

DENVER SEMINARY  
C A L U M N I  
C O N N E C T I O N



One recent morning I drove to a low-income part of Denver to meet with a spiritual director. Shortly after getting out of my car I came across a young woman, perhaps in her late teens, standing on the sidewalk - no shoes, looking disoriented, staring aimlessly. I said, "Good morning". She mumbled something about needing a ride, but did not know where she needed to go. Someone had just dropped her off there. When I tried to get more information about what she needed, she seemed frightened and turned away from me, refusing to turn back.

That familiar but wrenching sense of helplessness and sadness tackled me. Lord, have mercy! What has happened to bring her to this point? What will this day bring her? Why could I not make a difference? God, will you meet her? Will you help her? As a seminary graduate once said, "I didn't go to seminary to learn to say 'I don't know'". I could add that I didn't go to seminary so I could feel helpless. Ever felt that way, too?

Later that morning, one of our preachers spoke from 2 Corinthians 12:9 about Paul's tormenting weakness which was the occasion for his knowledge of God's grace. Paul brackets this letter with a similar theme when he recounts in 1:9 the multiple situations of despair he endured so that he might learn to trust in God and not in himself. Is it possible that Paul saw his helpless dependence on God's grace as his primary ministry qualification?

As I prayed for you, our alumni, I asked our Lord to make His grace known in whatever challenges you face. We certainly hope that your time at Denver Seminary provided rich and meaningful resources for whatever ministry God has given you. Yet, the irony in good ministry preparation is that it must teach us how to depend on God's grace and not our own competence. More than anything, we hope the diploma on your wall represents that learning!

We're grateful that you chose Denver Seminary as the place to hone your gifts and drive your roots even deeper into the grace of God. May you find the connections and resources in this edition of the alumni newsletter encouraging instruments of God's grace for whatever you face today.



Associate Professor of Theology and Christian Formation

Chair, Division of Christian Thought



## Fully Online MDiv Degree

Denver Seminary's esteemed MDiv is now being offered in two distinct delivery systems:

For those who prefer a classic format of learning and want to pursue an MDiv residentially that's *still* a great option. Classes are offered on the beautiful Denver campus near the Rocky Mountains. Or students can pursue an MDiv at the Denver Seminary Washington DC campus.

And now, students have the option to stay connected in their current place of work, ministry, and community and pursue the degree fully online without relocating. This vibrant online learning community integrates flexible, collaborative, and accessible learning experiences without the residential restrictions or need to uproot a person's life to reach their educational goals. Do you know anyone who is interested in pursuing a fully online MDiv? Send them this link: [denverseminary.edu/fullyonline](https://denverseminary.edu/fullyonline).

## Events & Resources

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### Day to Pray

Denver Seminary is preparing for our annual Day to Pray. This 24-hour event opens with chapel at 11:00 am on April 24 and closes in chapel at 11:00 am on April 25. Dr. McFarland and Dr. Young will be offering homilies during our chapels.

On Monday, several of our faculty and staff will be leading hour-long prayer efforts in the chapel and around campus focused on global, local, institutional, and personal needs and provisions. These smaller prayer times will be hosted on the hour from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm on Monday.

We invite you to mark these dates in your calendar and join us. If you cannot attend, we invite you to set aside time on these days to pray for Denver Seminary wherever you are as we engage the needs of the world together.

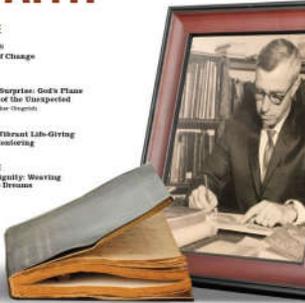
**ENGAGE** MAGAZINE  
Spring 2017 | Denver Seminary

## AN ENDURING PICTURE OF FAITH

Dr. Mark Young

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### Spring Issue of *Engage Magazine*

Our spring issue of *Engage Magazine* is out! If you aren't receiving it and would like to, please send your mailing address to [magazine@denverseminary.edu](mailto:magazine@denverseminary.edu).



### Denver Seminary's First FREE Online Course and a Chance to Win a \$300 Amazon Gift Card!

We are excited to announce the launch of our first FREE online course! [Click here](#) to register for "What's that Book About? Understanding the Big Story of the Bible", a free online course taught by President Mark Young.

Included in the course are 5 lessons, additional articles written by Denver Seminary faculty and alumni, and an optional weekly quiz to test your knowledge on the topics discussed in the course.

**We are also offering a chance for you to win a \$300, \$200, or \$100 Amazon gift card!** All you have to do is [share the course link](#) to the free online course with your network of colleagues, friends, and family and encourage them to register. Be sure to tell them to put your first and last name as the person who referred them upon registration. The top 3 entries with the most registration referrals will be selected as the winners for the Amazon gift cards.

We hope you enjoy this course and encourage you to [share](#) with others!

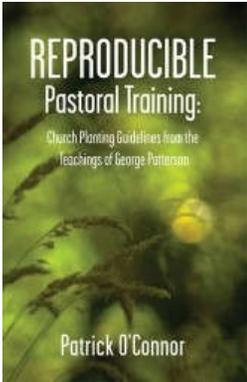
## Alumni Updates

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### Gary Bonebrake, MDiv, 1973

Gary is retiring from his ministry at Main Street Baptist Church, where he has served as Senior Pastor for the last 22 years. After graduation from Denver Seminary, Gary continued his education at the State Univ. of New York, Buffalo, MA in Hebrew Bible, and at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, DMin.

Gary and his wife, Barbara, have two children: Jonathan, who is an Academic Advisor at State Univ. of NY, Buffalo and Rachel, who is married to Steven Nicoletti, Assoc. Pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, WA. Rachel and Steven have three daughters.



**Patrick O'Connor, MDiv, 1992**

Patrick recently published his new book, *Reproducible Pastoral Training: Church Planting Guidelines from the Teachings of George Patterson*, which highlights specific action-oriented principles from the teachings of George Patterson. He guides the reader through the various aspects of cross-cultural ministry: the gathering of new believers, the development of new churches, the mobilization of new churches into a movement, the training of new leaders, and the departure of the pioneering ministers.



**Sarah O'Connor, MA BS(NT), 2015**

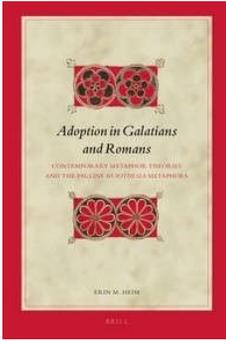
After stepping down from her role as an elder at Denver United Church, Sarah is currently focusing her efforts on writing. With numerous requests to put her thesis ideas on Paul's dual-conception of gender into a more readable format, Sarah has started a blog where she writes not only on gender and the Bible but also on general topics of faith. You can find her blog here: <https://sarahjoconnor.com/>.

## Faculty/Staff Updates

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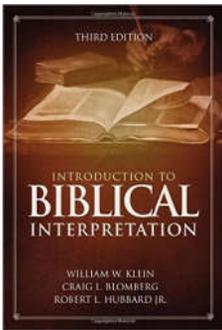
**Doug Groothuis**

Doug's next book, *Walking Through Twilight: A Wife's Illness, a Philosopher's Lament*, will be published this fall by InterVarsity Press.



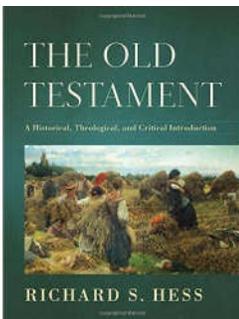
**Erin M. Heim**, *Adoption in Galatians and Romans: Contemporary Metaphor Theories and the Pauline Huiiothesia Metaphors* (Leiden: Brill, 2017).

In a new study on the Pauline adoption metaphors, Erin Heim applies a wide array of contemporary theories of metaphor in a fresh exegesis of the four instances of adoption (*huiiothesia*) metaphors in Galatians and Romans.



**William W. Klein, Craig L. Blomberg** and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr., *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Zondervan, 2017).

*Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, now in its third edition, is a bestselling hermeneutics textbook that sets forth concise, logical, and practical guidelines for discovering the truth in God's Word. With updates and revisions throughout that keep pace with current scholarship, this book offers students the best and most up-to-date information needed to interpret Scripture.



**Richard S. Hess**, *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction* (Baker Academic, 2016).

“Setting Scholarship Back a Hundred Years? Method in the Septuagint Commentary Series,” pp. 63-68 in L. K. Fuller Dow, C. A. Evans, and A. W. Pitts eds., *Language and Literature of the New Testament: Essays in Honor of Stanley E. Porter's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday* (Biblical Interpretation Series 150; Leiden: Brill, 2016).

## Faculty Travel Schedule

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

## Follow Us on Social Media!



Want to stay in touch with Denver Seminary events, alumni accomplishments, faculty stories, and much more? Follow us on social media. We are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). You can also follow President Mark Young on [Instagram](#)!

## 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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Denver Seminary  
6399 South Santa Fe Drive, Littleton, Colorado, USA 80120  
Phone: 800.922.3040 | Email: [info@denverseminary.edu](mailto:info@denverseminary.edu)

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