The Distinguishing Feature of Christian Counseling

by Dr. Wayne A. Mack

The Chicago statement on biblical inerrancy states that "the authority of Scripture is a key issue for the Christian Church in this and every age. Those who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are called to show the reality of their discipleship by humbly and faithfully obeying God's written Word. To stray from Scripture in faith and conduct is disloyalty to our Master. Recognition of the total truth and trustworthiness of Holy Scripture is essential to a full grasp and adequate confession of its authority."

A s a Christian, I wholeheartedly agree with every aspect of this general statement on biblical inerrancy and authority. Holy Scripture, being God's law and testimony, is true and should therefore serve as our standard for all matters of faith and practice ( Isaiah 8:19-20; 1 Peter 1:2). There is no authority that is higher than the one found in Scripture. Wherever and on whatever subject the Scriptures speak, they must be regarded as both inerrant and authoritative. Therefore, because I affirm the preceding conviction, I believe in the sufficiency of Scripture in the area of counseling. And because this is what I understand Scripture to be teaching about itself, my professor of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior compels me to submit to this sufficiency teaching. As I see it, doing anything less would amount to me being disloyal to my Master.

There have always been people who have affirmed the inerrancy and authority of Scripture in matters of faith and practice, but who would not affirm the sufficiency of Scripture for understanding and resolving the spiritual (non-physical) problems of man. They believe that we need the insights of psychology to understand and help people. In essence, they believe that when it comes to these matters, the Bible is fundamentally deficient. They believe that God did not design the Bible for this purpose, and consequently we must rely on extrabiblical psychological theories and insights. For many Christians, the Bible has titular (given a title and respected in name) rather than functional (actual, practical, real, respected in practice) authority in the area of counseling. It is acknowledged to be the Word of God and therefore worthy of our respect, but when it comes to understanding and resolving many of the real issues of life, it has limited value. Whenever and with whomever this kind of counseling occurs, we are convinced that, though the counselor may be a Christian, his counseling is sub-Christian because it's not conscientiously and comprehensively based on the Bible. This movement has as its basic foundation the integrationism of secular psychology and the Bible.

In our day, there are many who are calling their counseling methods "Biblical Counseling". David Powlison in Introduction to Biblical Counseling (p.56) states, "the integrationist movement of Christian psychotherapists increasingly employs the adjective "biblical" and calls for theological renewal...the higher degree of verbal similarity between integrationist and biblical counseling has the potential to confuse many." He is, therefore, crucial that we clearly articulate what "Christian" counseling truly is.

Several years ago a Christian from the Netherlands interviewed me about my perspective on Christian counseling. He was traveling throughout the United States, questioning various Christians who were counselors and teachers of counseling about their views on what constitutes Christian counseling. I told my interviewer that any counseling worthy of the name Christian has four distinguishing features.

Christian-Centered Counseling. First, Christian counseling is conscientiously and comprehensively Christ-centered. It makes much of who and what Christ is, what He has done for us in His life and death and resurrection and in sending the Holy Spirit, what He is doing for us right now in His intercession at the Father's right hand, and what He will yet do for us in the future. In Christian counseling, the Christ of the Bible is not an appendage, but a "tack on" for living in the fast lane. Rather, He is at the center as well as the circumference, and everything in between, of counseling.

Christian-centered counseling involves understanding the nature and causes of our human difficulties understanding the ways we are unlike Christ in our values, aspirations, desires, thoughts, feelings, choices, attitudes, actions, and responses. Resolving these sin-related difficulties includes being redeemed and justified through Christ, receiving God's forgiveness through Christ, and acquiring from Christ the enabling power to replace unChristian (sinful) patterns of life with Christian, godly ones.

Salvation-Centered Counseling. A Christian counselor is also conscientiously and comprehensively Christian in his outlook on life. Truly Christian counseling is done by individuals who have experienced the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit, who have come to Christ in repentance and faith, who have acknowledged Him.
 Founded as Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary in 1927, The Master's College provides a non-denominational liberal arts education fully integrated with the Christian faith. Dr. John MacArthur, pastor, author, and world-wide Bible teacher, has served as president since 1985.

The mission of The Master's College is to empower students for a life of enduring commitment to Christ, biblical fidelity, moral integrity, intellectual growth, and lasting contribution to the kingdom of God.

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Editorial

Over the last three decades the evangelical world has been frantically trying to marry secular psychology and biblical truth. Christians seem to be growing more and more committed to it. Perhaps it is fair to say that many in the Church are addicted to psychotherapy.

The rush to embrace psychology within the Church is frankly myopilising. Psychology and Christianity have been enemies from the beginning. Freud's presuppositions were atheistic and cynical. He called religion a "universal, obsessive neurosis." To him, religion was an illusion that derived its strength from irrational, wishful thinking rooted in human instinct. (Sigmund Freud, New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis, lecture 35, New York: Norton, 1977). Those who followed Freud at first were uniformly hostile to biblical belief. The foundational disciplines of the movement were therefore based on blatant anti-Christian presuppositions. To Freud and his followers the human being was nothing but an animal motivated by sex drive and other ego needs.

Psychology gained great popularity at the turn of the century. It was ideally suited for an increasingly secular age. By the middle of this century, the new discipline was accepted by the popular mind as a full-fledged science, even though the movement was already beginning to fragment into more effective therapies than traditional spiritual counsel could ever offer. They stressed in no uncertain terms that spiritual counsel and the clergy should stay off their turf.

Too many pastors capitulated to such thinking, and over the past forty years or so, counseling has steadily moved out of the Church and into the clinics. Now "Christian" psychology is a billion-dollar business. Yet has the spiritual and emotional state of believers been improved by this trend? Surely no one would argue seriously that it has.

Selrps commandments make me weaker than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Thy precepts (Ps. 119:98-100).

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Dozens of similar passages could be quoted to demonstrate the utter superiority and absolute sufficiency Scripture claims for itself. Either we believe what God's Word teaches in this regard, or we open ourselves to all kinds of corrupt influences from worldly thinking. The choice is as simple as that.

I am encouraged to see a large movement of Christians returning to Scripture as the sole source of wisdom and correction for the human soul. I am grateful to God for the men and women He is using to awaken the Church to this need.

Wayne Mack is one of those who have been at the forefront of this issue for many years. Under his wise leadership, The Master's College is building a biblical counseling program that is unequalled anywhere.

One of the promising trends in the evangelical world today is the emergence of a renewed emphasis on counseling that is biblical—not mere psychology colored by biblical words and phrases but an earnest effort to help people solve their problems by turning them to the objective, life-changing truth of Scripture.

Scripture does, after all, claim to be the only reliable resource to which we can turn to solve our spiritual problems:

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word (Ps. 119:9).

Thy testimonies also are my delight: they are my counselors (Ps. 119:24).
The first reason is related to the finiteness of man’s knowledge (limitations of human knowledge). The fact that man is finite necessarily limits the extent and validity of his knowledge. Even Adam in the garden was a finite human being who needed God’s revelation to rightly understand God, himself, what was right and wrong, what was true and what was false, what should be believed and what should not be believed. (Genesis 2:16-28; 2:15-17, 24).

Man’s wisdom is subject to change and revision. In an article entitled “Education’s Duplicity: Utelessness”, Russell Baker writes, “The truth about knowledge seems to be that its truth is only a sometimes thing, that what we accept as truth this year will have to be abandoned as the world turns... This endless abandonment and revision is usually said to result from progress. But suppose progress is also an idea doomed to be abandoned. What if there is no such thing as progress, but only change? (Russell Baker, The New York Times 3/16/96)

In this article, Baker ardently advertises the tentative nature of our humanly discovered knowledge or “truth” as he asserts that “what we accept as truth this year will have to be abandoned or revised”. And why is humanly discovered truth...only a sometimes thing? One reason is because man’s finiteness necessarily limits the extent and validity of his knowledge. Secular psychology is characterized by this limitation of human knowledge.

A second factor that causes us to reject the idea that Christian counselors should welcome and depend on extra biblical insights and therapies for ministering to people is connected to the biblical teaching about the depravity of man’s nature since the fall of Adam in Genesis 3. Any biblical discussion of how man comes to know truth must include a consideration of what theologians often refer to as the “noetic” effects of sin (The word “noetic” is related to the Greek word “ nous” which is translated by the English word “mind”). Scripture clearly teaches that every aspect of man’s being has been affected by sin. Man’s character, speech and behavior have all been perverted by sin— as well as his emotions and desires, his conscience and will, his intellect, his thought processes, his goals and motives, the way he views and interprets life. None of man’s faculties has escaped the corrupting, corrosive, perversion and debilitating impact of sin.

This leads me to draw three conclusions:

Conclusion one is that the inerrant Bible to which Christians are committed as an authority in life teaches that God has provided for us in His Word whatever is necessary to direct our steps. It declares that God has given us in the Bible everything we need for being in right relationship with God and living in right relationship with ourselves and other people.

Conclusion two is that because this is true, professing Christians have two options: either they must yield to its teaching or they must abandon the idea that the Bible is inerrant and authoritative. It is either inerrant and authoritative or also sufficient or is it none of these things. If the Bible claims to be sufficient in the ways and for the purposes previously delineated and it lies, then you cannot say it is inerrant and authoritative. Given what the Bible teaches about itself, you simply cannot have it both ways.

Finally, a natural concomitant of accepting the truthfulness of the first conclusion: Because the Bible asserts its own sufficiency for counseling related issues, secular psychology has nothing to offer for understanding or providing solutions to the non-physical problems of people. When it comes to counseling people, we have no reason for dependence on the insights of finite and fallen men. Rather, we have every reason to place our confidence in the sure, dependable and entirely trustworthy revelation of God given to us in Holy Scripture because Scripture contains a God ordained, sufficient, comprehensive system of theoretical commitments, principles, insights, goals and appropriate methods for understanding and resolving the non-physical problems of people. It provides us for a model for helping people that needs no supplement. God, the expert on helping people has given us in Scripture counseling perspectives and methodology that are wholly adequate for resolving our own sin related problems.

Why, then, would any Christian think that we must turn to or place our dependence on the extrabiblical theories or practices of men for understanding and promoting change in people?

(Adapted from Dr. Mack’s article in Totally Sufficient, 2 Harvest House, Eugene, 1997).

Dr. Mack is Program Director and Professor of Biblical Counseling at The Master’s College. He also teaches at TMC in 1993. An established author, his works to date include Strengthening Your Marriage, Preparing for Marriage God’s Way, and The Biblical Doctrine of Church Discipline. He is a Fellow and Board Member of the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors, and a member of the Association for Christian School Counselors & Career Stewardship. He is also an associate editor of Reformation Today, a Christian magazine.
Darrell and Ruthanne Beddoc '68 are in their 22nd year of ministry at Whitney Baptist Church, Boise, ID. In addition to his daily pastoral duties, Darrell is on the board of Camp Maranatha, active in the Northwest Regular Baptist fellowship of churches, and is the Secretary of the Board of Directors at The Master's College. Ruthanne is in her seventh year of teaching at West Junior High School in Boise. They have four children.

Older son Paul '88 is in the final stages of his Doctoral dissertation with St. Andrews University, Scotland and is an Adjunct Professor of History at Boise State University. Son, David '92 is teaching secondary social studies at Santa Clarita Christian School in Canyon Country, CA. Daughter, Sarah '96 is also teaching at a Christian School (Pacific Christian) in secondary Math. Their youngest, Anna, is a sophomore Music major at TMC. Now that's a Master's College family!

Robert and Mary Vandiver '71 live in Portland, OR. Robert has received his Doctorate in Ministry (D.Min.) from Western Seminary. He also has a Master's degree in Genetics from Cal State Northridge. He is the Pastor of Happy Valley Baptist Church in Portland, OR. His wife, Mary '70, works in the Teacher Education office at Western Pacific College. Bob and Mar have two children Lisa '77, and Christopher '79.

Barbara (Dirks) Fien '73 is teaching and working with juvenile delinquents at the Challenger Facility in Amihoop Valley, CA.

Gary and Barbara (Howe) Dobson '78 live in Sewanee, MS. Barbara is a secretary at their children's elementary school. Gary works in a ceramic clay factory. They have two children - James, 16, and David, 13.

Jeff and Cindy (Istrop '81) Hallman '82 have a baby girl, Callie JoZae and live in Sausal, CA where Jeff coaches Varsity basketball at Sausal High School.

Cindy teaches third grade at Bouquet Canyon Elementary School in Saugus. Jeff is recovering from Hodgkin's disease.

Philip '84 and Lisa (Rock) '90 Howe live in Sutter Creek, CA. Phil works at Pine Grove Electronics as Business Manager and owns PUSH Electronics - building circuit board components. They have two children, Stephen, 18, and Caleb, 14 mos. In addition to homemaking, Lisa tutors.

Robb and Pam (Beltran) Provost '87 are missionaries with SEND International. They have returned to Albania after 7 months emergency hiasis in California. Albania has been in civil and social turmoil after emerging from its communist isolationism in 1989 with heightened military activity erupting in early 1997. Robb and Pam are involved in personal evangelism as well as a special Albanian sanctioned education program that provides a tremendous outreach.

Jessie Billy '80 is teaching high school Biology in Tuba City, AZ.


Donna (McCulure) '89 Jacobs is the proud mom of a new baby girl, Hallie Elizabth, born July 11, 1997. She joins older brother, Robbie. Donna and husband, Rob, live in San Clemente, CA.

Cindy Atkinson '90 was married on June 29, 1996 to Jason Cross. They both work at Center Chevroler in San Bernardino.

Jeff and Shawn Caleberg '90 have a new baby boy, Jesse Roland. born July 8, 1997. Shawn is an administrative assistant for SPEC in Valencia, CA, and Jeff works for Primavera as a financial analyst.

Steve '90 and Michelle (Woods) '92 Kirchenmeier live in Canyon Country, CA with their son Trenton. Steve is the Senior Tax Manager at PMC, Inc. in San Valley, CA.

Cassy (Compton) '90 Yeo and her husband Dan live in Coolidge, AZ. They have a two year old girl, Alyssa. Cassy is a registered nurse at a hospital emergency room.

David and Tami Gripe '91 live in Monterey, CA and have two children, Jordan, 3 and Bethany, 14 months.

Philip completed his Master's degree in Marine Biology at Cal State, Los Angeles and is now fulfilling a lifelong dream as a Marine Biologist at Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Greg and Julie (Williams) '91 Elgisti '92 live in Redmond, WA. After graduation, Julie completed her Nursing degree at Seattle Pacific University and now works with critically ill children at the Seattle Children's Hospital. Mark works for Microsoft Research in the Advanced Development Tools Group.

Javier Nunez '92 is teaching at Placeita Jr. High School in Santa Clarita and has two children.

Melissa Bouma '93 seconded to her home in Bellevue, WA after three years of teaching 6th grade at a missionary's school in Papua New Guinea.

Kam Pifer '93 works as an Audio Editor for Captain Crossing, LLP. He lives in Pomona, CA with his May, 1997 bride, Joy.

Michelle Rehm '93 lives in Canyon Country, CA and teaches Foods at La Mesa Jr. High School. She also does catering for small weddings, is involved in church women's ministry, and takes kick boxing lessons.

Brad Rozell '93 married Myra Soler '94 on October 11, 1997 and they make their home in Santa Clarita.

Karen Thomas '93 teaches middle school in Nairobi, Kenya to both missionary children and nationals. She lives near her parents who serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Nate '95 and Cheryl (Lott) '93 Marshall '95 live in Escondido, CA where Phillip is studying for the ministry. Cheryl has had several music compositions published by Abundant Life Music Company (owned by Charles Davis '92). A recording of Cheryl and Charlie's work can be obtained by e-mail at: alnocck@msn.com

Steve and Glory (Smith '95) Waldeck '93 have a baby daughter, Riley, born in April, 1996. Steve serves as the Director of Campus Ministries at TMC.

Kreston and Denise (Gaydos) Welch '93 have moved to Stockton, CA where Kreston is the youth Pastor at Quail Lakes Baptist Church. They are expecting their second child, December, 1997.

Juan Hernandez '94 and Kyler Welch '92 are both working on their Master in Music degree in chorale conducting in Cal State system schools. They are expecting their second child, December, 1997.

Jessica Hudson '94 teaches 6th grade at Bouquet Canyon Elementary School in Santa Clarita. Jesscia is also working on getting her teacher's credential this year at TMC.

Amy (Pam '94) and Jason Broken Leg '94 live in Denver, Colorado. Jason is a firefighter for Longmont Fire Department. Amy teaches elementary school music and is pursuing her career in opera. They are expecting their first child in February. Amy's Dad, Dr. Alan Pue, is the Provost of The Master's College.

Since graduation Emeke Okonwu '95 has been playing professional basketball in Europe on Turkish and Sovietian teams. He now lives in Palmdale, CA with his wife Marniise and operates an import-export business and plays for the Nigerian National team.

Ruth (Fothergill) '97 Ortiz was married May 3, 1997 to Paul Ortiz and is enjoying her third year as an Enrollment Counselor for The Master's College.

Connie vanWingerden '96 is now back in her home town of Oberlin, OH, teaching third grade students at Open Door Christian School.

Eight of our 1997 graduates are all involved at Loma Linda Medical School training for medical degrees: Dave Weber, Dallas Bailes, Mike Schrodier, and Leo Masters.

Jeff and Donna (Staats) '94 Lul have a baby girl Jenna Christine born on August 21, 1997. Up until Jenna's birth Donna was a financial aid counselor at TMC.

Form has been processed, received an award, changed jobs, moved! We are interested in you! The events of your life are interesting to other alumni. You can help by sending items about yourself, family matters and other items. You can also help your own alumni mailing list continue by using this form to notify us of a change of address. Send form to Alumni Office, TMC, 21726 Plumas Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91331 or send email message to alumni@master.edu.

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TMC/Grad? ______
Year Grad ______
News Item ______
The Coalition for Christian College & Universities is an association of more than 90 Christ-centered institutions of higher education. The Coalition's five student programs in Hollywood, California; San Jose, Costa Rica; Cairo, Egypt; Nizhni Novgorod, Russia; and Washington, D.C., are supported by Coalition member institutions. Academic credit is recommended to (and granted by) the home college or university.

For more information on the Coalition's student programs, e-mail student-program@ccc.org or look them up on the World Wide Web [http://www.ccc.org/]

Congratulations!!!

Dr. Patricia Ennis serves as a member of the National Nominating Committee for the 1997 Outstanding Young Women in America program. The program is unique in that individuals are nominated to be considered for recognition.

Starting Summer 1998 Summer Program for a Masters in Biblical Counseling

With the close of our successful first year in the Master's of Biblical Counseling program the department has decided to design and offer a non-traditional home and summer program. There are a growing number of God's people who desire training in biblical counseling, but their local ministries and responsibilities make it impossible for them to attend the MABC residential program. In meet this growing need, we have developed an MABC Summer Institute Program (SlP) that enables the same 35 credit MABC degree to be obtained by coming to the college campus for 2 summers, 3 weeks each summer, and finishing the remainder of the course work through Independent Study format. This non-traditional structure allows pastors, church leaders, missionaries, and laymen to focus their undivided attention towards a few short summer periods of concentrated training in biblical counseling. We are excited to have a program that is able to reach those who are currently on the "front-line" of ministry. Supplying God's workers with the proven resources and practical training of biblical counseling will have a significant impact on the Church's effectiveness in shepherding and caring for those entrusted to her. If you would like more information please call 1-800-568-6248. Class space will be limited and interest is high so please call soon.

Announcing this summer's Medical Issues Seminar

We invite you to join us for teaching and discussion of critical matters in the medical field and how they relate to Biblical Counseling. Dr. Robert Smith and Dr. Daniel Wickert will be discussing these subjects from both a medical and a refreshing biblical perspective. After giving both the medical and biblical backgrounds of each of these issues, they will show you God's way of counseling these conditions. Examples of the topics that may be covered are: Manic Depression, PMS, Tourette's Syndrome, Sleep Disorders, Sexual Problems, Fibre Myalgia, Hormones, Chemical Imbalance, Genetics, Biblical Principles of Good Health. This seminar will run the weekday evenings of May 20 and 21, and all day Friday and Saturday of May 22 and 23, 1998.

If you are interested please call The Master's College Biblical Counseling Department for more information (800) 568-6248 ext. 238.

ONE CONSTANT

A REVIEW OF THE 1997 FALL SPORTS SEASON

In a fall sports season of transition and ups and downs, one thing remained constant: another postseason appearance by the men's soccer team. However, even seventh-year head coach Jim Rickard's Mustangs struggled on their way to the Far West Region playoffs, never winning more than three games in a row and finishing the regular season at 9-10. A thrilling 3-2 overtime triumph over arch-rival and nationally ranked Westminster sparked a midseason resurgence that propelled the Mustangs to the playoffs. Following a pair of wins that clinched the Far West Region Independent's title, the Mustangs took to Westminster in a driving rainstorm in the region

final, ending the season at 11-11. Senior forward Bryan Lee (Oklahoma City, OK) paced the Mustangs with 27 points on 7 goals and 13 assists while senior forward Lucas Prinsipe (Buenos Aires, Argentina) contributed 26 points, including a team-high 11 goals.

On the volleyball court, first-year head coach Karen Peterson washed her squad had opened the season the way they concluded it. Following a 5-13 start, the Lady Mustang won six of their final eight matches to finish at 15-18. Despite the late-season rush, the team missed the playoffs for the first time in five years. A pair of seniors, Christie Williams (Bakersfield, CA) and Misty May (Nipomo, CA), and a pair of sophomores, Kim Gibson (Mission Viejo, CA) and Kristi Ralston (Pleasanton, CA) led the Lady Mustangs.

A season that had commenced with such promise ended in a disappointment as a loss in the final game of the season prevented the Lady Mustang soccer team from its first ever playoff berth. First-year head coach Dudley Hitchman brought a contagious enthusiasm to a young, talented team and the result was a school-record-tying nine wins against eleven losses. Local product Heather Halstead (Saugus, CA) had a twisting sophomore season, leading the

NIAA Far West Region in goals (14), assists (20) and total points (48).

Cross-country produced a pair of national championship runners, senior Kurt Angelbeck (Colorado Springs, CO) and sophomore Angie Breezkom (Vista, ID) who speed coach Joseph Ryan's runners and participated in the NIAA National Meet in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Laboring in virtual obscurity, the team participated in invitational meets nearly every weekend, running against schools many times larger than The Master's College.
What are your goals for the graduate and undergraduate Biblical Counseling department at The Master's College?

Our graduate and undergraduate Biblical counseling program is designed to equip people to effectively use God's Word in their own lives and in a counseling ministry with other people. Since we see counseling as an essential part of fulfilling the discipling ministry (Matthew 28:19) of the church, our goal is to prepare people to skillfully and appropriately minister Scripture with specificity to the individual needs of people. We are convinced that fulfilling the great commission involves three closely related and equally important activities. It involves ministers God's Word in preparatory discipleship (evangelism), in normal discipleship (teaching and instructing through teaching, reaching and modeling God's Word in public or private settings), and in remedial discipleship (counseling people individually or as part of a small group to overcome various problems that are hindering their growth in grace and godliness). In keeping with this goal of helping people in the process of discipleship, our program is intended to provide Christians with the biblical insights and skills so that they can make a lasting impact in the lives of individuals, in marriages and families and in the church as a whole. It is specifically designed for those who desire to impact, influence and minister to people in a thoroughly biblical manner.

- Dr. Wayne Mack

What is the distinctive of The Master's College Biblical Counseling Department compared to the Christian Counseling Departments at most colleges or universities?

The overall distinctive of The Master's College Biblical Counseling Department is its stance of a non-reconstructionist view of Christian Counseling. Biblical Counseling does not integrate secular psychological philosophies and methods, which are man-centered and powerless to effect God approved change in lives (Colossians 2:8-9). The TMC program is a God-centered approach to counseling standing solely on the authority and sufficiency of the Bible. It starts, builds, and ends with Scripture. The main emphasis is teaching the counselor how to accurately apply the Scriptures, with discernment and wisdom, to every area of life.

This approach is called "nocentric" counseling (A Greek term meaning to place into one's mind, to acromonize). Biblical Counseling differs from Christian Counseling in that it is not a cookie cutter approach to counseling that spirals verses around secular principles of change. Also, it is not the "take two verses and call me in the morning" approach to counseling, or the kind of counseling that simply says, "stop doing that." Instead it is the approach to counseling that uses the Word of God in a believer's life to renew the mind, give direction, encourage, comfort, admonish him in the growth process, and hold him accountable, if necessary, when he is experiencing difficulty in a situation. All of that is done with the goal of bringing the believer to a place where he is worshiping God in a godfearing way (obedience toward Christlikeness), experiencing His peace and joy, and being useful in His Kingdom.

- Dr. Stuart Scott

What theological commitments are basic to the nonreconstructionist method of biblical counseling?

The whole basis of nonreconstructionist counseling, of course, is the doctrine of biblical sufficiency. The counselor's driving conviction is the belief that all things necessary for salvation, faith, and life are either expressly given to us in Scripture or can be deduced from Scripture by good and necessary consequence. No extra-biblical field of knowledge is possibly addressed spiritual or emotional problems more reliably or more authoritatively than Scripture itself. Therefore to "integrate" such ideas into one's counseling is, in effect, to dilute the Word of God and deny its sufficiency.

- Dr. John MacArthur

In addition, the nonreconstructionist counselor must have a solid grasp of the biblical doctrines of sin, sanctification, and glorification. Applying these doctrines and their practical ramifications to individual lives is in essence the sum of everything the nonreconstructionist seeks to do.

- Phil Johnson

Who will readily fit into this program?

Since our goals relate to knowing the Scriptures and growing in likeness to Jesus Christ those students holding a high view of the Bible and of Christ will best fit into this program. We believe, however, the student sincerely desiring to please Christ will receive great spiritual benefit.

- Dr. Wayne Mack

What benefits should students expect for themselves and others from this training?

Among the numerous benefits acquired from the study of biblical counseling let me offer seven.

1. Personal growth for the counselor derived from the necessary self-examination and required theological study. According to Rom 15:14, Gal 6:1 and Acts 20:31, the effective counselor needs personal holiness, biblical knowledge, gentleness, self-examination, and earnest concern.

2. The deepening of personal convictions as to the sufficiency of the Word of God, and its superiority over secular psychology in all matters of life and godliness (I Pe 1:3).

3. It offers a tremendous platform for evangelism, since the Word of God is central to counseling and to the counselor's relationship to Christ.

4. Counseling is a personal ministry in an impersonal culture that offers the joy of investing one's life in the lives of others.

5. It provides a unique context for specialized discipleship, using biblical principles to address specific issues of people genuinely hurting and eager to change.

6. In the war against the family, it helps ensure solid marriages for the counselor and those he counsels.

7. It equips the counselor with unparalleled tools for solving "church problems", which are often very real problems with people.

- Dr. Tim Turner

How would the course Child Development that you teach aid a children's ministry worker in their ministry?

The basics of cognitive and physical developments of a child will be explained so that the person working with children will have a greater understanding of the needs of children. They will be able to have a grasp of what a child can learn at different ages and when that child will be able to understand conceptually. For the Children's Ministry worker they will also be exposed to how the gospel should be presented to children so that the worker can be more effective in his or her ministry.

We also discuss many parental issues such as the self-esteem movement and ADHD giving a biblical understanding of how to deal with each.

- Bill Shannon

What is the main problem with most youth counseling/ministries today?

The problem with most youth counseling/ministries today is that they are typically more focused on the immediate needs of the youth rather than on the long-term spiritual needs. They are often too quick to address the symptoms of a problem without getting to the root cause. It's important to establish a long-term relationship with the youth and to help them develop a relationship with Jesus so that they can navigate through life's challenges on their own.
IT had to put my finger on the main problem of youth counseling and ministries today, it would be the belief in the psychological description of adolescent.

Typically, this is described as the period between puberty and adulthood to where the teenager is not a child, but is also not considered an adult. For differing reasons, society (even those in the Church) do not want to acknowledge that teenagers are adults and are ready to be challenged as adults. There are many dangers to this belief.

The greatest danger is minimum or no responsibility for sinful behavior; immaturity is prolonged because they are not biblically challenged; low moral standards because they are not called to live like adults; and many sinful habits are formed because a low standard has been set by parents, youth ministers and counselors, and society (habits such as poor work ethics, sexual promiscuity, rebellion, no self control, fear of man—peer pressure, laissez.

Is the MACB program at TMC adequate to prepare women for biblical counseling ministries? Why?

I believe that Christian women are called to minister to other women regardless of whether or not they are involved in professional ministry. But how many women are adequately prepared for this?

First, they will be taught the sufficiency and supremacy of Scripture. If women are going to impact and counsel people biblically, they must operate on the conviction that God's Word is powerful to transform lives. They must find the tools to help others biblically deal with their sinlessness. If God is going to come to their children, He must know the biblical principles to apply to their lives.

Second, they will be taught the Bible. Taught to understand the Bible and how to apply it to the situations and issues of life. The Bible will come to life in a way like never before. When a woman comes for counsel, they will know the biblical principles to apply to their lives.

Thirdly, they will be taught how to biblically counsel other women. The Bible offers many practical insights dealing with the problems that women struggle with today. Women will leave with a biblical understanding of compassion and a biblical understanding of how to admonish one another. I would highly recommend the MACB program to any woman who desires to minister to other women and/or prepare for family life.

— Beth Mack

What is the relationship between biblical counseling and modern medicine?

The biblical counselor is able to provide biblical help that will enable those with organic illness to respond in a way that glorifies God (which is far different than nondenominational). This provides them victory especially when modern medicine cannot produce relief.

When psychiatry labels a condition with one of itsawful titles, modern medicine has accepted psychiatry's theory of an organic basis for these conditions. The biblical counselor believing the Bible is not only sufficient but superior to man's theories has great help for these people. They can be given hope of victory in times when the body is not functioning well and when modern medicine does not offer any physical relief. They can have biblical victory living in such conditions in a way that pleases God and makes them more like Christ. Both in this life and eternally such victory is far more beneficial than relief.

— Dr. Robert Smith

Are there particular women's issues that are addressed in the biblical counseling program at TMC?

The Biblical Counseling Department at The Master's College takes the principles and methods of biblical counseling and adapts them to all areas of life. The Counseling and Women's Issues class is a workshop style course for women only. It identifies and defines the woman's biblical role looking at the difference between the single and married woman in service to God. Women will examine the meaning of being "real" in a world of make-believe—making "Cinderella" and "Superwoman." Some of the specific issues addressed are the woman's body, emotions, submission, roles, ideals of the heart, depression, suffering, grief, adoption, abortion, eating disorders, and topics relevant to the needs of the class.

— Glenda Hoxter
March 1998

6 Application deadline for Fall '98 Admission
6 Spring Sing - 7:00 pm
7 Community Day
7 Student Recitals - 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm
11-15 International Conference on the Bible
21 Spring Break

For more information call (800) 568-6248 or (800) 259-3540

Winter College View Weekend: Experience College Life Firsthand February 5-8, 1998

College View Weekend is an opportunity for high school and transfer students to explore The Master's College and experience college life in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Students will feel what it is like to be a college student for a weekend—an unforgettable experience that includes living in the dorms, witnessing our dynamic chapel program, interacting with TMCC students and spending the day at Six Flags Magic Mountain.

Visitors will also attend classes and see our faculty in action. This team of highly qualified, godly men and women is dedicated to cultivating the spiritual and academic potential of our students by providing personal, one-on-one attention.

College View Weekend provides an opportunity to preview college life in a way that will benefit students no matter which college they choose to attend.

Parents, youth pastors, and high school counselors are also invited to participate. For more information and registration materials, call the Enrollment Office at (800) 558-6248 ext. 483. Registration deadline is January 30th.

January 25

Winter College View Weekend: Experience College Life Firsthand February 5-8, 1998

January 25

AM First Baptist Church
Montgomery, CA

January 25

PM Riverpark Bible Church
Fresno, CA

February 1

AM First Baptist Church
Montery, CA

February 1

PM Besper Church
Fresno, CA

February 6

AM First Baptist Church
Enmore, CA

February 6

PM Arcadia Bible Church
Arcadia, CA

February 8

AM Arcadia Bible Church
Arcadia, CA

February 8

PM First Baptist Church
Tulare, CA

February 12

AM Eider Banques, Grace Community Church
Sun Valley, CA

February 12

PM First Baptist Church
Tulare, CA

February 15

AM Faith Community Church
Fresno, CA

February 15

PM First Baptist Church
Fresno, CA

February 20

AM Santa Clarita Christian Church
Canyon Country, CA

March 1

AM Nuevo Community Church
Nuevo, CA

March 1

PM Besper Church
Los Angeles, CA

March 8

AM Chorale
Placentia Baptist Church
Newhall, CA

March 8

PM Chorale
Granada Heights Friends Church
La Mirada, CA

March 11-14

AM International Conference on the Bible
Grace Community Church
Sun Valley, CA

March 15

AM Fallbrook Presbyterian Church
Fallbrook, CA

March 15

PM Grace Baptist Church
San Marcos, CA

April 5

AM Church of the Canyon
Canyon Country, CA

April 5

PM Grace Community Church
Sun Valley, CA

April 7

AM First Baptist Church
Enmore, CA

April 7

PM Arcadia Bible Church
Arcadia, CA

April 9

AM First Baptist Church
Tulare, CA

April 9

PM Fishes Lakes Church
Pawnee, CA

April 14

AM Chorale
Lake Avenue Church
Pawnee, CA

April 14

PM Chorale
Emanuel Faith Community Church
Escondido, CA

April 26

AM Bear Valley Springs Church
Tehachapi, CA

April 26

PM Mid Cities

March 1

AM Nuevo Community Church
Nuevo, CA

March 1

PM Besper Church
Los Angeles, CA

March 8

AM Chorale
Placentia Baptist Church
Newhall, CA

March 8

PM Chorale
Granada Heights Friends Church
La Mirada, CA

March 11-14

AM International Conference on the Bible
Grace Community Church
Sun Valley, CA

March 15

AM Fallbrook Presbyterian Church
Fallbrook, CA

March 15

PM Grace Baptist Church
San Marcos, CA

May 27-June 22

May 27-June 22

Majestic Tour

If you would like to have Majestic or The Master's Chorale minister in your church, please call the Music Department at 800-568-6248 x329. You can also get your tour times and dates by calling the above phone number.
An interview with
Dr. Timothy Turner

How did you come to the Lord?

I heard the gospel for the first time as a pre-med student on my hometown campus of Ohio University. I was nineteen years old. Due to the Vietnam War it was a time of great turmoil for the country and for me personally. I trusted Christ as my Savior two days later on September 29, 1969.

Tell us about your family.

God has given me a wonderful wife of 23 years and four wonderful children. Mary Lou is a full-time mom who occasionally substitutes teaches in the elementary grades. Three children are students at TMC and our youngest daughter is a third grader. All are serving Christ in some fashion in different ministries around campus and at Grace Community Church where we're members.

What is your educational background and experience?

I did my undergraduate work at Ohio University where I received a BA in Zoology. I did graduate study at Grace Theological Seminary (M Div) and Westminster Theological Seminary (D Min). At the present time I am a member of NANC, completing requirements for Fellow status. I've had several articles and a book published (Preaching to Programmed People, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids), I speak at seminars on marriage and family, counseling, preaching, and media-related issues.

How has being a pastor for 25 years prepared you to teach at TMC?

God has granted me to a broad experience in ministry. Ten years pioneering a church in Indiana, bringing to a maturity, full support, and land and budget beginning with no one. As an associate Pastor on a large church staff I learned teamwork and management of other staff members. For the last nine years I have enjoyed the constant challenge of a steadily growing church, expanding ministries, while at the same time finishing my doctoral studies, writing a book and raising a family.

Specifically, I have enjoyed the ministry of preaching for over 26 years and consistently receive positive feedback from different kinds of people. Preaching has been a major building block for the growth of the three churches I have pastored and love for preaching helped to write my new book, Preaching To Programmed People. Kregel Publications, Fall 1995.

Through these means God has given me a love for ministry, for people, and for the Scriptures. These are the things that help prepare me to teach at TMC. It has been the ministry of biblical counseling, however, more than any other single ministry that God has chosen to use me to bless the lives of His people and grow the church upon the Scriptures. Many couples who are now growing members of my former church, came first for the biblical counseling.

What impact do you hope to have at TMC?

It's my desire to train as many of the Lord's servants as possible to do the ministry of biblical counseling and to provide pastors and Christian workers with books and materials that equip them to do biblical counseling.

What are the benefits for those who study biblical counseling on the graduate and undergraduate level?

I believe there are several significant benefits for anyone who will seriously engage in a disciplined study of the Scriptures and counseling. The first benefit is intensely personal. The effective counselor must be a person committed to personal beliefs, biblical knowledge, and a profound commitment to the authority and sufficiency of God's Word. The course of study required for a degree in biblical counseling will require the kind of study and personal examination that is most likely to promote those results.

The benefits to an individual's ministry are enormous. Biblical counseling offers a tremendous platform for evangelism, since the Word of God is central to the counseling process and to the counselor's relationship to Christ.

It also provides a powerful context for discipleship. When people discover that the Scriptures provide the foundation and particular principles necessary to score the most common problem continuous change and growth can occur. There is great joy for the counselor when they see fruit in people's lives. Perhaps the greatest area for ministry is in the family. The Scriptures do provide a blueprint for marital relationships and the challenge of parenting. In fact the Scripture provides the very solid foundation for a successful marriage.

As a pastor I know that the Scriptures provide unparalleled tools for solving "church problems," which are usually personal problems. The theological foundation and practical tools that are developed during our study program for biblical counseling are absolutely essential to long-term pastoral ministry. I can express the value of such stands strongly enough. I wish everyone involved in ministry with the local church could review the training we give here at TMC. It is one of the primary reasons we are beginning the Summer Institute Program. We want to make the program as accessible as possible.

History and Growth of the Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Counseling Major

In January of 1991 the Psychology Behavioral Studies major at The Master's College was replaced with one in Biblical Counseling. Dr. Robert Smith, a psychologist and administrator of the Biblical Counseling Training Program at 14th Street Church in Lafayette, IN came to chair the department for the first two years and to help establish biblical counseling training center at The Master's Seminary and Grace Community Church. In January of 1993 Dr. Wayne Mack came from directing a Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCFE) counseling center in Pennsylvania to assume the department chairman's role. Currently there are 60 students in the undergraduate program - a program that leads to a degree in Biblical Counseling, with an emphasis in Biblical Counseling, as well as completing the academic requirements for membership in the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC). The program has a growing campus influence because the students have developed a greater trust in the Scriptures' ability to sufficiently equip them for their work, with God, their campus ministries, and their personal ministries.

History and Growth of the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling Degree Program

In May of 1996 the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling (MABC) program was initiated to meet an increasing need for advanced biblical counseling studies in the area of Biblical Counseling. The first class of 32 students from all across the country came to us from all walks of life including a real estate appraiser, an engineer, a school teacher, a family physician, a photographer, a music teacher, several with an undergraduate degree in psychology. These students, homekkers, seminary students, and graduates from our undergraduate Biblical Counseling program.

Most of these students came from active roles in their local churches where the faithfulness and effectiveness in the ministry was sustained and encouraged. Though ministerial involvement they were also committed to the church's ability to公安部 equipoise and personal excellence in the Scriptures in the lives of God's people. The rigorous classroom studies were supplemented with a field experience, completing a Research Project and a Counseling Internship course. The Research Project is intended to be the first step research focusing on a particular area of the Counseling Internship course required each student to conduct at least 20 hours of counseling done primarily within the context of their local church.
In Memorium

Boise, Idaho Police Officer Mark Adim Snell, 29, a 1990 TMC alumnus, was shot and killed in the early morning hours of Saturday, September 20, 1997. He was the first policeman to be killed in the line of duty in the history of the Boise Police Department. Mark was the last of five officers to answer the call for assistance on a "sorcery" tape, 9:05 a.m. Two men in the taped vehicle refused to cooperate with the primary officers and began shooting. Mark took cover and shot back only to be mortally wounded through the windshield of his car.

Over six thousand people attended his memorial service held in the Boise State University Pavilion. Nearly 1,000 police officers from all over the West heard a cerebral presentation of the gospel from Mark's parents and siblings, fellow Officer Alvin Hinesworth, former TMC VP Diane Medlin, and his father-in-law, Pastor Arnold Bailey. Emotional scenes were acted by Chief Larry Peterson and Officer John Terry, who surrendered Mark in their final hours. Their two daughters, Julia age 3 and Jennifer age 6, were honored as Mark's career kapok to a local Jewish family body when presented with their gifts.

Mark was a godly example and true servant of Christ in his church, in the Police Department and in the community.

Dr. Wayne Mack
Program Director and Professor of Biblical Counseling

Dr. Stuart Scott
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Counseling

Phil Johnson
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Counseling

Dr. Tim A. Turner
Assistant Professor of Biblical Counseling

Bill Shannon
Assistant Professor of Biblical Counseling

Rick Carbonneau
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Counseling

Beth Mack
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Counseling

Dr. Robert Smith
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Counseling

Glenda Hotton
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Counseling

James F. Stitzinger
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Counseling

Dr. Charles W. Smith
Professor of Bible

Dr. William C. Varner
Professor of Bible

Dr. Richard Mayhue
Guest Lecturer

Dr. Irv Busenitz
Guest Lecturer

Dr. George A. Crawford
Guest Lecturer

Carey Hardy
Guest Lecturer