



## From The President



*"How long, O Lord, how long?"* Psalmists, prophets and even a king cried out to the Lord for relief when evil bore down upon them. With the attacks in Beirut and Paris this past week we find ourselves once again thinking of the unthinkable, staring into the face of evil and wondering, not if, but when it will happen again.

And we grieve.

- With those whose sons, daughters, spouses, parents and friends were murdered, we grieve.
- With the citizens of France and Lebanon, we grieve.
- With the Lord Jesus, we grieve. (John 11:35)

And we pray for comfort. May *"the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort"* (2 Cor 1:3) embrace those who weep. May the people of God be the presence of Christ, the embodiment of grace and truth, in the midst of suffering and loss.

And we cry out for justice. May those who perpetrated these cowardly acts of malice be justly punished. May we resist the temptation to hate and to seek revenge. Instead, may we follow the example of our Lord who did not retaliate against those who unjustly condemned him but *"entrusted himself to him who judges justly."* (1 Pet 2:23)

And we rebuke fear. While we *"wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,"* (Tit 2:13) may we step forward into this fallen world with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live and speak the gospel. May we embrace our mission more than our misgivings.

And we grieve.

Mark Young  
President

## Alumni Scholarship Fund

The Alumni Scholarship Fund was created with you in mind. All of the donations go to scholarships for current students. You can [give online here](#).

## Amazon Smile

Denver Seminary is on [Amazon Smile](#).

Select us as your charity and .5% of your purchases will be donated to the Seminary Fund.

## Upcoming Events

[Network for Alumni](#)



### Denver Seminary is Launching an Alumni Directory Project

Denver Seminary strives to keep our alumni connected to the school and to each other. In order to do this, Denver Seminary has authorized Publishing Concepts (PCI) to launch a project to update contact information for all Denver Seminary graduates and to create a new alumni directory.

You will receive e-mails, postcards, and phone calls from PCI requesting that you update your contact information. We encourage you to respond to these communications. Once PCI has collected the information, the company will compile the data and create a new alumni directory. You will have an opportunity to purchase the alumni directory while in communication with PCI. PCI is a trusted partner of Denver Seminary.

We hope you will participate in our alumni directory. Please know that no proceeds from the sales of the alumni directory or related products are given to the Seminary.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Brown, Development Officer at [jessica.brown@denverseminary.edu](mailto:jessica.brown@denverseminary.edu) or 303.357.5891.

Every 3rd Tuesday  
7:00 a.m.  
Jake's, Littleton

[Network for Alumni](#)  
Tuesday, January 19  
7:00 a.m.  
Café 225, Colorado  
Springs

### Alumni Resources

- [Job Board](#)
- [Denver Journal](#)
- [Other Resources](#)

Give where you live



## Support us on Colorado Gives Day! Tuesday, December 8

online at [ColoradoGives.org](http://ColoradoGives.org)

**\$1 Million Incentive Fund**



Learn more at [ColoradoGivesDay.org](http://ColoradoGivesDay.org)



### Network for Alumni

This is a space and time for professional and ministry partners to spark new connections and offer support to one another. Whether you are looking for professional or personal growth, service opportunities, creative ideas, or ways to grow your contacts, you will benefit from this time spent with like-minded Denver Seminary alumni.

Network for Alumni groups are meeting in Denver, Colorado Springs and Nashville (see sidebar for dates and times). Send us an [email](#) if you have an interest in starting a group in your area.

### [Alumni Updates](#)



**Patrick O'Neal, MA  
Counseling, 2013**

Patrick and his wife Erin celebrate the addition of their fourth child, Caroline. Patrick leads the Network for Alumni in Nashville, send him an [email](#) if you have an interest in attending.



**Brian Dyer, MA Biblical Studies New Testament, 2009**

Baker Academic and Brazos Press are pleased to announce that they have recently hired Bryan Dyer as New Testament Acquisitions Editor for the Baker Academic division. Dyer, who previously served as Marketing Director for Baker Academic and Brazos Press, received his PhD from McMaster Divinity College and has a MA Biblical studies, New Testament degree from Denver Seminary. Jim Kinney, Editorial Director of Baker Academic and Brazos Press, says, "*We are very pleased to welcome Bryan Dyer as our New Testament acquisitions editor. In recent years he has been leading our marketing department while finishing his PhD. He has consistently demonstrated*

*keen intelligence and sound judgment, traits that he will now apply to helping authors develop quality manuscripts.*"



**Button Vanosdall, MA Counseling, 2012**

Button stopped by the Alumni office to say hi and pick up her alumni t-shirt. She is currently living and working in Pensacola, Florida working for Navigators and the US Navy.

WorldVenture field leaders and Denver Seminary alumni gathered for a leadership conference in

Ghana.

**Pictured from left to right:**

Dan Penney (Senegal – M.Div. 1994); Rod Ragsdale (Cote d'Ivoire – M.Div. 1986); Kirk Slater (Uganda – M.Div. 1994) ; Nathan Kendall (Guinea – M.Div. 2001) ; Rodger Schmidt (Mozambique – M.Div. 2001); Dan Janzen (Rwanda – M.Div. 2004); Eric Flaa (Rwanda – MA Counseling 2009)



**Dan Penney:** Dan serves as the field leader for WorldVenture – Senegal. This field is involved in theological education, Bible translation, missionary kid education, and working to transform the reality of Senegal to one that reflects Christ's glory. Dan and his wife enjoy snorkeling, scuba, and their four sons.

**Rod Ragsdale:** Rod is a man of many trades and interests. Some days will find him teaching in a Bible school and other days helping pastors increase their income through honey production. A current interest is the starting of a game preserve in northern Cote d'Ivoire for the purposes of protecting the garden God gave people as well as creating economic lift for the villages around the preserve while also showing God's love. If you want to do powered parasailing or elephant watching in West Africa than Rod is a great person with which to catch up.

**Kirk Slater:** Kirk can tell you what a Kampala traffic jam looks like or a rural Ugandan church and Bible school. As field leader he shepherds teammates who are involved with 'at risk kids', theological education, graduate level education, and more. He and Laura with their four kids love and enjoy the life they get to lead in Uganda. If rafting the Nile is something you have always wanted to do, then their part of the world is the place to go.

**Nathan Kendall:** Nathan gets to live in what some call the mango capital of West Africa. In this location they are involved in church planting, leadership training, work with university students, and evangelism to their host cultures. Their environment straddles the Sahel to the rain forest of West Africa making it possible to drive to tall cool mountains one direction or hike stark rock formations the other.

**Rodger Schmidt:** Rodger and Lynn get to live a dream job that also includes a lot of work. After

running a successful egg business in southern Mozambique they moved to a northern island to open a hotel and restaurant business. Through loving discipleship they have been able to baptize the first believers in this UNESCO world heritage site. Want to sail on the Indian Ocean and finish the day with an excellent diner? WorldVenture's Rickshaw café on the island of Mozambique is the place to do both.

**Dan Janzen:** Dan brings a pastor's heart to the training of Rwandese pastors. These pastors are identified as one of the most influential segments of Rwandese society and yet many of them become 'born again' Christians as they study with Dan and his WorldVenture colleagues. Dan also adds to their studies an ag dimension so that the pastors can better feed themselves and their families. Dan and Rachel and their three kids would be more than glad to show you their pigs. Rwanda is known as the land of 1000 hills and its beauty is abundant.

**Eric Flaa:** There are few trained counselors across Africa and yet the hardships of life leave their marks on people. Eric Flaa seeks to give pastors the tools to better shepherd their people in the beautiful country of Rwanda.



**Jessica Johnson, MA Justice and Mission, 2014**

After graduating in December 2014 with my Masters in Justice and Mission, I agreed to travel to Uganda with Bright Hope International in January 2015 to help launch the "Orphan to Family Initiative". The goal of the initiative is to help guide the church (in Uganda and in the States) away from their desire to rescue an "orphan" (i.e. building orphanages) and towards their call to empower families. The main focus of the initiative in Uganda is to train, equip, and mobilize local pastors to implement Community-and-Family-Based OVC (orphan and vulnerable children) care. In many developing countries, including Uganda, 4/5

children growing up in orphanages are not orphans. Many parents, relatives, and caregivers believe that they are too poor to provide proper care and view orphanages as the only way for their children to receive an education, medical care, and access to other services. As Bright Hope's 'OVC Engagement Specialist', my role is to mobilize the local church here in Uganda to work to keep families in their communities together and to educate churches and Christians back home in the States on the importance of supporting Community-and-Family-Based OVC care and preventing children from growing up in an orphanage.

Between January and September of this year, 75 local Ugandan pastors and church leaders representing 15 churches and 3 communities attended monthly training sessions on Community-and-Family-Based OVC care. Topics included: The Call of the Local Church, Biblical OVC Care, Uganda's Alternative Care Framework, Child Protection Policies, Church Application, and Asset Based Community-Driven Development. The church leaders have been actively applying what they have learned in their communities. They have begun micro-savings groups for women, collected school fees and supplies for vulnerable children, held meetings with local government and community leaders to partner together in supporting families caring for orphans, and begun income generating activities such as pig, chicken, and mushroom farming for vulnerable families. One pastor built a relationship with an elderly Muslim couple who are helping to care for their grandchildren. When the pastor visited their home, he discovered that it was unsuitable to live in and decided to mobilize his church to build them a new home. The couple has since given their

lives to Christ and are now active members of the church.



**Ronald Putnam, M.Div., 1999**

I have been in vocational ministry for over seventeen years. During this period of time, I have been a senior pastor in Ocala, Florida, an associate pastor, a director of discipleship in Aurora, Colorado, a college teacher at Donetsk Christian University, and the president of Slavic Christian Ministries from 2001 until present.

I am also the author of three theology and discipleship books with over 23,000 copies in print and these resources have been used in four countries, and 80 colleges and universities in Russia and Ukraine.



**George Loring, M.Div., 1973**

After graduating I served in three churches(Wyoming and metro Denver area) for 25 years. In 1997 I went on staff with Denver Seminary as the Director of Development. That was a very exciting time as the school was implementing the new initiatives under Dr. Clyde McDowell. It was also a time of change after his untimely death.

Since I enjoyed the challenges of fundraising while working at the seminary, I began working with the CB family of ministries (CBAmerica, WorldVenture, and Missions Door) in that role. In February of this year I retired from full time ministry. I continue to help missionaries as a fundraising mentor/coach on a part time basis with Greater Europe Missions. My wife (Theresa) and I live in the Denver area where our four children and spouses live with our 9 grandchildren. We feel very blessed!

**Faculty/Staff Updates:**

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**Don Payne**, Associate Professor of Theology and Christian Formation has released his latest book *Surviving the Unthinkable: Choosing to Live After Someone You Love Chooses to Die*. This intensely personal narrative traces his process through shock, grief, anger, fear, and a host of unexpected sensations to redemption and hope. Yet, he offers no psychological analysis or formula to make it all OK. Here you will find hope-gritty, realistic hope that will deepen the resources of anyone who walks the unthinkable path of losing someone they love to suicide. Life on the other side of such a nightmare will never be the same, but there is life and it can be good.

## Faculty Travel Schedule

Our faculty speak across the globe. Find out if any will be near you soon. [Schedule](#)

## Your Comments Needed

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Denver Seminary is seeking comments from the public about the Seminary in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The Seminary will host a visit February 8-9, 2016 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Denver Seminary has been accredited by the Commission since 1972. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the Seminary:

Public Comment on Denver Seminary  
The Higher Learning Commission  
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

You may also submit comments on the Commission's website at [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org). Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. **Comments must be in writing. All comments must be received by January 11, 2016.**

## Come Back to Campus!

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We would love to see you and hear your story. In fact, we have a gift for every alumnus that comes to the Advancement office! You are a part of the Denver Seminary family, we care for you, and we invite you to stay in touch.



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Phone: 800.922.3040 | Email: [info@denverseminary.edu](mailto:info@denverseminary.edu)

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