

Alumni Association presents awards

Hastings and Kim honored

Two men who have sought to share the message of Christ in creative ways are being honored by the Midwestern Seminary Alumni Association at this year's June 24 luncheon in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville. Recipients include Rich Hastings of Kansas City and Billy Kim of Seoul, South Korea.



Rich Hastings

G. Richard Hastings leads an 11-hospital health care system with a national reputation for service, innovation and success. But his biblical training comes from being disciplined by Baptists "as far back as the womb," he told a chapel audience last fall, recalling the teachers and pastors who had taught him throughout his childhood and later as an adult. Vocationally, Hastings has devoted a lifetime of service in establishing high quality health care. First serving as an administrative resident with Saint Luke's Hospital in 1976, Hastings became CEO in 1995 and transitioned to Saint Luke's Health System a year later. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, a member of the American Hospital Association, teaches adjunctively at Webster University in St. Louis and serves on the advisory board of the executive MBA program in health services management at Washington University in St. Louis.

Hastings served in the U.S. Air Force, receiving a Bronze Star for service in Southeast Asia. In addition to volunteering with numerous civic organizations, Hastings' interest in Jewish studies led him to serve on the board of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. He was the first non-Jew to receive the Mordecai Award from the Congregation Beth Israel Abraham & Voliner. His interest in biblical origins led him to endow an academic chair and institute for such studies at Midwestern Seminary.

"Both Judy and I believe that Christians and our pastors or shepherds need to understand our Christian heritage as part of the Judaic background," Hastings told Midwestern Seminary trustees last year following the approval of the G. Richard and Judy Hastings Chair and Institute for the Study of Dead Sea Scrolls and Christian Origins. The inaugural event was held in



Billy Kim

March as scholars discussed the significance of the scrolls. "The richness of Judaism improves our understanding of Christ and His teaching," Hastings said.

Long before Jang Hwan "Billy" Kim translated for Billy Graham, founded the Suwon Central Baptist Church, led the Far East Broadcasting Company or presided over the Baptist World Alliance, his life in a war-torn city was changed by the kindness of an American soldier.

"One man went beyond the call of duty to his country to be a friend to a Korean houseboy, brought him here, gave him a Christian education and sent him back," Kim related on one of Graham's broadcasts.

Over a million people were able to hear the gospel in a single service when Kim translated for Graham in Korea. His ministry to the Suwon Central Baptist Church in Seoul extended to 46 years, shepherding its growth to a membership of over 15,000 people. Later he led the Far East Broadcasting Company of Korea, part of an international ministry to Asia. Kim served as a council member and later president of the Baptist World Alliance.

"I believe with all my heart if all of the Christians combined together, if they have conviction and determination, we could fulfill the Great Commission within our generation with all of the technology we have today," Kim told a chapel audience earlier this year at Midwestern Seminary. He reminded students of Jesus' promise that God has supplied all of the necessary power to fulfill the evangelistic mandate.

Catt, Harner, McMurry and Winters named alumni of the year

Four alumni of Midwestern Seminary are being honored at this year's alumni luncheon in recognition of ministry in the local church, association and around the world.



Michael Catt

When Michael Catt challenged Sherwood Baptist Church to reach the world for Christ from Albany, Ga., he believed God would respond to their faithful obedience with miraculous results. One local church's vision to live out the Great Commission led to the production of movies that have had a worldwide impact—starting with *Flywheel*, then through *Facing the Giants* and most recently, *Fireproof*.

Decades earlier Catt determined he would live by the principles outlined in the Bible. "I want to be a man who sees the end results, who hears the inaudible, believes the unbelievable and thinks the unthinkable," he told a Midwestern Seminary chapel audience.

Catt has been entrusted with other opportunities for service to the denomination, including the trustee boards of the International Mission Board and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He led the 2008 gathering of the SBC Pastor's Conference and has served in state convention leadership roles.

Locally, Catt was honored for his work in seeking racial reconciliation in Albany and Dougherty County, Ga. He has led his church to be involved in crisis pregnancy ministry, disaster relief and recovery, hospice ministry and mission trips to several continents. Catt's own pastoral ministry began with the discipleship of scores of young people through 15 years of student ministry, later pastoring First Baptist Church of Ada, Okla. Catt studied at MBTS from 1975-1976.



Fred Harner

Mo., and Green Valley Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo., before heading to Brazil.

In addition to his broader assignment as a missionary, Harner directed a hunger ministry for Southern Baptists that funded drilling of 500 deep wells to provide water for communities experiencing drought. “Not only was water given, but many doors opened to the water of life,” Harner said. He also helped in securing land to develop an orphanage that cares for 80 homeless children who had been living on the streets.

Since retiring last year, Harner continues providing support for Southern Baptist work in Brazil through Amazon Vision Ministries of Gainesville, Fla., assisting with transportation and other needs for those ministering to the river people. He also organizes teams to do evangelism, discipleship, medical and dental clinics, as well as construction with the Amazonas State Baptist Convention in the Upper Amazon Basin.

Harner said the years spent at Midwestern prepared him for many of the situations encountered on the mission field. “We are thankful to the Lord, Southern Baptists and MBTS for the instruction and preparation both in the classroom and in examples of Christian living and leadership.”



Don McMurry

their souls,” he said, recalling Matt. 9:36. “Prior to that time I had tunnel vision as a pastor for my church’s community and only my community.”

In his 14 years with the Ohio association, McMurry has seen the value of working cooperatively across denominations to reach the most people for Christ. That approach has given him greater access to reaching the African-American community which comprises half of the city of Dayton. Through the “City Gates Project” he has Anglos from Southern Baptist churches meeting with a half dozen African-American pastors to develop a strategy to reach the inner city communities.

Within a year of receiving his M.Div. from Midwestern Seminary in 1970, Fred Harner (M.Div.’70) began serving as a Southern Baptist missionary in Brazil. Over the course of 37 years he focused on evangelism and church planting, eventually coordinating the strategy for reaching the six states in the Amazon Basin region.

Harner gained pastoral experience at Calvary Baptist Church in Paris, Ill., Maple Grove Baptist Church in King City, Mo., and Green Valley Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo., before heading to Brazil.

After laying a foundation of prayer, the group partnered with a Youth with a Mission group for a seven-week evangelistic campaign. “God brought a taste of revival in Miami Valley.”

Continuing to pastor while completing his doctor of ministry degree at Midwestern helped McMurry budget his time and develop latent gifts that he uses today. “The academic stimulation helped me develop my theological stance as a conservative as I did battle on a regular basis with the professors and classmates at Midwestern that were there when I matriculated.”

McMurry’s pastoral experience included two Ohio congregations – Riverview Baptist Church in Franklin and First Baptist Church of Fairborn – as well as First Baptist Church of Centralia, Mo.

Church-planting efforts combine with strengthening the 102 existing congregations as McMurry provides leadership, resources and assistance in every possible way. Recalling the vision he gained from missions professor Don Hammer, McMurry said, “I’m a better leader, preacher, administrator and missiologist for having studied at Midwestern.”



Fred Winters

Local church ministry became the life calling of Fred Winters (M.Div.’91) who gave 22 years of service to an Illinois congregation. A native of Kansas City, Fred Winters sensed a call to full-time ministry during his high school years in Raytown. In 1991 he earned the M.Div. from Midwestern Seminary as his ministry to First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill., was growing from its initial flock of 32 members.

Although Winters died at the hand of a gunman who entered the church March 8 and killed the 45-year-old pastor as he stood in the pulpit, Midwestern Seminary President R. Philip Roberts observed that the ministry of a faithful servant did not end on that day, but was validated.

“He was faithful to the end. Even under the threat of death he stood firm and courageous,” Roberts told trustees meeting during the week following the shooting.

His wife, Cindy, reflected on her husband’s ministry while speaking to 1,900 people gathered at his funeral. “Fred loved being a pastor. He had a pastor’s heart. When you hurt, he hurt, and when you were happy, he was happy. He never got tired of being your pastor.”

During the course of Winters’ tenure, the congregation grew to an average attendance of over 1,200, focusing on solid, biblical teaching, an encouraging spirit and prayerful direction. Cooperative Program giving increased from \$2,885 to \$213,350 last year, the second highest amount of all 1,000 churches in the state convention.

In addition to serving as president of the Illinois Baptist State Association and serving on the SBC Committee on Committees, Winters provided national leadership to Midwestern’s Alumni Association and taught adjunctively for the seminary. He was also involved in planning for a Billy Graham Crusade held in St. Louis and participated in Graham’s work in Amsterdam in 1986. MW