator of the Epic Fail Pastors Conference, which helps pastors see failure as an opportunity for grace and healing instead of shame.
There was a sick feeling in the pit of his stomach as the phone at the other end began to ring. This would be one of the more difficult conversations he had ever had. He said a quick prayer when the student’s mother said, “Hello?” and began to give her the news that would turn her world inside-out. “I need you to get a piece of paper and write some things down,” said Taylor’s provost, the recipient of this task. “Your son left the group to go hiking last evening and has not returned to the home base,” he said, avoiding use of the word that every parent dreads: “missing.”

“We have been in continuous contact with the faculty group leader and authorities in the host country,” he said. “We will call with updates through the course of the day,” he added, before asking, “May I pray with you?” Over the next minutes, the provost prayed over the phone line with the shaken parent. She was crying when they hung up. But a few hours later he was able to call the student’s family again — this time with good news. Their son had been located — alive and safe. He had gotten lost while hiking but found his way to a camp. Representatives from Taylor were on their way to pick him up.
Calls like this have been rare. Nevertheless, they were still part of the job Dr. Steve Bedi ’65 has filled for the past nine years at his alma mater. By definition, Bedi, in his role as Taylor’s provost, has served as the chief academic and program officer. His administrative responsibilities have included guiding Taylor during the president’s absence and direction of academic, athletic, information technology, assessment, institutional research and quality improvement programs at Taylor.

If he was one to dwell in the negative, some parts of this job have been the most painful and heartbreaking tasks he could imagine. He has had to tell parents of the death of their child. He has had to inform faculty members they weren’t being granted tenure. On rare occasions he has been forced to tell a Taylor employee that he or she was being terminated. There have been long hours and nights without sleep. Sometimes he even wondered if God was calling him somewhere else.

But the challenges always seemed to be cushioned with blessings. Bedi was point person in successful reaccreditations of Taylor’s education department and the entire university. More than a decade ago he began dreaming with science faculty members about the impact that could be made by a new science building. He was instrumental in the integration of technology into Taylor classrooms and played a central role in the creation of Taylor’s Master of Arts in Higher Education (MAHE) program and the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE). In fact, one faculty member confided he wanted to nominate Bedi for Taylor’s presidency several years ago but did not, “because you make the President look so good.”

Bedi says while he and his wife Phyllis (Dye ’64) had enjoyed a successful career in education in Maryland, it was always their shared desire to return to Upland. That opportunity presented itself nearly 21 years ago when he joined the faculty of the education department.

“When I came to Taylor, I was coming with the realization that the mission was what it was all about,” Bedi says. “We are preparing ‘servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need.’ I think about that every morning. That is what drives Taylor; and that is what has kept me here.”

“Phyllis has been involved with women’s ministries, Bible studies, and in the community. She has been a vocal and prayerful supporter of my work,” he relates. “We signed up together and she has really found her niche: mentoring women and offering our home as a bed and breakfast to parents. She has been a big part of this – it is a twofer.”

For the past 10 years, the couple has enjoyed their relationship with the residents of Third Bergwall. Beyond his regular duties, Bedi has also spent one-on-one time with various students in professional and spiritual mentoring relationships.

Last year the Taylor Alumni Council recognized Bedi as the Distinguished Alumnus for Professional Service to Taylor University. But perhaps Bedi’s most enduring contribution is the role he played in the recruitment, hiring, and tenure process for about half of the Taylor faculty that has turned over during his term of service.

After a short sabbatical, he plans to join the faculty of Taylor’s MAHE program. As he comes to the end of his time as provost, are there regrets? “None, really,” he states.

“We have established relationships that will last the rest of our lives,” Bedi says. “We get dozens of Christmas cards from former students and we have gone to a lot of weddings. That personal touch is the heart of Taylor and who we are.”
I had already been sitting in the drive-thru lane for five minutes. I fidgeted with the car radio and tapped my fingers on the steering wheel. “This place is so slow,” I thought. “Why doesn’t everyone go to the place across the street? There is never a line there.” I finally got to the window and paid for my food, masking my impatience with a faked smile. But a moment later I felt my blood pressure rising again. They forgot my fries. Every single time.
On the other side of the world, a Somali woman and her two children trudge a dusty road toward the Kenyan border. She heard there was food there. Life has always been hard — especially since the murder of her husband by the militia. But now the crops had failed under the weight of the worst drought in 60 years. She did not know how many miles she had yet to cover, but she was confronted with a growing, terrible realization. All three of them were not going to make it to the border. But maybe two could get through. She left her older child at the edge of the road and walked away. When she told her story to relief workers, her voice was flat and emotionless. There was death in her eyes. It is the same with many of her countrymen.

A half world away, Matthew Johnson ’02 is fighting a different battle. It is the American public’s perception that it is pointless to assist those who, by the accident of birth, find themselves living in Somalia, the Horn of Africa, or even the greater African continent. Johnson’s stake in the crisis comes as a result of his job — he works in the public affairs office of USAID, the humanitarian relief arm of the United States federal government.

Since mid-2011, Johnson and his colleagues have attacked the problem with an innovative campaign called FWD. It is an acronym for Famine, War and Drought, and calls Americans to tell others about the situation in addition to giving. “What we are trying to do is to drive the conversation,” he says. His ultimate hope is that the facts and figures, combined with new giving technologies, will move the American people to once again to dig deep for a crisis on the other side of the world.

In the three decades since the late World Vision President Ted Engstrom ’38 first took to the airwaves to alert the United States to the crisis in the Horn of Africa, the West has been inundated with images of starving children, weeping mothers and gaunt livestock. While Johnson calls the images, “development porn,” he says the facts are stark. Thirteen million people are impacted by the crisis in the Horn, compared with two million in the Indian Ocean following the tsunami and three million in Haiti following the earthquake.

“Thirteen million people are impacted by the crisis in the Horn, compared with two million in the Indian Ocean following the tsunami and three million in Haiti following the earthquake.

This is the largest humanitarian crisis in the world … it is a very complex situation,” Johnson says. “There used to be a drought every 10 years; now it is every other year. They are getting less and less rainfall — they are not getting enough water to grow their crops. You have this massive amount of people who are experiencing the worst drought in 60 years.”

In addition to water and food shortages, Johnson said Somalis have felt the blunt impact of government corruption and the strong arm of Al-Shabaab, an Islamist group affiliated with al-Qaida, which has blocked food delivery as a tool of tactical policy. Perhaps most disturbing is data that suggests as many as 30,000 children have died since the crisis’ beginning.

“One person said they viewed Africa as a, ‘Big, black hole.’ They give and it doesn’t make any difference,” Johnson says. But the facts don’t bear out the assertion. Johnson says donations to USAID, which works with Food for the Hungry, CARE, Mercy USA, Save the Children, and other relief providers, are making an impact. The agency has been able to supply measles vaccinations, food and medicine — all of which have kept millions from being added to the death toll. Yet, he says Americans need a better knowledge of the situation in the Horn since the scope of the disaster is so great.

“The overall development community has seen a bump just by us doing this campaign,” he says. “We are trying to tell a story in a simplistic way with very short, very simplistic facts … While we can’t directly raise funds, we are trying to push people to understand the situation — once they understand they can give to the organization of their choice.”

Thirteen million people are impacted by the crisis in the Horn, compared with two million in the Indian Ocean following the tsunami and three million in Haiti following the earthquake.
PROCLAIMING

TRUTH

TO A WORLD OF GREY
Florida pastor, driven by his religious convictions and responding to what he views as a growing Islamic threat to the United States, announces he will burn a copy of the Quran – Islam’s most sacred book. The reaction is swift and predictable. Some call on him to refrain in the interest of safety for servicemen and women overseas. Some give at least tacit approval by remaining silent. Some even call on law enforcement to step in.

So one must ask the following questions: Should he be stopped? If he goes through with it – which he did – should he be treated differently from someone who, say, burns an American flag or copy of the Bible? Beyond that, what are the implications for not only members of our military who serve overseas, but the United States as a nation on the world stage? These are all questions we dealt with last year as members of Taylor University’s Ethics Bowl team.
The issues we deal with do not reduce to a matter of being black and white. We live in a grey world.
Sometimes when my friends find out I am on the Ethics team, they will ask questions like: is it a debate team? Do we use scripture? They will even ask if I liked to argue with my parents when I was a child.

The answers are: No, no, and yes. I was drawn to the Ethics team because I was fascinated by the idea of serious, critical thought about matters that face our world today. I feel that we, as Christians, need to be able to speak the truth into a world of grey. And, while the Bible is my guide and bedrock, I wanted to learn how to talk about important issues with my unsaved friends who might not believe in the Bible, but do understand there is a universal standard of right and wrong.

The cases we discuss are wide-ranging from sexuality and gender to energy and politics. One case we debated was about voting and whether college students should vote in their hometowns or in the districts in which their universities are located. Another case centered on South America, the environment, and hydroelectric power. Although these plants generate a significant amount of “green” energy, they alter the geography of the riverbeds and the flora and fauna around them.

The issues we deal with do not reduce to a matter of being black and white – we live in a grey world. Ethics Bowl is about critically exploring the different sides of a situation and understanding where the other person is coming from. Going back to the Florida pastor who burned the Quran, even we on the Taylor Ethics team had differing viewpoints. I thought it was reprehensible, but it’s debatable as to whether he is causing enough tangible harm to justify stopping him. Some of my teammates felt he was threatening the lives of our military and damaging interreligious relations. As we talked with one another, it occurred to me that these sessions are great preparation for the competitions – if someone on my team thinks a certain way, you can be assured that someone on the other team will also think that way.

You do have to be able to argue, but you also have to separate the person from the point; and that is a really good lesson for the future. We never engage in personal attacks. Instead, Ethics Bowl dialogue is like working a problem – the discussions are friendly and professional. You are not tearing down the person who is making the argument, although sometimes we do attack their arguments and have ours attacked. And that is okay.

Ultimately, I think that it is good training for me for life after graduation. I believe there are two ways to spread the gospel – one is by outright evangelism. But the other is by creating relationships and living your life in front of people in a godly way. I love Taylor and being surrounded by Christians who share my beliefs. But it is very important to train yourself to speak truth in a loving way that people can understand.

I love talking about things and I think the best part of discussion is listening. It isn’t about arguing and “beating” an opponent. That is one of the things I love about Ethics Bowl. We listen to other people’s viewpoints and learn where they are coming from. I believe the most loving thing you can do for a person who doesn’t know the Lord is to listen to them and value them.

The Quran burning: Is it a matter of protected free speech? We must be able to bring Christ’s perspective to whatever issues we deal with and engage those in our culture in a loving, non-threatening and respectful manner. I believe that will do more for the cause of Christ than merely “winning” an argument.

Libby Trudeau ’12 is a senior majoring in history and sociology. She is a member of Taylor’s Ethics Bowl team, which for the first time in school history advanced to the National Quarterfinal.
No snowmen, no snowball fights, no skating on Taylor Lake; winter was unseasonably warm but no less windy on the Taylor campus this year.
1939
William Hoke has written his third book titled, “A Rich Mosaic.” This, along with two previous publications, “A Rich Heritage” and “A Rich Retirement,” bring his life story up to date. Included in this book are some of his sermons, reflections from each of his grandchildren and love letters written to him from his first wife Mary (Hess) in 1937. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, please contact William at 508 Cherry Circle, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. He can be reached at billnancy2@verizon.net.

1943
01 Harry Wendell Hyde, 90, of Medford, Ore., died Oct. 1, 2011. He was an ordained minister who briefly pastored a Christian & Missionary Alliance church before acquiring a master’s degree in physics education at the University of Arizona in Flagstaff. Wendell taught high school science courses for 26 years at Santa Barbara High School (Calif.) until his retirement in 1986. After retirement he was a full-time volunteer at the U.S. Center for World Missions in the mobilization department. An astronomy buff, Wendell taught Westmont College night courses in the astronomy program and presented for the Santa Barbara planetarium.

1944
Dr. Paul Clasper died following a stroke on Oct. 29, 2011, at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, Calif., where he had retired in 1991. After graduating from Taylor, Paul attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and earned a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. After ordination, Paul became the vice president and professor of theology at Burma Divinity School near Rangoon. Due to political unrest, he and his wife Helen returned to the U.S. and spent four years on the faculty of Drew University (N.J.). He was later dean and professor of theology at the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley, Calif., and taught at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Two decades ago Paul wrote that he had been “a closet Anglican” as far back as his college years. He was ordained as an Episcopal deacon at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley and later as an Anglican priest at St. John’s Cathedral in Hong Kong. Seven years later he was called to be the dean at that cathedral. A stained glass version of the lotus and cross designed in 700 A.D. hung in every home he had. It symbolized, for him, the intersection of East and West religions and the integration of the Christian faith and world religions, one of the major emphases of his four decades of seminary teaching.

1945
Dr. Earl Pope passed away on Oct. 18, 2011, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was 91 years old. Born in Romania, Earl celebrated his third birthday aboard a ship when immigrating to the U.S. For 30 years he taught abroad at Lafayette College (Pa.). A popular and effective teacher, Dr. Pope received the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Faculty Award for superior teaching (1970) and the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for distinguished teaching and contributions to the campus community (1980). His scholarly interests ranged from church history and dogma to biblical studies and ecumenical issues of partnership, understanding and justice. He also became widely recognized as a groundbreaking authority on religious life in the communist countries of Eastern Europe. As a Senior Fulbright Professor at the University of Bucharest in 1992-94, Dr. Pope participated in numerous religious and educational organizations and events, and also organized a successful seminar entitled, “Encounter of Religions in the Black Sea Area” at Black Sea University, Romania.

1951
02 Twyla Bergman Marcum and Dalton Van Valkenburg ’50 were married in the Taylor University Memorial Prayer Chapel July 23, 2011. Van was Cal Marcum’s roommate at Taylor in 1947 and was in Cal and Twyla’s wedding in Aug., 1947. Van was widowed in 2006 and Twyla in 2010. The couple resides in North Canton, Ohio, and Aurora, Ill.

1952
03 Lois (Inboden) Kempton has written a book and has started a weekly column in her local paper.
She thanks her friend and classmate Ruth (Dixon) Truman for her encouragement. A recording of Lois' children's songs is upcoming. Lois can be reached at mastertrail1930@yahoo.com.

1955
Richard Allspaw died Oct. 22, 2011, at home. After graduation he served in the U.S. Army and later enjoyed a long teaching career at Adams Central High School (Ind.) where he taught physics and chemistry. He served as a timekeeper at Adams Central for various sports for over 40 years. A lifelong active member of Trinity United Methodist Church, he served on many boards and committees, acting as church treasurer for 28 years. Dick was a charter member of the Edelweiss Men's Chorus and was also on the board of the South Adams Senior Center.

Pastor Ralph Rickner passed away Nov. 5, 2011, after a courageous battle with cancer. While a student Taylor, Ralph accepted the call to pastor Union Chapel, a small country church near Taylor's campus. He also worked nights at a local factory, Anaconda, and carried a heavy college load. Through 37 years of service at Union Chapel, the congregation constructed a new church, parsonage, and other buildings. There were numerous outreaches including a weekly radio broadcast, a large bus ministry, K-12 Christian school, and, most importantly, hundreds of souls came to know Christ. The church congregation grew to over 1,000 in attendance as God blessed His work. He and his wife Marcy ministered together for 60 years.

1956
Evelyn “Evie” (Fisher) Althouse died May 10, 2011. Evie was a school teacher in the Canton City School System (Ohio) and also taught at Malone University. She was a member of the Faith United Methodist Church in North Canton. Evie is survived by her husband of 48 years, Rev. Jay Althouse.

1957
Rita (Gerhardt x) Lindholm died on Sept. 8, 2011. Rita is survived by her husband Loren ’56 who resides in Fox Lake, Ill.

1958
George ALHU ’78 and Jane (Hodson) Haines cruised the eastern Caribbean and visited with Dave ’92 and Cassandra (Edgecombe ’88) Smith. Cassandra and Jane are pictured here in front of the building that houses Cassandra's office as principal of Kingsway Academy, Nassau, Bahamas.

1960
David x and Carolyn (Norman x’58) Schudder, along with Dr. Daniel Dew ’64, regularly play together in the New Horizon String Orchestra (Ind.). David also plays viola in the Maple City Symphony Orchestra.

1969
Sheila (Solomon) Beers is pianist at the Jordan Baptist Church in Argos, Ind. During Indiana’s pioneer days, Sheila’s family members were instrumental in founding the church as a mission to the Potawatomi Indians. She also became a grandmother April 4, 2011. She can be reached at kayesksbeers@gmail.com.

1970
Dee and Ruby (Quiambao) Puntenney are pictured here on
a Segway tour of Copenhagen in Aug., 2011. They can be reached at DeePuntenney@pointloma.edu.

1971
01 Rev. Mike Beck has published a book entitled, “No Longer Silent: Doing Pastoral Ministry with Excellence and Grace.” Further information can be found on his website at www.revmikebeck.com or he can be reached at revmikebeck@comcast.net. Rev. Bruce Kenline passed away Nov. 16, 2011. Bruce was a World War II U.S. Navy veteran (1942-1946) and was a member of the American Legion in Florida. Bruce owned and operated a decorating and painting business with his father before serving as pastor for United Methodist churches in Indiana. From 1987-1994 he served as a missionary with Chinese Overseas Christian Ministry (COCM). During that time he taught Bible education in Russia and was also involved in ministry in the Dominican Republic.

1972
02 Robert E. Whitehead was recently appointed U.S. Ambassador to Togo by President Barack Obama. He is a veteran diplomat who has spent years focusing on Africa-U.S. relations. Robert joined the Foreign Service in 1983 and has served at ten overseas posts, all but three in Africa. His only European assignment came from 1995-1998, when he was posted to the embassy in Bucharest, Romania, to serve as political officer. In Washington D.C., Whitehead served as director of the Office of African Analysis in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research from 2007-2009, and then returned to Khartoum to serve as charge d’Affaires at the embassy. Whitehead is fluent in French and Romanian, and also knows some Arabic.

1973
Bob Davies stepped down from the pulpit after 30 years of service at the Immanuel Baptist Church. Bob and his wife Diane raised their three children, Andrew ’99, Elizabeth ’02 and Rebekah (Davies ’05) Satterblom, all while in the Greencastle, Ind., area. Bob and Diane will be moving to Muskegon, Mich., to be closer to family.

1978
David Ellis has completed all requirements for the M.H.Ch.B. (bachelor of medicine and surgery) from the School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences at University of The Gambia. He will commence a compulsory residence in Dakar, Senegal, after graduating from a medical school operated by the Cuban government. Dave can be reached at virgieclay@yahoo.com. • Michael Hayes recently retired from a 26-year football coaching career and was voted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame, class of 2012. He continues as a guidance counselor at Pardeeville Schools, Pardeeville, Wis.

1981
John Palacino is now soapmaster at Red Clay Soap, a division of Double Blessing Goat Dairy in Travelers Rest, S.C. John and his wife Rachel have been goat farming since 1998 and recently launched the goat milk soap website: redclaysoap.com.

1986
Olson girls (past and present) got together at Thanksgiving. Pictured left to right are: Alicyn (Jacobus ’86) Amann, Ashlee Amann ’15, Cara (Andjelich ’13) Johnson, Beth (Johnson ’87) Jacobus, Bethany Jacobus ’12 and Marion (Reeves ’86) Johnson. Beth left Taylor after her first year to marry Alicyn’s brother Brent Jacobus ’83. Ashlee and Bethany are cousins. • Jeff Comley passed away Oct. 5, 2011. A former manager for Budget Rent-A-Car in Cherry Hill and Princeton, N.J., Jeff was a member of the Fellowship Alliance Chapel in Medford and a loving stay-at-home dad.

1987
Twenty-fifth Annual Superbowl Party! Who knew that back in 1987, a gathering of mostly Second West Wengatz guys would lead to 25 years of renewing friendships and rooting on our favorite teams! Pictured in 2011 are (front row, left to right): Janice (Walmsley ’85) Tobias, Janis (Oeschle) Davidson, Stephanie (Wilson ’91) Walker and Robin (Boyd ’85) Harris. Back row left to right are: Mark Tobias, Randy Walker ’89, Kevin Davidson ’86, Tami VonGunten Robbins TUFW ’86, David Jost ’86, Jodi (Wernberg) Stephens, Jim Robbins ’87, Doug Stephens ’87 and Rick Harris. • Janelle Behm married Jeff Baldwin in Menasha, Wis., May 28, 2011. Jeff played drums in the worship band to open the wedding with contemporary Christian worship music and sang the Matthew West song, The Day Before You, to Janelle as she was escorted down the aisle by her father. The couple resides in Fond du Lac, Wis., where Janelle is the director of Agnesian Health Care’s online fitness center called the ZONE, and Jeff is a technology project management consultant for Bank of America. Taylor grads in attendance were Curtis ’87 and Jana (Saathoff ’87) Smith. If you’d like to contact the couple, visit their website at jplusjequalsweddingday.wedsite.com.

1989
• Robert Hartwell completed his capstone project and fulfilled the requirements of an M.B.A. degree from Bay Path College in Longmeadow, Mass., in 2011. That same month he also finished the New York City Marathon with a time of 4:30:12. Hartwell is the senior pastor of the Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School in Bronxville, N.Y. • Rick and Beth Muthiah live in Newberg, Ore., where Rick serves as dean of learning support services at George Fox University. Beth (English Hall director at Taylor from 1996-2000) orchestrates activities and schedules of their four children, Caleb, 11, Corban, 7, Malachi, 6, and Esther, 4, while leading a Bible study group, supporting friends and shining Christ’s light in their community. They would love to have visitors. Contact them at rbmuthiah@gmail.com.

1993
• Michael Alexander completed his master’s of ministry degree from
Bethel College (Ind.) in May, 2011. He and his family spent the month of July teaching pastors in Malawi at the Great Commission Bible School. Michael is senior pastor at Oxford Free Methodist Church, Oxford, Mich. He would love to hear from old friends. Contact him at pmalex@sbcglobal.net.

1996

01 Solomon and Deona (Jackson) Clark announce the birth of son Joshua on Sept. 13, 2011. They live in Delaware and would love to reconnect with Taylor friends. They can be reached at clark1220@comcast.net.

02 Ruth (Semonian) Vetter ran the Portland (Ore.) Marathon with Sara (Oyer) Hall in Oct., 2011. It was Ruth’s fourth marathon and Sara’s first. Currently, Ruth is an attorney for the department of defense and is a wife and mother of two boys. She thanks her husband for introducing her to distance running. Sara is a part-time counselor at Corban University, wife and mother of two little girls. She and her husband have their sights set on a sprint triathlon this next year.

03 Jenni (Arnold) Runestad, and other members of the Taylor women’s tennis team in 1992-1995, gathered for a reunion weekend. Pictured here are Amy (Smit) Paglia, Dana (Steckley ’95) Broderick, Katie (Colburn ’96) Austin, Jenni Runestad, Beth (Prior) Goldenstein and Janis (Hawks) Rivera. This team of women went to nationals three of the four years they played and tied for the conference championship the other year. They were a unique team; none were recruited and they had three different coaches during their four years.

1998

04 Bryan and Anna Cate (McWhirter) Chatman welcomed Joshua Bennett born Dec. 1, 2011. His sisters are Abigail Grace, 6, and Elizabeth Joy, 3.

05 Brandon and Carrie (Hartley) Cloud joyfully announce the birth of Claire Jane Nov. 8, 2009. She joins sisters Grace, 7, and Lillian, 4. Carrie enjoys being a stay-at-home mom and children’s ministry director at their church. They can be reached at Brandon.carrie3@yahoo.com.

06 Erin (Baier) Hartman received an M.A.E. from Indiana Wesleyan University in Dec., 2009. She was named a top three finalist in the 2011 Indiana State Teacher of the Year Program. She was also recently named department chairperson for the social studies department of Elkhart Memorial High School (Ind.) and an adjunct lecturer for Indiana University South Bend, through the Advance College Project. Erin lives in Goshen with her husband Matthew ’97 and sons Braden, 10, and Kellen, 5.

07 Jennifer (Horton) Isgitt was one of only 15 teachers nationwide to be named a national High School Teacher of Excellence by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). She was also honored as an Outstanding
High School Educator in the State of Texas and Secondary Teacher of the Year in the Keller Independent School District (ISD), near Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas. She teaches 12th grade English with a British literature focus, and Advanced Placement Literature, a course through which students can earn college credit. She also teaches online junior college composition courses. • Curtis and Jessica (Wilson) Owens welcomed Jordan Elizabeth born Dec. 17, 2011. Brother Zachary is four years old.

2000
Jared and Lana (Habegger) Hart welcomed their daughter Kesley Faith, June 28, 2011. Sister Morgan is three years old. They live in Metamora, Ill.

2001
Kara Gratz married Seth Zink on Aug. 13, 2011, in Bluffton, Ohio. Kara is in her tenth year of teaching middle school and high school choir at Bluffton High School. Seth is an antique dealer. Taylor participants in the wedding were: Amanda (Gonzales) Sandoz, Shaun and Shelley (Stonecipher) Casbarro, Kimberly (Baker) Tailford, Karin (Durtsche) Tooze, Angela (Swartzendruber) Guinn, Sarah (Culp) Shariılı, Joni Calderwood, Kim (Hilty ’03) Fritsch and Paul Yoder ’13. • Dave Perkins has been appointed co-portfolio manager of the Weitz Value Fund. In this role, Dave will assist in the day-to-day management of this fund. • Mark and Melissa (Mange ’02) Stalcup joyfully announce the adoption of Arianna Noel. She was born Jan. 1, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Russia, and came into their home Sept. 7, 2011. Mark works from home for ARAMARK, and Melissa also works from home for Aon Hewitt. The family lives in Colorado Springs, Colo. They can be reached at Melissa.stalcup@gmail.com.

2002
Tony Grace, advisor in the College of Nursing, University of Kentucky,
received the award for Outstanding Social Work Student in Kentucky last month. Tony is currently working on his doctorate in social work. He was nominated by Hospice of the Bluegrass for his volunteer contributions to their bereavement program for children. • Rachel Martin completed a Ph.D. in women’s and gender history at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is now an assistant professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she teaches courses on public history and civil rights. She is also associated with the Center for Heritage and Society. She can be reached via e-mail at rlmartin@history.umass.edu. • Mike and Becca (Speicher) McBride joyfully announce the birth of Liliana Grace on Feb. 25, 2011. They live in Indianapolis, Ind.  

2003 

02 Nathan and Brit (Jensen ’04) Elwell, along with son Jensen James Arthur, 2, welcomed Bella Lou on Feb. 6, 2011. They reside in Alpharetta, Georgia. • Brian Veen and Emily Lewis were married Aug. 13, 2011. Brian works with Kids Alive, and, after their recent marriage, both Brian and Emily are in the Dominican Republic as short term team hosts. Their e-mail address is bjv1215@yahoo.com. • LaToya Webb married David Aure on April 30, 2011, in Cottage Grove, Wis. Taylor alumni in attendance included Ryan ’04 and Kim (Lura ’04) Bergman, Joe ’04 and Gabrielle (Long ’04) Cressman, Scott ’04 and Sara (Ott ’04) Winkler and Derrick
and Katie (Hess ’04) Ressa. They live in Madison, Wis.

**2006**

05 Ben and Rachel (Clemens) Cuthbert are the proud parents of Thatcher James born Nov. 4, 2011. Brother Jonah is 2 years old. • Thomas Jackson received the degree master of science in emergency services management from Columbia Southern University, Ala., in Sept., 2011.

**2007**

Terra Bailey is completing her master’s of nursing at the University of Virginia. She would love to be a resource for any Taylor graduates interested in graduate school there. Contact her at terrag.bailey@gmail.com. • 06 Christy Wong married Gerald Stroud July 30, 2011, in Highland Park, Ill. Christy is a publicist at Tyndale House Publishers, and Gerald is an educator at North Shore Academy. The couple resides in Arlington Heights, Ill., and can be reached at cmwong37@gmail.com. Taylor friends at the wedding were (left to right): Mark ’06 and Alicia (Chew) Grunden, Hillary Durie ’08, Heidi Babson ’08, Alejandra Gil ’09, Christy (Wong) and Gerald Stroud, Rachel (Caldwell ’09) and Chris Le Roux.

**2009**

Nick Coats lives in the Washington, D.C., area and participates in the McLean Bible Church’s Leaders Program. It involves ministry and leadership training while working with

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the youth group at its Prince William Campus. • Megan Sauder has moved from Ind., to Calif., to take a job at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., which is pastored by Rick Warren, author of “Purpose Driven Life” Megan serves at Saddleback’s main campus on the worship and creative arts team as special projects coordinator. Megan also volunteers with the junior high and high school student worship teams.

2010

02 Laura Bobbett and Grant Armstrong were married on Dec. 18, 2010. Alumni involved in the wedding were Liz Barron, Emily Rausch, Ashlee Koenig, Sarah (Sodon) Crider, Gina (Danmeyer) Butterfield, Clint Armstrong ’12, David Hausknecht, Dan Aikins, Bryan Fleming, Tim Davis ’12 and Karmen Low ’09. The wedding was officiated by Dr. Phil Collins ’82. • Holly (Reed) Osbeck earned an M.S.W. from Grand Valley State University (Mich.) in April, 2011. She and husband Corey live in Grand Rapids, Mich.

2011

03 Janet Redding married Kyle Cassidy in Fort Wayne, Ind., on June 11, 2011. Taylor participants were Ryan Cassidy ’14, Kent Rexilius, Kyle Cook ’12, Tabitha (Bogue ’10) Lumpkin, Emily Arndt and Laura (Gustafson) Drake. The couple resides in Terre Haute, Ind.
...the human heart has not changed in the two millennia since Jesus walked on this earth.

People are still created in the image of God, and they still respond to love.

In his book Windows of the Soul author Ken Gire tells the story of a young missionary who found himself under the scrutiny of his sending organization because of his inability to keep detailed accounting records. For months the board worked with their young charge until making the difficult decision to, in essence, fire him. The missionary, obviously discouraged, just disappeared. No one knew where he went or what happened to him.

Years later another missionary went to this same remote village to tell its people about Jesus. She told them of His kindness, His love for the poor, how He went to their homes to eat with them, how He visited them when they were sick, fed the hungry, cried with the broken hearted, and how children loved to follow Him. Their eyes lit up and they exclaimed excitedly: “We know him well; he’s been living here for years.” The person they described and introduced her to was none other than the former missionary who had been dismissed as a failure. For he had come to this remote village and let his life be his sermon. Asks Gire: “I wonder, if someone were to come to our family, our village, our neighborhood, this school, and that person began to describe Jesus, would anybody hearing the description say, ‘We know Him well; He has been living here for years!’”

It is a refreshing contrast to the bent of discourse in our culture today. We know the doctrine. We stridently stand for what we believe is right. But do we see these men, women and children with God’s eyes as we battle for their souls? Dr. Harold J. Ockenga ’27, a man used mightily by God during his life, believed that we who are followers of Christ have a special obligation to preach the Word and engage the culture in a winsome, loving way.

In fact, it was Jesus Himself who said, “By this, all men will know you are my disciples – if you love one another.” While He was talking specifically about Christian fellowship, I believe He also was looking forward to those whose lives will yet be changed by His love. Consider his prayer recorded in John 17:

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one – as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one.

Pundits say we live in a post modern world – and perhaps that is so. But my friends, the human heart has not changed in the two millennia since Jesus walked on this earth. People are still created in the image of God, and they still respond to love.

But do we not have to hold love and truth in tension? An overemphasis on love blurs the extreme cost Christ paid on the cross for our souls. But if that pendulum swings away from love to strictly truth, we ourselves are pushed in the direction of joyless legalism, as was pointed out in a recent World magazine article: “Elder brothers (like the one in the Parable of the Lost Son) tend to forget that truth without love is like sodium without chloride: poison, not salt.”

All of us can model a better way before a watching world. As we engage the culture in the spirit of truth and love, my prayer for all of us is that our neighbors and others may one day say, “Yes, we know Jesus well – He has been living here for years!”

Dr. Eugene B. Habecker ’68 serves as president of Taylor University.
Sophomore Jason Koh spent the month of January serving in Ethiopia with Taylor’s Lighthouse program. Each year the University encourages and supports hundreds of students, faculty, and staff as they traverse the globe ministering Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need. This is part of the Taylor community’s commitment to anchor students with values to guide a lifetime.

Like Jason, many students come to Taylor with great financial need. Gifts to the Taylor fund enable 700 students each year to receive financial assistance through Taylor Fund Grants.

Thank you for your investment in Taylor students.
Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**John 14:6**

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

**1 Peter 1:22**

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

**3 John 1:4**

Truth never damages a cause that is just.

**Mohandas Gandhi**

The rarest quality in an epitaph is truth.

**Henry David Thoreau**

In times of universal deceit, telling the truth will be a revolutionary act.

**George Orwell**

Of course it’s the same old story. Truth usually is the same old story.

**Margaret Thatcher**