THE CHRISTIAN AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM
by Dr. John Staud, Professor of History and Political Studies

While Christian and political activism has a long history in America going back to the Founding Era and the Civil War, American fundamentalism and conservative evangelicalism have only in the last few decades become increasingly involved in politics. This is due primarily to a long series of Supreme Court decisions dealing with such issues as school prayer and Bible reading, and abortion as well as an increasing coarseness and secularization of our culture.

There is no question that evangelicals are engaging in a political exercise that is perfectly proper under our Constitution. It is an exercise that has been undertaken by numerous groups before. However, it is also very easy for Christians to be caught up in the politics of the hour running from issue to issue where self-interest and self-protection for the temporal becomes more and more important than kingdom living.

The Bible has much to say both directly and indirectly about government, economics, and politics. What Christians need to do is to develop a biblical perspective by which they can evaluate their political pre-suppositions and public policy preferences.

What might be included in this biblical perspective?

First, that as believers our citizenship is transpolitical.

We are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven (Philippians 3:20) which means that we are also pilgrims and sojourners (1 Peter 2:11). We need to see our earthly involvement always in relation to our heavenly citizenship. As citizens of Heaven, the inimicinity of our Lord's return coupled with the life of a sojourner, not putting our roots down so deep in the culture that it blurs our vision of reality, will temper our expectations in the political arena.

Second, we are citizens of an earthly community with all the political rights and obligations that accrue to us. Paul gives us guidelines for our relationship to the state in Romans 13:1-7. We are to accept governmental authority knowing that God providentially orders all governments. Good or bad, He will bring them into line with His cosmic plan. Because of this, the Christian is to submit in most cases to governmental authority. If we do, we can expect temporal punishment. The state has also been given the power of the sword because it falls upon the state, through God's common grace, to suppress evil. However, for the Christian his submission should be because of conscience, not state coercion. Our supportive responsibilities are to pay our taxes, for without them the state would be unable to fulfill its mandate, and to be just in our dealings with it.

Third, there are times as a matter of conscience when a Christian must resist state authority. In Matthew 22:15-22, our Lord is very clear that there is an area in which the state has no authority. The state may not usurp God's authority over the individual. At this point we refuse to obey, as did Peter and John in Acts 4:17-19 and when Daniel refused to worship idols (Daniel 3) and accept the consequences. An example of this would be state-mandated abortion. However, nowhere in Scripture is the sword given to the citizen against the state.

Fourth, the evangelical activist view will be tempered somewhat if we recognize the Satanic influence on human government. Passages such as Matthew 4:8-9, Ephesians 3 and 6, and portions of Daniel and Ezekiel testify of Satan's inordinate influence within the structures of government that God in His sovereignty has allowed.

Fifth, Christians need to recognize the subtle co-option that can take place when political power is pursued no matter what the agenda. It is very easy to persuade oneself that power is not being sought as an end in itself. However the arena of political power is very seductive and Christians are not immune to its siren song.

In view of the pervasiveness of our fleshly nature, we should resist the temptation to control political institutions because in the end it will be those who pursue power to their own ends that will be co-opted. We must reject this alluring seductive notion that the Lordship of Christ can be exercised over our society through our political institutions if we just elect the "right thinking" Christians. The use of power to this end will but repeat the errors Christians have made throughout history.

The fact that there can be no kingdom without the King must be the ultimate political reality for the Christian. This does not mean withdrawal from political participation, as we are still citizens of an "earthly kingdom", but it does force us to have a realistic perspective on what can be accomplished in the political arena. Recognizing this, our desire should be to influence but not dominate public policy. We do this by running for public office, voting for those that do, using our Constitutional rights of assembly and free speech and using the Courts (right to the process of law). Paul did not hesitate to use his rights as a Roman citizen. Just this fall the churches in Auburn united to defeat an initiative to instigate legalized gambling. This is an example of the church influencing public policy.

One, however, must realize that politics in a democracy at best is transitory and changing. The group on top today can be out of power just as quickly. The real challenge for the church is to exercise the power of the cross to change people's lives. We need to understand that our primary citizenship is in Heaven; that as citizens of Christ's kingdom we are confronted with a cosmos that is driven by the thirst for political power. We must reject the temptation to control our political institutions, while using all legitimate Constitutional means to influence public policy. We must by our speech, private, and public lives persuade men and women that there's ultimately one way: the way of the Cross. As Christians at the beginning of the new millennium we need to stand in every way: spiritually, intellectually, morally, and politically as the vital, separated, alternative to a cosmos that glories in materialism, self-indulgence, and political power.
The Christian’s Role in Politics

"What did you think about the recent election?"

"What does it mean to Christians and what should be the role of Christians in government?"

Those are questions I’m often asked. As Christians those are but a couple of the numerous issues which we need to address. Other questions would be, what is our responsibility as citizens? What does the Bible say about crime, use of our resources, and free enterprise? Can Christians flourish in an oppressive society? Let me share with you some of my thoughts.

Whether there is a Democratic Congress, House, and President, or a Republican Senate, House, and President, or whether justices on the Supreme Court are liberal or conservative, has absolutely nothing to do with the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, “My Kingdom is not of this world.” From the perspective of God’s Kingdom, it doesn’t matter whether we are in a socialist state, or democracy, or a republic like we are in the U.S., whether we have representative government or whether we are in a monarchy, or in a tribe with a chief or in a third world country with a dictator. Furthermore, it doesn’t matter what the cultural morality is in a society. Whether there is a semblance of morality or absolutely no morality, these things are disconnected in every sense from the Kingdom of God, which is completely spiritual and divine (“not of this world”). As a consequence, when dealing with politics or with any government issues, matters not of spiritual concern, we as believers have to be very careful how much time, energy and money we commit to the politics of this passing world. The Bible says we are to be model citizens, therefore, we ought to obey the law; understanding that government is ordained by God. In addition, we should use all legal means to uphold morality and the place of God and His Word in society.

Now, I am happier with the Republican Senate and the Republican Congress, because I like their agenda better. The Democratic agenda tends to be anti-biblical, pro-feminist, pro-abortion, pro-homosexual and generally sees serious and scriptural Christianity as a threat to sinful behavior which they define as freedom. The Republican agenda tends to uphold a more biblically oriented, traditional morality. They tend to stand more strongly against crime. The Bible is very tough on crime and advocates swift capital punishment for certain crimes. That is because God has created man in His own image and when someone takes a life, he is destroying what God has made. He is desecrating the image of God, which is still residual even in fallen man, and consequently, he’s acting in a sovereign way over life as if he were God. This is so serious as to require that he pay with his own life. Even Jesus said that to Peter, “Peter put away your sword; you live by the sword, you’ll die by it.” What He meant by that is when youtake a life they have every right to take your life.

I also believe we need to seriously look at how we spend our resources. Very honestly, to spend over 60 million dollars to elect someone to the Senate of the United States is ridiculous and has nothing to do with the quality of the candidate.

On the subject of free enterprise, I believe God designed men with the capability to carve out a niche in society that can be productive and meaningful. But all of that is purely a social order—purely a cultural morality perspective and in the end has nothing to do with Christianity. Let me give you a great illustration of that. A relative of mine and a very special person to me is General Douglas MacArthur. His grandfather was the brother of my great grandfather. He graduated with the highest academic record of anybody in the history of West Point until more recent times. After World War II, General Douglas MacArthur personally wrote the reconstructed government of the nation of Japan. If you asked MacArthur if he was a Christian, he would say he was. Certainly he had Christian values and Christian standards as his belief system. Whether he lived it out depends on which revisionist historian you read. In any case, the nation of Japan has reflected in its constitution something of Christian thinking and Christian values in the society. Furthermore, Japan over the last fifty years has had no less than 250 to 300 mission boards operating with an evangelical emphasis to reach people. The Church in Japan is a form of government that was influenced by Christianity, with tremendous aggressive activity of Christian missions. Japan has been a very cohesive nation from a family’s standpoint with tremendous family values and work ethic. It would be hard to find any country in the world that could even come close to the work ethic of Japan. You don’t see Japan as a welfare society, by any stretch of the imagination and in many ways all of the things that we might like to achieve in our own country existed in Japan. And yet, today, Japan is almost totally pagan with a tiny group of Christians. On the other hand, in China there are somewhere between 50 – 150 million Christians, and the church has developed completely under the tyranny of communism. You cannot reach a whole country socially to the advance of the Kingdom of God. That’s all bound up in the sovereign purposes of the eternal counsel of God Himself.

In conclusion, obey the law of the land; pray for our leaders, and vote for those who hold to the things that are right and true, placing righteousness in its proper place in our society. We need to realize that whatever happens in the United States of America on a political front has nothing to do with the eternal Kingdom which is all bound up in the purposes of God from eternity past.

Excerpts from a Q & A Session held during Chapel at The Master’s College. Other related resources are available in a two-part tape series entitled The Christian’s Responsibility in a Dynasty Society. See details on the enclosed return envelope or contact by e-mail: stuart@masters.edu
Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him or those who hope for His loving kindness, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Psalm 33:18-19
MILTON AND THE DARKENED LIGHTS OF POLITICS
by Dr. Grant Horner

Few Christians have been as actively involved in the politics – or the polemics – of their day as was John Milton. Milton is probably best known to most of us in the twentieth century as the puritan poet who wrote the huge, intimidating, difficult (and hence rarely read) Renaissance Christian epic poem Paradise Lost (1667).

Milton may have been one of the most brilliant Christians who ever lived. He read English. He read – I do not exaggerate – virtually everything that existed in print in the seventeenth century: theology, history, philosophy, political theory, literature, science, geography and exploration, languages and linguistics, and who could forget the occult, all the Greek and Latin classics . . . worst, yet, he retained it, and then redeployed his staggering learning throughout his many prose and poetic works. Reading Milton is as close as you can get to going back to the seventeenth century and experiencing the riches of its deeply Christian Renaissance humanism.

What is presently known as "humanism" is a far cry from what the seventeenth century knew: the term was derived from the Italian humanisti, which does not mean "man" but rather "educator." The early humanists were, almost exclusively, consecrated Christian scholars who studied deeply and widely with the intent, as Milton put it, of repairing "the ruins of our first parents by regaining to us a good sight, and out of that knowledge to love him, imitate him, be like him, as we may the nearest by possessing our souls of true virtue, which being united to the heavenly grace of faith makes up the highest of perfection.

Milton had a favorite author, of course: God. His worldview is distinctively Christian, protestant, and puritan: it is that of a thoroughly Biblicist who is profoundly educated in the world's learning, but who endeavors conscientiously to read everything through the lens of scripture. While I might not agree with every fine point of his theological system, I am confident he has much to say to us in the areas of the believer's relationship to art, literature, education, knowledge, and – importantly – politics.

Milton was what we might call "home-schooled" by his father. At an astonishingly early age he had a command of Greek, Latin, Italian, French, and many of the other continental and ancient languages. He wrote verse in his youth in Latin and Greek as well as English, poetry which is often breathtakingly refined. His family intended him for the church, but he knew he was called (and gifted) by God to serve him through the literary arts. His particular desire was to "leave something so written to aftertimes, as they should not willingly let it die." This was primarily, of course, the massive Paradise Lost, which details in the form of a classical epic the story of the fall of man at the hands of Satan. But a full lifetime separated Milton's youthful call from the day when, as an aged man, he sat down to begin composing the poem.

This central part of his life – between his youth and education and his final fulfillment of God's will for him – was filled to overflowing with political activity. Milton was deeply involved with the English revolution against King Charles I, who was ultimately beheaded. In our historically-illiterate twentieth century, we generally think of kings as individuals who eventually have their heads lopped off as a matter of habit, but in the seventeenth century, kings were a mere half-step below God. Milton's puritanism, though, blended more smoothly with a republican governmental structure -- the monarchy was closely allied with a deeply corrupt and uncircumcised high-church episcopacy, which was repugnant to Milton and the puritans, and so his attack was two-pronged: he wrote vociferously against both episcopal ecclesiastical policy and against monarchical government. He was directly involved in the execution of Charles I as the officially published apologist for the rebels who put him to death and established the Commonwealth. Milton's brilliance in theology, politics, and rhetoric eventually earned him the position of Latin Secretary for Cromwell's Council of State: he drafted what were essentially the "position papers" of the new regime. He was essentially a glorified, but very powerful, press secretary. Along the way he also wrote some of the most important work in English on the philosophy of Christian education, partly in response to the work of Comenius, the Czech Protestant educational reformer. His most famous prose work, Areopagitica, is considered the greatest primary work on the Christian and democratic view of free expression and expression, particularly the freedom of the press. This small sampling of his resume shows how deeply involved he was in politics. For Milton, the political arena was one that could change the world.

At the height of his influence, as we see in his surviving letters, he noticed an increasing blurriness in his field of vision. Decades of study by candelight, hours upon hours of careful reading and writing, were beginning to take their toll. Milton had produced a massive amount of political, cultural, and even theological "opinion pieces" – and it was now costing him his very ability to read and write. Then, in a devastating two year period, everything he had worked for began to fall apart: his wife and daughter died; Cromwell died; the republican Protectorate he had helped establish fell apart, and the episcopal system seemed sure to tear its head once again. Charles II returned to take over the throne of his executed father, and the rebels were hunted down one by one. Milton was in especial danger: he had published his support of the rebellion and of the execution. He could have been hung, but influential friends interceded on his behalf, procuring his safety. He lost most of his money and was forced to live in semi-poverty with his new wife; blind, exhausted, and virtually in a state of despair. In other words, he was now ready to be a servant according to God's will. Milton wrote a sonnet that poured out his views on the pain and the purpose of his blindness:

When I consider how my light is spent,
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
And that one talent which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent

To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide:
"Dost thou think I will-defaulting wretch, pardon me?
I faintly ask; but Patience to present
That musing, soon replies, "God dearest best
Either man's work or his own gifts; who best
Bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best.
His staff is light. It kings, Thousands at his bidding speed
And post o'er land and ocean without rest:
They also serve who only stand and wait."

His sight is gone, evaporating into misty, murky darkness as a result of his years of scholarship and writing political / theological treatises. Ironically, he now wants to serve God more than ever with his poetic abilities. But his talents (referring to the parable) have been buried and left unused. Then his Christian virtue of patience speaks to him and teaches him that God has no need of any of the gifts He has given Milton. He could speak but a word and Paradise Lost – Milton's "true account" – would appear on every bookshelf in the universe. Unabridged. He made Milton's brain – He can certainly make the mere by-products of it. Milton's best service to God may be to simply be still – to "stand and wait."

It is terribly tempting to think that our talents and efforts are necessary. We may develop great rhetorical and argumentative skill; we may study history and political theory; we may deploy all the arguments of conservative political philosophy in a shattering display of overwhelming brilliance. But no one has ever entered the service of Christ's monrarchy through an act of our democratic Congress. Christians should be politically aware and active according to their consciences, as well as obedient to laws that are not ungodly. But political systems are merely unstable human entities, while God is the unchanging lover and cleanser of individual human hearts and minds. God may want you to run for president. But he may want you to simply write a poem . . .

Milton now embarked on a period of incredible creative energy, out of
ANNOUNCING AN EXPANDED MINISTRY OF THE MASTER’S COLLEGE TO PASTORS AND CHURCHES

For the past seven and a half years, Dr. Wayne Mack has been chairman of the Biblical Counseling Department and professor of biblical counseling at The Master's College. Under his leadership, the undergraduate emphasis in this discipline has grown and developed until it has become one of the largest departments on campus. In addition, he has supervised and developed a graduate level program in biblical counseling that now has an enrollment of over 100 students working towards a Master of Arts degree in biblical counseling. He has also written several books and had the opportunity to conduct many seminars both in the United States and around the world.

August 2000 will bring a shift in the focus of his ministry at The Master's College from teaching and administration to a more extensive seminar and writing ministry. This transition will mean that he will be more available for conducting Marriage and Family, Christian Life, and Biblical Counselor training seminars and conferences. The ministry of counseling pastors and churches in which he has been involved over the years will also be expanded and offered on a time available basis.

These ministries on behalf of Christ and His church and The Master's College will be called Strengthening Ministries International. Dr. Mack desires to use whatever gifts and experience God has given him over the past forty-two years of ministry to assist pastors in their effort to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:11, 12). He is dedicated to doing what he can to strengthen the church by strengthening Christians in various areas of their Christian lives. In his seminars he is committed to being distinctly Biblical as well as being highly practical.

Brochures describing specifics of the seminars offered are available, or if you wish to schedule a seminar, contact the Biblical Counseling Department by phone (661) 259-3540, extension 416, or email b.mack@masters.edu w.mack@masters.edu bcmacks@aol.com.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. WAYNE MACK

Dr. Wayne Mack's new responsibilities will create a void on our campus and he will be missed by all. Here are some comments from his fellow colleagues which also reflect the college's sentiments:

"There are certain mentors that God places in our lives that will always be remembered. One such mentor in my life is Wayne Mack. He has been an example to me in his passion to know, to be like and to serve Christ (Phil. 3:10). When I think of Wayne, I think of a man who fervently desires that people know God and apply His Word to their lives. Day after day, he pours his life into others that they in turn may be able to do the same (II Tim. 2:2) Those who have heard him preach know that he does so with great passion. Wayne is a diligent, hard-working servant who is highly motivated in his ministry for the Lord Jesus. Needless to say, he has been used by God to minister to so many, both here and around the world. My prayer for Wayne is that our Lord will bless his and Carol's faithful ministry as they continue their 'pilgrimage to the celestial city.' May God grant him many more years to shepherd, write, teach, preach, and disciple others. On behalf of so many who would like that chance to express their love and appreciation. I would like to say, "we love you and thank you Wayne!" (Professor Stuart W. Scott)

"It has been my privilege over the past ten years to serve with Dr. Wayne Mack on the board of the National Association of Nontheric Counselors and now as co-instructor in The Master's College and Graduate program in Biblical Counseling. In the past ten years, we have seen an explosion in Biblical Counseling among churches who want to train counseling from its secular drift.

Our Lord has used Dr. Wayne Mack as a critical spokesman in that movement. His books, sermons, classroom teaching and seminars have set a high standard for Biblical counselors everywhere. The name Wayne Mack is synonymous with Biblical counseling, but those of us who know him understand it is not counseling that excites him the most, it is the effective ministry of the Word that changes lives, in preaching and counseling, that excites him. The Church of Jesus Christ owes a great debt to visionaries like Wayne because he has driven them back to the Word to solve the serious problems of life. Dr. Mack, as his students affectionately call him, is a man who has a high view of the Scripture in a Christian world that has dramatically lowered its expectations of the Word. May the next generation of Biblical counselors be as faithful to the Word as he has been!" (Professor John D. Street)

"Through God's wonderful, sovereign arrangement of things, Wayne Mack has been to me professor, boss, colleague and friend. When I began the D.Min. program in Pastoral Counseling at the C.C.E.F (Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation) while on furlough in 1981, Wayne was one of my professors. Even then, he was renowned for his "Barrage of Bible" in the Introduction to Biblical Counseling and Marriage and Family classes! During my second year there, Wayne was my boss, as Director of Counseling at C.C.E.F. While he probably wasn't aware of it, he mentored me with his broad counseling experience, his pastoral heart, and seemingly endless energy. After a long hiatus (from mid-1983 to January 1999) where I sought to apply the sufficiency of God's Word (an emphasis which Wayne modeled so consistently) in our seminary ministry in Brazil, God once again brought us together—teaching in the Bible Department at TMC during the last two semesters! As a colleague and friend, he has been caring and generous. And his preaching still reveals his delight and absolute confidence in God's Word, especially when he pronounces one of his favorite phrases: "The Bible says..." Wayne has consistently been to me the embodiment of a Psalm 112:1 man: "Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments." (Dr. David W. Smith, Professor, Seminaro Bíblico Palavra da Vida, São Paulo, BRAZIL)

Wayne Mack Seminar Schedule

February 11 - 13, 2000 — Nashville, TN at Calvary Bible Church
February 25 — 27, 2000 — Indianapolis, IN at College Park Baptist Church
March 11 - 13, 2000 — Carmel, IN at First Baptist Church
March 24 - 26, 2000 — GA, Grace Reformed Baptist
April 14 – 16, 2000 — Fort Myers, FL at Westminster Presbyterian Church
May 12 – 13, 2000 — NANC seminar, Santa Clara, CA
May 14, 2000 — Spokane, WA at Faith Bible Church
May 24 – 28, 2000 — Soldrante, AK at Soldrante Bible Church
June 12 – 16, 2000 — Spokane, WA
July 10 – 23, 2000 — Summer Institute Program at The Master's College
August 4 – 13, 2000 — Brazil
September 13 – 16, 2000 — Fort Worth, TX
September 28 – October 4, 2000 — NANC board meeting and conference, Lafayette, IN
October 13 – 23, 2000 — Pastor's conference, Brazil with Act Publications
November 10 – 12, 2000 — Cleveland, OH
January 3 – 19, 2001 — Winter Institute MA Biblical Counseling Courses at The Master's College
February 16 – 18, 2001 — Fayetteville, GA at Heritage Church
April 7 – 28, 2001 — Teaching biblical counseling in New Zealand
May 21 – June 8, 2001 — Module courses in Biblical Counseling at The Master's College
June 21 – 23, 2001 — Counselor Training Institute, San Diego, CA
July 9 – 27, 2001 — Summer Institute Program at The Master's College
September 28 – October 3, 2001 — NANC board meeting and conference
moved by compassion for mission

"The winds of change are swirling with great intensity around the Christian missionary enterprise."

1. When did missions change from being vision-driven to budget-driven? Today’s generation does not respond to a command structure, or to guilt trips.
2. Most churches are interested in survival, not missions.
3. The U.S. church is compassion depleted.

These are just a few observations made by McKaughan, O’Brien, and O’Brien in their new book entitled Choosing a Future for U.S. Missions. Is this the way that global outreach is going to be? It is, if this is the example of Christ in Matthew 9:35-38 becomes more critical for today’s youth.

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every illness and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.'"

At The Master’s College we believe educating the next generation of spiritual leaders requires a face to face experience to lose and hurting people. Sermons on evangelism often result in little more than another set of well taken notes. Christ was moved with compassion for the lost as He moved among them, looking upon their broken lives. Sight results in compassion. It has remained the college’s commitment for the last fourteen years to not only tell students about their responsibility to reach the lost, but put them in contact with the lost. Obedience coupled with compassion is the motivation of the missionary. Today’s students are justified in resisting guilt-based appeals to mission. We must lead them to embrace Christ’s call of compassion.

This year students responded in record numbers to our volunteer-based missions opportunities. For our mission immersion held in October, five hundred students on thirty-two teams hit the streets to engage individuals with the Gospel that meets their needs. Students working with and through local churches, these teams served from skid row to suburban backyard clubs. Not only is the experience of seeing critical to the development of a student’s world vision, but the responsibility of calling their peers to follow them into service is an important element of our strategy. Student led teams have proven to be the most powerful means to ownership of missions among the student body. Not only do students see the example of faculty and staff, but their own friends and roommates moving among the lost. We also had fourteen teams travel internationally during the past summer focusing in several different aspects of ministries and missions. Following are some of the highlights of the mission teams:

Team Russia – The team of eight, after spending a week in Alaska SEND headquarters, split into two teams of four before heading to Fair East Russia. The first group ministered in the port city of Vladivostok. Their main ministry was through music and drama. As the teams spread, several baptisms took place. The team was humbled by the way God used them to encourage and serve fellow believers. The second team ministered south to Arcensy. They spent three weeks cleaning and preparing for a camp ministry for the Russian children. The language barrier made it difficult for the team to understand what was being said, but the children’s love for God was unmistakable.

Team New Zealand (South) – The team spent their time in Hokitika on the West Coast of the south island. They plugged into a small church and began developing friendships with the youth, which led into discipleship opportunities. Their message focused on the Christian ambition and purpose and eternal perspective. The team realized the Christian life is a calling to engage in war. They learned that their greatest weapons were the sword of the Spirit and being committed to passionate, believing prayer.

Team Peru – The team’s main focus was a music ministry in the second largest city of Peru – Arequipa. Every team member’s individual talents were used in their ministry. They also spent time working at a church where they organized a day camp for the neighborhood children. The team found it exciting as their ministry came to a close and many of the children they’d been sharing with expressed interest in receiving Christ as their Savior.

Team Thailand – The team of 14 arrived in Bangkok prepared to assist four different missionary families in teaching special English classes. The team split in two with one team working on drama and music at various schools while the second team focused more on passing out tracts at the different schools. God was faithful to open doors for them to share gospel and tell how God and religion are so different from their Buddha and Buddhism.

Team Samoa – The guys on the team had the opportunity to preach on the attributes of God. They stressed the fact that a true relationship with Christ is a lifestyle and not just a series of good works. In America Samoa, they taught the subjects of math, English, and Bible at a local Christian school. The team also helped to finish some work on the school building.

Team India – The team ministered to the hostel children in attendance at a school in the remote village of Moti. Although the school is Christian, over half of the students are Hindus. The main objective for the team was to reach out to these children and touch them with the love of Christ. They did this by leading the morning assembly, teaching math and English to the first, second and third graders, and by building relationships south with the children through an after school sports ministry and evening devotions.

Team Colombia – Once reaching Bogota, the first three weeks were spent preparing and performing a drama music program in a public school. Through their drama, they demonstrated that drugs and alcohol (a big problem there) cannot bring happiness, and that true happiness can only be found in Jesus. The team was also involved in building a camp that would be used for youth and retreats.

Team New Zealand – In the harbor city of Wellington, the team’s main ministry was to the youth of the church planning and leading a week-long youth camp, and ministering at a Bible Institute. They ministered through music and the guys on the team spoke on Philippians and the Doctrine of the Scriptures.

Team Israel – Once they joined up with the missionaries in Israel, the team ministered for five weeks as an AMF International Team. Since Israel brings in foreign workers to do construction all over the country, the team found it to be an effective medium for sharing Christ internationally. They went to several construction sites sharing the gospel and planning out Hebrew-Bible and Romance literature. They also were able to serve future IBEX students at the Moshav Yad Hashomron by finishing a large classroom.

Team Alaska – For 11 weeks, this team worked at Echo Ranch Bible camp outside of Juneau, they

By Dr. Mark Tatlock, V.P. for Student Life

mainly worked with the children as campers and staff. They also occasionally put on the work staff. Over 300 kids made decisions for Christ during their summer ministry.

Team Hong Kong – The team’s ministry was teaching English. Some of their most enjoyable classes were with the high school students who knew enough English so that the team could share the gospel with them and develop friendships. The adult classes provided a great opportunity to discuss spiritual issues. The team is still praying that the adults will continue to seek and find the truth in Jesus Christ.

Team South Africa – Once reaching Johannesburg, the team split into two teams of five. The first team departed to Hanmerskraal where the team did a very effective ministry. The most profitable times were the nightly tent meetings where the team was able to speak on local “hot” topics such as marriage, tongues and roles with the family. The second team traveled north to Venda. Much of the team’s time during the day was spent with the school children and doing but not just evangelism. The team saw many people come to know the Lord.

Team Croatia – When the team arrived at the harbor of Split, they joined a German bus ministry. They shared the gospel through preaching, music, videos, and literature distribution. The team’s primary ministry was focused on teaching English. The teacher/student ratio was often one-to-one and the team an opportunity to develop close relationships. Often the team learned and employed during their trip was that sharing the gospel isn’t always always teach the Word, but also living it. Because of cultural diversity, the team’s actions were often the most effective tool to show Christ’s love.

Team Philippines – The team spent their days going door to door, inviting the Filipinos to evening music concerts. Despite the rain, many Filipinos came and heard the Gospel for the very first time. Songs, solos, testimonies, and preaching were all part of the concerts, and afterwards, they had many opportunities to share one on one. The team was especially excited to see the baptism of two brothers who had heard the Gospel during the previous year’s missions trip. Over the past year, they had grown tremendously, giving testament to the transforming power of God’s grace.

Team China – The team’s ministry was teaching English. Some of their most enjoyable classes were with the high school students who knew enough English so that the team could share the gospel with them and develop friendships. The adult classes provided a great opportunity to discuss spiritual issues. The team is still praying that the adults will continue to seek and find the truth in Jesus Christ.
Instrumental Honors!

Mary Jacobson, Greg Smith, and April Leslie were accepted into the Western Division Intercollegiate Honor Band. They will perform March 16 – 18 in Reno, Nevada.

New Recording Equipment!

The Music Department has its own professional recording equipment! The Tascam 24 bit digital recorder may also be "bum" a CD. Recordings will be made of student recitals and on-campus concerts. We also have great practice sound! The Wenger "V" room fixture sound isolation and two computerized acoustical venues. Aaron Norris, producer of Waller Texas Ranger, asked The Master’s Chorale to be the background vocals for their Christmas program which was aired December 18, 1999. (The audience for this program is 18 million!) The Chorale recorded the background vocals at O’Henry Studios in Burbank, CA. This studio is listed as one of the best recording studios in the world. It was a great learning tool for our students.

Dr. Plew has been talking with the Ministry of Tourism in Israel about scheduling The Master’s Chorale tour for 2001. We are looking into the possibility of performing Messiah with one of the Israeli symphonies. The tour is scheduled for May 2001. If you would like to be a part of this music ministry study tour, set these dates aside on your calendar. Details will follow.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. John Dunkin, President Emeritus, was nominated as one of the top 50 men of the century in Santa Clarita.

Music Itinerary: Spring 2000

Majesty & The Master’s Chorale

February 6, a.m., Bethel Baptist Church, Lancaster
February 6, p.m., Riverpark Community Church, Fresno
February 20, a.m., North Park Church, Santa Clarita
March 5, a.m., Twin Lakes Community Church, Palmdale
March 5, p.m.*, First Baptist Church, Hemet
March 26, a.m.*, Faith Community Church, Santa Clarita
March 26, p.m.*, Whittier Hills Baptist Church, Whittier
April 2, p.m.*, Grace Community Church, Lake Forest
April 9, p.m.*, Grace Community Church, Panorama City
April 30, p.m.*, Grace Baptist Church, Santa Clarita

*Canyon Chorale

Tours:

May 7 – 22: The Master’s Chorale from Colorado, through Texas, to Arkansas
May 24 – June 19: Majesty throughout the Northwest

Note: If you are interested in having Majesty or The Master’s Chorale come visit your church, call the Music Office at (661) 259-3540, extension 329 to schedule.

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his velvet darkness dictating many of his richest and most mature works — all of which represent the finest marriage of the theological and the artistic ever performed in English. Any English scholar will tell you that even today, in this most anti-theological of ages, Milton studies is the pinnacle of literary criticism. Among these great works, the greatest is Paradise Lost. This was the poem that Milton believed God had created and gifted him to write — an epic poem to overgo, overshadow, and eclipse any other literary work in English and, most importantly, one that — as the poem describes its own purpose in the opening passages — would "assert Eternal Providence, And justify the ways of God to men."

Politics falls within our arena of influence, because it is a human activity. But God’s kingdom is neither democratic -- though we cherish the democratic ideal -- nor even political. It is an absolute monarchy, eternally established and unchanging; we are His servants and must be about the work of this kingdom. Some of that work will undoubtedly be political; but this should never be our focus. We must neither be distracted from politics nor by it, but always seek instead to save the lost and to disciple those lovely new-delivered children, fresh-born from God. We must not spend our light.

Assistant Professor of English at TMC, Teacher Milton, Shakespeare, Tsaun, 16th & 17th century British Literature, Film, Art History, Doctoral work at UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University, former Hudson Strode Scholar in Renaissance Studies at University of Alabama.
Dan & Krista ’97 (Modesto, Calif.) are now living in Fullerton, CA. Life has been hectic for the Brilzys; engaged in August, bought a house in October, married and changed careers in January. Krista is a Receptionist in the Human Resource Department at Cal State Fullerton. Krista says, “We praise Him for His many, many blessings to us and for teaching us to depend on Him at all times for strength to make it through difficult times, and to live for Him in every circumstance.”

Matt & Allison ’97 (Thornburg, OR) Emps are now located in Santa Barbara, CA. They were married in Madison, WI where Allison’s parents serve as missionaries. They hope to move to Irvine sometime this summer so that Matt can attend UCS Irvine.

Jason & Heather ’97 (Fresno) Lankes are living in Newhall, CA. Heather has broken into the modeling industry. Jason is a Youth Pastor at Cornerstone Church and is pursuing his MA at Talbot Seminary.

J. R. & Erin ’97 (Redding) McDannel just got a job at Lawrence Livermore National Labs which will take them to the Bay Area.

Vera & Angela (Martinelli) McMichael ’97 are living in Canyon Country, CA. Vera is finishing up his Master’s Degree at Fullerton Seminary and Angela works for MCI WorldCom as an Engineering Assistant. Angela wants to someday be a mom and manage her home full-time. Vera plans to eventually get his Doctorate from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, which will take them to Chicago.

Eric & Deonne ’97 (Schmidt) Peterson are currently working as a two-year-old teacher and an Assistant Director at Rainbow Preschool and Day Care Centers. In October, Eric and Deonne celebrated their first anniversary. Deonne says, “We had an unforgettable first year together and look forward to many more. Exciting news! They just found out that they are expecting their first child due in October.

Kelly & Amy ’97 (Roth) Klauser were married on July 10, 1999. They are now located in Fullerton, CA. Amy is teaching at Junior Music Academy.

Jeff & Janelle ’97 (Mapes) Shremland are living in Bend, Oregon. They were married this past January. Janelle is working part-time while Jeff is a general contractor who builds log homes for those in the area.

Bruce & Amy ’97 (Campbell) Walker have relocated to Greenville, SC since Bruce has graduated from The Master’s Seminary. They went there to plant Grace Church of Greenville with two others and now have 60 on average in attendance. They have 5 kids, Brook (12), Bandy (10), Bradley (8), Benton (3), and Brandon (1).

Doua & Joy (Kabisa) Whitehead ’97 are located in Macion, CO. Joy returned from a three-month stay in France to Ohio to be a Decorator Consultant. She left that job to care for her mother who was struggling with cancer. Her mom wants to be with our Lord in the spring. Doug and Joy were married in May and anticipate living in Bowling Green, Ohio until Doug finishes his Masters Degree.

Tom & Naomi Armstrong ’97 are now located in Ontario, OR. Tom is now the Assistant Administrator of Religious Services for the Dep. of Corrections for the State of Oregon. Naomi is teaching ½ day at Tumalo Valley Christian School. They have 3 children: David (17), Abby (12), and Rachel (10).

Stuart ’95 & Cindy Edamura are now residing in Merrimack, NH. In September, they remarried in the Oovoo Corporation after 15 years and moved from California to Merrimack, New Hampshire. Stuart now works as an Account Manager for Synergy Network, an advertising agency. They have four children: Shawn, Jennifer, Jesse, and Lisa. They attend Nashua Baptist Church in Nashua, NH.

Randy ’97 & Tammi (Moring) Delisle are now living in Tracey, CA. Randy and Tammi have 2 girls and are operating a nursing home in Tracy.

Michael & Kristi Booker ’90 are living in Orange, CA. They have three boys: Joshua (5), Caleb (3), and Jonathan (1). They attend Faith Community Church. Mike trains the new hires for Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Kristi is a housewife and mom. Joshua just married housemate in the fall and both he and Kristi enjoy it.

Jana Hennington is now located at Redding, CA. Jana is working for the Sheriff’s Dept in the county jail. She says, “I can hardly believe it, but the Lord is doing wonderful things in my life.

Mark & Carol (Hagen) Litz are now residing in Seattle, WA. Mark is working as a physician in the Army at the Presidio of Monterey. They have 4 children: Erikla (6), Jensen (5), Benjamin (3), and Michael (1).

John ’91 & Stacy ’94 (Cornell) Kahl are now located in Valencia, CA. They were married in May 1999. John is an Engineering Manager for JKL Components Corp. Stacy now works at Grace to You part-time.

Greg & Carol ’92 (Dubois) Casino are now living in Tujunga, CA. Carol is still teaching at Santa Clarita Christian School. She and Greg were married on July 10, 1999.

John & Jenny ’94 (Green) Martin are now located in Nashville, NC. John started a new job as Inbound Operations Supervisor for FedEx Supply Chain Services in September, and will probably be moving the family to the Greenville area after the first of the year. Jenny gave birth to their third daughter Hannah Grace Martin born on 1/22/1999.

Chris ’94 & Danielle ’93 Beck are now living in Gilroy, CA. Chris and Danielle are currently working with Athletes In Action.

Mark Hill ’94 is now located at Fresno, CA. Mark is working with Prison Ministries. He says things are going well despite the fact that some of the prisoners are a little rough.

Paul ’94 & Katherine ’93 (George) Zengen are now living in Santa Clarita, CA. They have a daughter, Taylor, who is 5 months old, and the love of their lives: Paul was promoted to Technology Services Manager at the City of Santa Clarita, Katherine is a homemaker and loving every minute of it.

Matt Suvorovitch ’96 is now located at El Centro, CA. Matt no longer latches fences but now is a Border Patrol Agent with the INS patrolling the borders in El Centro.

Kimberly Ruhlman ’96 is now living in Camarillo, CA. Kimberly is the program director at Camp Glad and just recently got engaged to her best friend and kindred spirits, Josh Mulkey! They will be married on September 25. Kimberly and Josh are both in the camping ministry together and are loving it.

Christina Ingram ’96 is now located in Valencia, CA. Christina is a flight attendant for Continental Airlines.

Matt Morgan ’96 is now residing in Escondido, CA. Matt is winding up his seminary stay in Escondido. He might be heading off for more graduate school or could be church planting for the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Gretchen Jacobson ’95 is now located in Merced, CA. Gretchen is busy teaching 6th grade at Merced Christian School. She is also getting married in January.

Eric Lundquist ’97 is now located in Concord, CA. Eric has been teaching high school and serving as an Associate Pastor in the bay area for the last two years, and just recently completed his ordination. He is moving to Vienna, Austria for at least the next two years to be a full-time missionary teacher at Vienna Christian School.

Brian McElrimey ’98 is now living in Manteca, CA. Brian now works for The Oakland Tribune as a news clerk/staff writer and should be a full-time reporter for the paper or one of the other ANG Newspapers in the S.F. Bay Area within 6 months. So those who live in the area should keep their eyes open for a byline.

Scott & Sandi Floyd ’97 are now located in Jackson, CA. Scott and Sandi are doing well and are expecting their first baby in May.

Leo & Kim (Dreux) Gonzalette ’97 are located in Casa Bianca, SP. Leo and Kim got married this past summer and are now living in Brazil.

Daren & Jennifer Fusco ’97 are living in Atascadero, CA. Daren is a 4th High teacher at North County Christian School. He is also the holder of the Flieger golf course record and challenges anyone to beat his score of 48.

Mike & Betty (VanDoppel) Spence ’95 got married last March & have since moved to Salem, OR to Chico, CA. Mike is a high school math & science teacher at a Christian school and Betty is the office manager at ServiceMaster. They are very involved in their church in Orland, CA.

Elizabeth Hansen ’95 is still living in the Santa Clarita area at Stevenson Ranch, CA. She has been working at Grace to You since graduation. Grace Community Church continues to be her home church and she “loves it there”.

Michael & Danielle Bohr ’96 are now located at Van Nuys, CA. Michael and Danielle have been married for almost five months now. Danielle works at a research and development company called XenTech as the Corporate Receptionist. Michael is the part-time Music Pastor at their church in Rosamond, CA. He’s also teaching voice and violin. They say, “God has been so good, and we recommend getting married to your best friend!”

Barbara Henriksen ’97 is now located at Pine Grove, CA. Barbara is back home in the Sierra enjoying life and ministry.

Ryan ’95 and Brita ’96 (Chapman) Hanson, live in Everett, WA. Ryan is working at an accounting firm and Brita is a mom. Little Blake Anderson was born last April.
February
4 Men's Baseball vs. APU (2:30 p.m.)
Men's Basketball vs. Evergreen State (7:30 p.m.)
Women's Basketball @ Redlands (7:30 p.m.)
5 Men's Baseball vs. Simpson (12:00 p.m.)
Creation Science Symposium (7:30 p.m.)
7 Men's Baseball vs. Cal. State, Stanislaus (2:30 p.m.)
Women's Basketball @ Cumberland (7:30 p.m.)
8 Women's Basketball @ Travecca Nazarene (7:00 p.m.)
9 Men's Baseball vs. Cal. Poly, Pomona (2:30 p.m.)
11 Men's Basketball @ University of Cal., Santa Cruz (7:30 p.m.)
12 John Martin Recital @ Recital Hall (7:30 p.m.)
14 Men's Basketball @ Patten (7:30 p.m.)
15 Men's Baseball @ Claremont (2:30 p.m.)
16 Men's Baseball @ Vanguard (2:30 p.m.)
17-19 College View Weekend
17 Men's Baseball vs. University of British Columbia (2:30 p.m.)
Women's Basketball vs. Concordia (7:30 p.m.)
NOW Night @ Dining Center (8:00 p.m.)
18 Men's Baseball vs. University of British Columbia (2:30 p.m.)
Senior Benefit Concert (7:30 p.m.)
19 Women's Basketball @ UCSD (6:00 p.m.)
Men's Basketball vs. Life College (7:30 p.m.)
Jacob Schwarze Recital @ Recital Hall (7:30 p.m.)
21 Women's Basketball vs. American Indian Bible (5:00 p.m.)
Men's Basketball vs. American Indian Bible (7:30 p.m.)
22 Men's Baseball vs. Northwest Nazarene College (12:00 p.m.)
22 Day of Prayer (No Classes)
Men's baseball vs. Cal State San Bernardino (12:00 p.m.)
25 Homecoming
25 Men's Basketball vs. UCSD (7:30 p.m.)
26 Men's Baseball vs. Albertson (11:00 a.m.)
27 Handbell Recital (4:00 p.m.)
29 Men's Baseball vs. Northwood (2:30 p.m.)

March
1 Men's Baseball @ Cal. Poly, Pomona (2:30 p.m.)
2 Wind Ensemble
3-4 NAIA Regional Basketball Tournament
3 Mary Jacobson Recital @ Recital Hall (7:30 p.m.)
4 ASB Car Wash
Men's Basketball vs. Cal. Christian (12:00 p.m.)
Esther Ko & Dan Wakley Recital (7:30 p.m.)
5 Men's Baseball @ Biola (2:30 p.m.)
11-19 Spring Break
14-20 NAIA Regional Basketball Tournament
20 Men's Baseball vs. Asbury (2:30 p.m.)
21 Men's Basketball vs. PLNU (2:30 p.m.)
23 Men's Baseball @ Cal. Baptist (2:30 p.m.)
25 Anna Biddoe Recital @ Recital Hall (7:30 p.m.)
26 Men's Baseball @ Chapman (2:30 p.m.)
March 29 – April 1 Spring Musical

April
1 Men's Baseball vs. UCSD (12:00 p.m.)
4 Men's Baseball @ Concordia (3:00 p.m.)
6-8 College View Weekend
6 Men's Baseball @ Cal. Baptist (3:00 p.m.)
NOW Night @ Dining Center (8:00 p.m.)
7 Spring Sing (8:00 p.m.)
8 Men's Basketball vs. Vanguard (12:00 p.m.)
Greg Smith Recital @ Recital Hall (7:30 p.m.)
11 Men's Baseball vs. Cal. Lutheran (3:00 p.m.)
All School Test Day (No Classes)
12 Men's Baseball vs. Biola (3:00 p.m.)
13 Men's Baseball vs. Vanguard (3:00 p.m.)
Liz Ingham & Christchanna Ischo Recital @ Recital Hall (7:30 p.m.)
14 Spring Banquet
15 ASB Golf Tournament
Bonnie Trox Recital @ Recital Hall (7:30 p.m.)
18 Men's Baseball vs. Cal. State, San Bernardino (3:00 p.m.)
19-20 Forest Lawn Concert (7:30 – 10:00 p.m.)
19 Men's Baseball @ Westmont (3:00 p.m.)
20 Men's Baseball vs. Vanguard (3:00 p.m.)
21-24 Easter Mini-Break
21 Men's Baseball @ Concordia (3:00 p.m.)
26 Men's Baseball vs. Westmont (3:00 p.m.)
28 Last Day of Classes
Erin Walker Recital @ Recital Hall (7:30 p.m.)
29 Men's Baseball @ PLNU (12:00 p.m.)
30 Adam Bendorf Recital @ Recital Hall (8:30 p.m.)

May
1-5 Final Exams
2 Men's Baseball vs. Cal. Baptist (3:00 p.m.)
3 Men's Baseball @ APU (3:00 p.m.)
5 Spring Concert (7:00 p.m.)
6 Graduation @ Grace Community Church (10:00 a.m.)
Men's Baseball vs. California Christian (12:00 p.m.)
17-20 Men's Baseball Sectional Tournament
19-21 Parent View Weekend
26-31 Men's Baseball National Tournament
HOMECOMING 2000!

EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it! Homecoming is right around the corner and many exciting events are planned! Set aside February 25-26 for a memorable weekend while we reconnect with old friends and make new ones as well! Here are just a few of the highlights that we have planned:

★ Special Alumni Chapel featuring special music and alumni guest speaker.
★ Battle of the Dorms!
★ Homecoming Basketball Game!
★ Provost Prayer Breakfast.
★ Tour of the campus and new facilities.
★ Outdoor BBQ & TMC Baseball Game!
★ “A Taste of Italy” A candlelight dinner with Singing Servers!
★ “A Taste of Italy Kid’s Style” Just for kids: pizza and a Disney Flick with Master’s college students.
★ Late night ice cream and coffee at the new Canyon Cafe!

We encourage all to attend this fun filled weekend as we stroll down memory lane! Hope to see you there! You will not want to miss it!