



HERITAGE SEMINARY

Greetings from the President

REV. RYAN RALSTON

There is a growing alarm in the United States concerning the percentage of ministers that are leaving the ministry. While I do not have time to list the causes delineated for the respective ministers' withdrawals, the data is clear that preachers are leaving the ministry with no intention to return. Duke University and Fuller Institute are the two latest landmark studies that show the percentage of ministers leaving the ministry is over seventy percent.

The weight of that data influenced the administration of Heritage during the development of our mission statement and educational philosophy. We came to three resounding convictions that will serve as the foundation of Heritage that I would like to share with you in this article.

First, the promotion of Pentecostal holiness standards and worship will serve as a core foundation. This desire may seem obvious and unnecessary, but too many schools of higher education have departed from their Pentecostal roots and focus upon Biblical holiness. Our desire is to be an extension of our holiness churches by strengthening the convictions and standards of today's generation. The inauguration of the church was a baptism of power and the requirement for holiness ministry remains the same today. We cannot allow our generation to become passive about

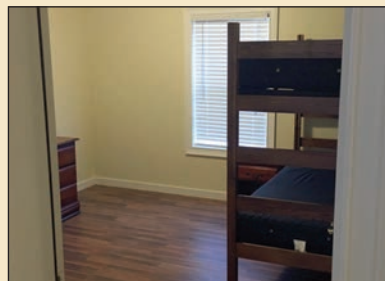
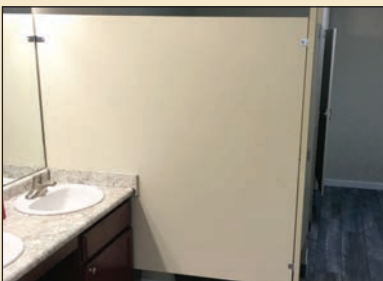
the Pentecostal experience or our Biblical standards of distinction. Heritage desires to prepare today's generation to minister on the platforms and in the classrooms of our holiness churches with clear convictions, fervent spirit, and anointed ministry.

The second core foundation of Heritage will be that it will be guided by a faculty that is Christ-like and competent. I have long proposed the belief that Christian educators have a difficult job because of the dual-nature of their responsibility. Not only must they transmit the required knowledge in a given subject, but they are also judged by the ability to inspire their students to grow spiritually. This required balance is difficult to navigate at times. We realize our faculty must help foster and transform each student to develop their spiritual walk with God while, at the same time, imparting the required theoretical content in an effective manner. God has given Heritage a faculty that is capable of achieving the desired balance. The faculty members are qualified academically to teach undergraduates and, more importantly, each professor is committed to Christ and a life of holiness.

Finally, the third core foundation of Heritage is the opportunity to train the students in practical ministry. We desire to give our students as much opportunity to "experience" ministry as possible. In addition to ministry outreaches of singing, preaching and mis-



sion trips, students are given the privilege of preaching chapel services weekly for BCA. This also includes the opportunity to develop skits and dramatized Bible stories for the 120 students that attend BCA. Another example of practical training took place this year at PFYC. Heritage students were given the privilege of writing the curriculum for children's church as well as conducting the two-day event at PFYC. This transformative experience is exactly the goal for the practical training emphasis at Heritage. Theoretical learning is important and necessary, but it must be accompanied by the ability for students to implement the knowledge they have gained. A failure to do so will increase the potential for failure among students and graduates. Heritage desires to be a conduit that will produce pastors, evangelists, Christian educators, authors, curriculum developers, missionaries, and Children's church workers. So it is our desire that when each student graduates they have been given the opportunity "to do ministry" and they are ready to serve the body of Christ. Grant it Lord, I pray!



GIRLS DORM

Please consider partnering with us in eliminating the current debt of \$60,000 that remains on the girls dorm. There are several giving options: give online at HeritageSeminary.org, mail a check, or call 912.921.0088 or 912.659.8409 to make a credit card payment over the phone. Thank you for your financial support of Heritage Seminary!

HERITAGE SEMINARY GRADUATION 2016

GRADUATION CLASS:

Bachelor's in Christian Education:

Justin Fiocoprile

Certificate in Christian Foundations:

Aaron Asselin

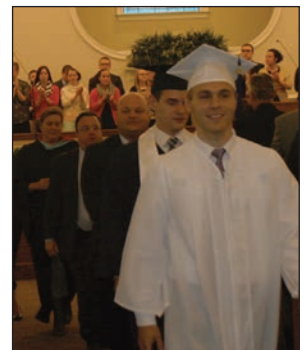
Caressa Burdine

Stormy Carroll

Kelsey Fiocoprile

Isaac Peyton

Grant Ralston



Merits of the One-Year Program

CARESSA BURDINE

The one-year certificate in Christian foundations given by Heritage Seminary is one that will prepare the student both spiritually and intellectually in their studies. With an environment that is conducive to the moving of the Holy Ghost, a new level of spiritual growth will be instituted. In the aspects of both academics and apologetics, this program will equip students with the necessary wisdom for future ministry experiences and educational programs at secular universities. Henceforth, dedicating an entire school year to pursue the will of God will bless the student spiritually and academically, and he will be trained with a pursuit to do all things with excellence for the glory of God.



Students of Heritage Seminary will be ex-

posed to powerful teaching under men and women who believe in holiness and are qualified for their position. With the infallible, inherent, and immutable Word of God being the foundation of all the classroom lectures, the coursework is built from these truths. Furthermore, courses such as Christian Apologetics, Bible Study Methodology, Doctrines of Holiness, and others will be taught to cultivate passions and desires in students that they will have a knowledge of their beliefs and standards. These teachings are designated to enhance the wisdom one already has for greater practical experiences.

A strong emphasis is placed on the practical training aspect of ministry. From ministry-outreach weekends to janitorial work around the church property, there are many different ministry involvements the students will facilitate. If some have a burden for children's ministry, Heritage students were privileged

in writing and forming a kids crusade for Pentecostal Fire Youth Conference this past year which was an honor to minister there. Also, on a smaller spectrum, Butler Christian Academy's chapel services are led by the Heritage students every week. Several ministry weekend trips to differing churches across America were beneficial in giving preachers great opportunities to preach at many camp meetings and regular services. Missions trips are set in place for further outreach across the globe. Thus, these firsthand experiences enable students to apply the knowledge that one has learned in class into regular ministerial life.

At Heritage Seminary, the one-year certificate received will bring many virtues upon one's life. Students will be equipped in every avenue of their life for the work of the Lord. With the opportunities spanning greatly over many differing ministries and an abundance of spiritual blessings, the students will be forever changed in their walk with God.

FOUNDER'S BANQUET 2016

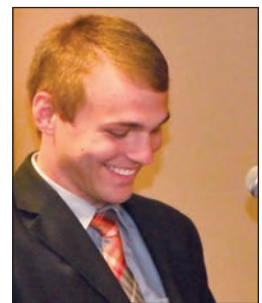
Heritage Seminary's first Founder's Banquet, which will be an annual event, was a wonderful celebration of the year. This event is a push for consistent donations to increase our donor base and our gratitude knows no bounds for the support that was shown from the Savannah Holy Church of God family and friends who traveled many miles to show their commitment to the success of Heritage Seminary. A special thanks goes to Bro. Israel Sanders and Tommy and Susan Clayton for their generous donations. If you'd like to join our donor base, please complete the pledge card enclosed and return to Heritage Seminary 474 Little Neck Road Savannah, GA 31419. Most importantly, please continue your prayerful support for the success of Heritage Seminary.



"POWER OF THE PEN"

Annual award given to Grant Ralston and Caressa Burdine for their excellence in writing during the 2016 school year. Dr. Ryan Ralston believes in the power of the written word and had the following quote from Dr. Elmer Towns inscribed on the awards:

"If you want to change the world, reach for the pen."



THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TEXT

REV. E. R. RALSTON

The focal point of God's revelation to mankind is the Word of God. The uniqueness of the doctrine of divine inspiration of Scripture separates it from all other writings. Infallibility, immutability, and inerrancy are three foundational pillars that support the doctrine of inspiration.



Thus, the importance of the establishment of the accuracy of the New Testament text is crucial.

One of the first arguments that must be refuted involves the rejection of the oral tradition of the transmission of the New Testament text as being accurate and reliable. Modern agnostics such as Professor Bart Ehrman misrepresent the effectiveness and accuracy of the oral tradition protocol. The implication is that stories, events, miracles, and discourses were manufactured. Thus, the various New Testament texts are composed of imaginary personal interpretive stories by the various writers. It should be noted that the modern skeptics and agnostics of today are guilty of misinterpreting biblical history, and as Richards and O'Brien declare in the title of their book, they are guilty of Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes.

"Oral recall was far more important in ancient societies, particularly Judaism, than we commonly allowed for. Oral tradition, then, in the social context of first-century Palestine, was more than up to the task of preserving the words of Jesus. This was a society well-attuned to preserving oral tradition."¹ "Prior to a text becoming 'canonical' – uniquely sacred and authoritative in written form – revered traditions in ancient in ancient Mediterranean cultures were transmitted orally with certain flexibility within fixed limitations."² The Gospel tradi-

tion was presented orally in public approximately eighteen years before the writing of the New Testament text. Thus, "In the earliest stages of transmission, before efforts were made to provide written records (see Luke 1:1-4), the 'tradition' was passed on orally. As has often been recognized, tradition (paradosis) has no necessary negative overtones in the New Testament."³ All of

the autographs were written before the end of the first century. Therefore, there were many eyewitnesses or those who received the oral tradition that could have challenged the validity and accuracy of the New Testament text. A search for ancient documents written during that time that challenged the original text reveals no documentation. Thus, the oral tradition was not a liability but an asset, making it a ready and valuable defense for the accuracy of the transmission of the New Testament text.

Another important factor to consider in the defense of the accuracy of the New Testament text was the scribal functions and practices. The scribe provided a valuable service. As an author or lector dictated the scribe would copy every word. Upon conclusion of the dictation session the author and scribe would engage in the critical work of evaluating, interpreting, and revising the copy as warranted. Once the final copy was approved the manuscript was published. This was a very tedious task that required great attention to detail. "To guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the transmission of the copied manuscripts, the scribes would count every letter and every word. If a single error was found, the copy was immediately destroyed."⁴

To increase the production of manuscripts the scriptorium was utilized. In this process a lector would dictate to several

scribes simultaneously. To insure there were no mistakes a corrector would examine the works of the scribes. Moving forward into the Byzantine period, the use of exemplar text as a master copy and archetype was developed. Most of this type of scribal methodology was done by monks who were pressured internally and externally to produce manuscripts of great quality and accuracy. Finally, the dating of scribal handwriting produced an important collection of paleographic evidence. According to paleographers, "who study ancient texts, including the over 5,800 manuscripts that make up the New Testament...surviving manuscripts of the New Testament date between the early second and fifteenth centuries A.D. This is remarkably close in time to the autographs, considering that the original documents of the New Testament were most likely written between about 50 A. D. and 95 A.D."⁵ In addition, "only a very limited number of manuscripts of ancient secular work actually exist, and only a few date from the second century A.D. In a word, the New Testament manuscripts are the most well-attested, and well-supported texts from the ancient world, based on their quantity, quality, and early dates."⁶

The autographs and manuscripts were written on papyrus and parchment (vellum). The parchment became popular because it allowed the copyist to move from writing scrolls to the creation of codices (ancient books). The progressive development of handwriting styles manifested in the manuscripts allows for the establishment of certain time periods. Writing at the time of the New Testament text was the uncial style which featured all capital letters with no punctuation or division between words. Manuscripts written from the first to the sixth century A.D. used this style. During the seventh and eighth centuries the miniscule style of writing was introduced which used

small letters with punctuation, word, and paragraph divisions. Thus, not only can the chronological dating be established for the age of the manuscripts, but an examination will show the accuracy of transmission of the New Testament text is consistent throughout the centuries.

To further support this fact it should be noted that the Papyrus Bodmer (AD 200), the Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri (AD 240), the Codex Vaticanus (AD 325), the Codex Sinaiticus (AD 350), and the Codex Alexandrinus (AD 350) manuscripts were very likely copied while the autographs were still available. Thus, the attention to details, dating, and the precautionary steps to prevent error taken by the scribes are inestimable in preserving the New Testament text. The insightful and specialized work of a script presents a great argument connecting the 5,800 manuscripts close to the autographs. Therefore, the body of work done by the scribes and paleographers provides a formidable defense for the accuracy of the transmission of the New Testament text.

1. James Patrick Holding, *Trusting the New Testament*, www.tekonics.org/ntdocdef/orality01.php. accessed 12/5/2015.
2. Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011), 451.
3. D.A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992), 496.
4. Fred Williams, *Meticulous Care in the Transmission of the Bible*, www.bibleevidences.com/transmission.htm. accessed 12/5/2015.
5. Joseph M. Holden and Norman Geisler, *The Popular Handbook of Archaeology and the Bible* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2013), 103.
6. *Ibid.*

HERITAGE STUDENT MINISTRY

PASTOR J BRENT GABBARD
BIBLE HOLINESS CHURCH OF ELKTON

In October of 2015, our church was blessed to host the ministry team from Heritage Seminary during our annual camp meeting. From arrival to departure the group contributed greatly to the overall success of the meeting. During the services they were fervent in spirit, always eager to worship and to work around the altars; but they were also faithful in service, willing work behind the scenes in whatever means nec-

PASTOR JEREMY HOWELL
BETHEL HOLINESS CHURCH
LABELLE, FLORIDA

Matthew 5:16
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

This verse gives each one of us a mandate:

"Let your light so shine." The students of Heritage Seminary did just that while ministering to us at the Bethel Holiness Church in LaBelle, Florida. This group of students was comprised of young men and young women from several different churches and backgrounds. Yet they shared a "like precious faith." Each student possessed their individual God given talents and used them effectively. Each one seemed to be drawing on their own unique experiences and their diligent studies to spread God's word and fulfill His plan. It was evident to us at Bethel that each one of the students is like a "sponge" full of the Word of the

essary to lessen the burden of the meeting. (Our kitchen crew will be forever grateful for their help!)

We feel that it was a privilege to have been a part of this ministry, and say thank you once again to the young men and women who have dedicated themselves to the work of the Lord and the furtherance of the Gospel. We also say a heartfelt thank you to Bro Ralston, the faculty, and staff at Heritage Seminary for providing a place where the young men and women of today can become better leaders of the church tomorrow.

Lord and they are ready to be "wrung out" by the hands of their Master. They came to us full, prayed up, prepared, and in power. The hearts of the hearers were saturated by their anointed messages and singing. During the services they were lead of the Holy Ghost and ministered a breath of life to needy people. These students have chosen to leave the secular universities and the corporate world. It's apparent they have committed their lives to walking with the Lord wherever He leads them and He is directing their steps. He is honoring their commitment and dedication. We saw their good works: They came with a burden for the Lost. They came with a homecoming message for the wayward sons and daughters. They came with words of comfort for the troubled and weary. The joy of the Lord was their strength. The Light in their hearts shown brightly and warmed our hearts. We couldn't help but glorify the Lord Jesus. We look forward to hosting "Heritage" again in the near future. May the Lord continue to bless Heritage Seminary!

STUDENT BODY 2016



PASTOR MIKE SHAFFER
FULL GOSPEL CHURCH ROANOKE VA

March 18 – 20, 2016, Lighthouse Full Gospel Church, Roanoke, VA. Hosted students from Heritage Seminary. (Student Aaron Asselin, had spent several of his early years in our congregation.) It is always a privilege to see the vision and work of Christ continue in the lives of another generation.

We planned a weekend of outreach ministry with the purpose of ministerial exposure in the lives of each student which attended. Friday evening, we had a brief overview of the weekend plans. It was made clear our plans might get rapidly changed as weather patterns had shifted and rain was imminent. I expressed adaptability and flexibility was a needed trait for successful ministry and could be needed for Saturday outreach. Saturday am, we gathered for an early breakfast, then met for a season of prayer. Bro. Justin and Bro. Cameron shared in devotions Saturday. Following prayer, groups were sent in various directions for door knocking and sure enough it seemed just moments after we began, heavy rain began to pelt the area. Plans were shifted, groups going to hospital visitation, nursing home ministry where students assisted in activities patients were doing, and also going room to room sharing scripture and praying with patients. Following lunch, we went various directions, doing visitation and a cottage prayer meeting was held, elder gentlemen was taken for a haircut, and other acts of ministry were performed. Regrouping at the church, we all headed south to host a late afternoon service for ministers Bro. Berle Wright and Bro. Billy Wells. The spirit of the Lord was present, encouraging all, as the students ministered in song, testimony and the preaching of the Lord. After closing, we gathered back for evening meal. Prayer service had been planned, but due to lateness of hour, and obligations for the ministry on Sunday, the groups divided up for evening. However, several staying at the Pastors home began to discuss biblical issues and scripture was shared until early in the am. On Sunday, each student participated either in leading the services, songs, teaching of classes, playing of instruments and other forms of ministry. One student was requested to lead congregational songs in the evening service, and the response was, "Bro. Shaffer I have never led songs, but would be glad to." And she did and did well! Bro. Robbie Kelly ministered in morning service. The Holy Ghost began to touch souls as the students ministered and many began to seek for the baptism. Bro. Aaron was scheduled to preach, but ended up only speaking briefly after altar service.

We had good response, with the ministry group participating and adapting well in all forms of ministry and conduct. I am thankful for the work of the Lord and those who will be available for use in the kingdom. I encourage other pastors and churches to give opportunity to these ministries for service and growth. I look forward to hosting a Heritage student group and other ministries in the future as God allows.



PFYC KIDS CRUSADE 2016

"This is the way to win"

