

Patriot's Progress



August
September
2004

**Patriot University
Moving to New
Headquarters in
Del Norte, CO**

**Skinner's Now
Full-Time with
Patriot**

Good Reading for students and friends of Patriot University



Due to the heavy workload as we deal with the details concerning our transition (discussed on the next three pages), this *combined* issue of your *Patriot's Progress* is for **August and September**.

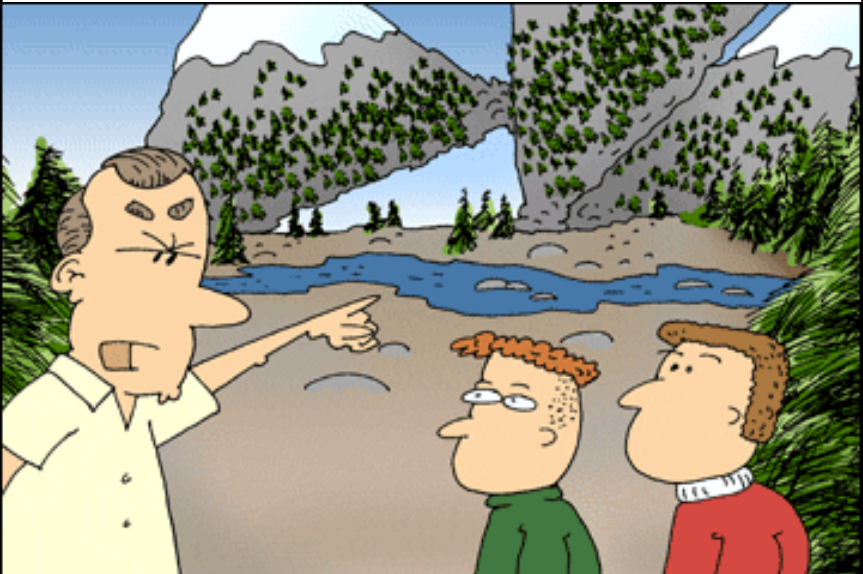
Those who are submitting the yellow sheet each month for course credit at the end of the year will *not* have to make up the extra month. This means you will only be sending *eleven* sheets, rather than twelve during the year.

Click the "News" button often on our Website Home page for the latest news from Patriot University

www.patriotuniversity.com

Reverend Fun

www.reverendfun.com



Use your Faith to move those Mountains back, right this minute!



Exciting Things are Happening at Patriot University!

Patriot University purchases building in Del Norte, CO!

For the past 25 years Patriot University has shared space with various sponsoring churches. Now Patriot is moving from a church in Alamosa, Colorado into its own headquarters building thirty miles away in Del Norte. Patriot's new facility was formerly a medical clinic. It provides more space for offices, a library, a publishing center and classroom.

Dr. Lonnie Skinner retires from the pastorate to devote full-time to Patriot University!

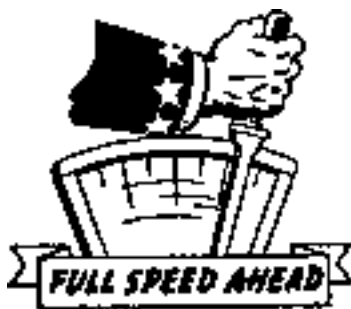
Dr. Lonnie Skinner has announced his early retirement (at age 56) as pastor of College Heights Baptist Church, where he and his wife Toni have served for the past nine years. As Patriot University has continued to grow God has shown us that the time has come to focus all of our efforts in reaching and teaching others through this higher education ministry.

Patriot offices will be closed
August 19-29 to make the move.

Please note the new address:

**Patriot University
1135 French Street
Del Norte, CO 81132**

Our toll-free phone number, website
and email address will not change!



Dr. Skinner discusses Changes at Patriot



It's the easiest decision we've ever made; it's the hardest decision we've ever made...in our 36 years of ministry. It's easy because we know that our Lord is saying: "This is the way, walk ye in it..." (Isaiah 30:21). These are exciting days! God's Spirit seems to be moving one step ahead of us, holding open the doors He wants us to walk through. The Lord's confirmations that this decision is His will have been close to miraculous.

But the decision is also tough. I love being a pastor. We are leaving a good church where we've invested nearly nine years of our lives. There is much more we wanted to accomplish as their pastor.

By human standards we are making a dumb move. We are leaving people we dearly love, and who love us. We are giving up a good salary with the church. We are moving from their nice four-bedroom, tri-level parsonage into a small apartment in Del Norte. Although my wonderful wife is ready and willing to make the sacrifice, I do not expect the adjustment to be a piece of cake for either of us.

But the time has come in my life when I can no longer lead the growing ministry of Patriot University AND effectively pastor a church at the same time. God gave me victory over my battle with prostate cancer last year. But that was a wake-up call to remind me that we do not have an unlimited amount of strength and time left to serve the Lord. The rest of my time will rush by quickly—even if the Lord blesses me with another twenty good years of ministry.

Patriot currently has about 400 students. We believe God wants us to serve a greater number of students in the future and to provide greater service to our present students. Time is precious. If Jesus does not come first, many doors of opportunity may close in the next few years. This old world is running out of time. People need the Lord. Christian workers need to be trained *while* they work for the Lord. It is time to act, to do everything we can in the Lord's work before time runs out. We should all say with our Lord, "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

This December Patriot will celebrate twenty-five years of ministry. But we are just getting started. I believe it is God's plan for this leap of faith (purchasing the building and Toni and I devoting full-time with Patriot) to

set off a series of advancements that will quickly and dramatically increase the value of your experience with Patriot University.

We believe God is leading us to think big. In 2005, some of our courses will be available on the internet, as well as on CD-ROM, for those who are interested. We will continue to expand and improve our printed curriculum. Additional workers will join the great staff God has already sent us. This will help us to issue new material with much stronger quality control and editorial improvements. Our publishing department also has plans to produce regular books, a full-size catalog and other promotional materials by the end of the year.

Toni and I will soon be available for more travel. We are now ready to schedule a limited number of seminars, patriotic rallies...and to preach and sing when we present the ministry of Patriot University in churches.

We will also be offering *local* classes and seminars. Perhaps you can attend some of these. But even if you can't, you will benefit when we share material taught with our distance-learning students. Having more local classes will also add to the credibility of your school. Did you know that colleges with on-campus programs receive greater recognition than those that offer distance-learning only?

We also contribute to mission projects around the world—and we are asking God to help us continue to increase this outreach giving.

What can you do? I'm glad you asked.

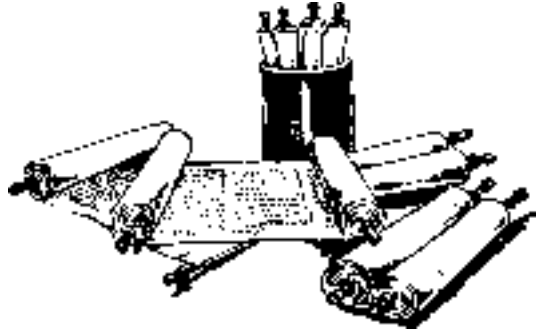
1. *Pray.* Would you be willing to pray for us daily? We covet your prayers for God's power and wisdom, for the actual move, for building construction improvements, for current and additional staff, for good health and strength, for furnishings, equipment and other needs.

2. *Work through your courses* diligently; the more disciplined time and energy you invest the more value you will receive.

3. *Spread the word about Patriot.* The more students we have the greater services we can provide. By the way, do you realize that for every student you enlist we are willing to reward you with a \$50 credit voucher that you may use for books or fees?

4. Would you please ask God to make a way for you to *increase your giving to Patriot*? I realize this may be difficult for many of you. But the Bible says faith even the size of a tiny mustard seed can remove mountains. Do you have the faith to increase your investment with Patriot by \$10 a month? *That's only about 33¢ a day!* If every Patriot student would give just \$10 more each month I believe you will soon see much greater value in the benefits you receive as a student and graduate of Patriot University. Help us to help you!

How Do I Discover God's Will?



Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”*

There it is. “Trust in the Lord and not in ourselves.” Now, God isn’t telling us not to use the sanctified wisdom He gives us. He is simply saying that we are not to think we can trust our interpretation of events or our intellect to get us through.

God asks for your complete commitment to Him in every area of your life. If you give God your life, He’s not going to take advantage of you. God will choose something for you that you would choose for yourself if you had enough sense to choose it!

I realize you may be thinking, “But times are hard. What if they get harder? Will I really know what to do?” Most assuredly. If you delight yourself in the Lord (Psalm 37:4)...if you seek Him with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:11-13)...you will know.

He will direct your path. No “maybe” about it. He will do it. My friend, the first step in seeking God’s will for the rest of your life is to do God’s will for the next fifteen minutes!

—**Adrian Rogers**



An old Scottish woman went from home to home across the countryside selling thread, buttons, and shoestrings. When she came to an unmarked crossroad, she would toss a stick into the air and go in the direction the stick pointed when it landed. She said this was the way she determined God’s guidance.

But one day she was seen tossing the stick up several times. “Why do you toss the stick more than once?” someone asked. “Because,” replied the woman, “it keeps pointing to the left, and I want to take the road on the right.” She then kept throwing the stick into the air until it pointed the way she wanted to go!



Never Stop Growing

They shall still bear fruit in old age” (Psalm 92:14).

Louis Albert Banks tells about a man who was spending a summer near the shores of Lake Superior. One day he came upon an old pine that had been blown down by a recent storm. Knowing something about trees, he was intrigued by that huge evergreen lying on the ground.

He examined it closely and figured that it was at least 250 years old. But he was most impressed by what he discovered when he stripped away the bark. It was evident to him that on the day the tree fell it was still growing.

That’s the way it should be in the life of a believer. The years pass and our physical strength declines. The outward man perishes, but the inner man should keep on developing—mentally, emotionally, and above all spiritually—until the day we die.

How beautiful are those who grow old gracefully, reflect the loveliness of Christ within their hearts, and keep on being spiritually productive! Such people continue to develop character traits that glorify God and contribute to the blessing and welfare of others.

Like that stately old pine, we too should keep on growing—right to the very end!

—Richard W. DeHaan

Most Bible colleges have students in their forties, fifties, sixties or older. Here at Patriot University, we have many students who are long past the “normal” retirement age. This is exciting and just as it should be! After all, “the new birth takes only a moment, but the growth of a saint takes a lifetime.”



The Highest Rank

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. grew up under the shadow of a large man. His father was the hero of San Juan Hill and president of the United States. The pressure to excel often caused him problems, but Teddy, Jr. went on to be a highly decorated Brigadier General during World War II, receiving the Medal of Honor for heroism. He was also the Governor General of the Philippines, Governor of Puerto Rico, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

During World War II, while waiting for a flight at an airport, Teddy, Jr. saw a sailor step to a ticket window and ask for a ticket. “I want to see my mother,” the sailor explained. “I don’t have much time.”

The indifferent woman at the ticket window was not impressed by the sailor’s sense of urgency, “There’s a war on, you know,” she rudely replied.

At this point, Roosevelt, who had overheard the conversation, stepped to the ticket window and told her to give the sailor his seat. A friend of the general spoke in surprise, “Teddy, aren’t you in a hurry too?”

“It’s a matter of rank,” he replied. “I’m only a general; he’s a son!”

Sons of God. This is what the Bible calls everyone who trusts in Christ. What a marvelous name! Do you sometimes forget you have the rank of son? Today give thanks that you have been bestowed with this high rank.

—James G. Deck

Think Big...

Think God

God's ways and thoughts stagger the imagination!

God is not small! When He wants to do something He is unsurpassed. "When He makes an ocean, no man can fathom it. When He makes a mountain, no man can measure or scale it. When He makes flowers there are no duplications among the billions of them."

God is not cheap! When He feeds 5,000 men there are 12 baskets left over. When He receives the prodigal son there is a "fatted calf" and the "best robe." When He prepares a land for His children, it "floweth with milk and honey." The rainbow for Noah...the tabernacle of Sinai...the manna in the wilderness...all show His lavish care and concern. Thank God for His indescribable generosity to you! (see 2 Corinthians 9:15).

God is not restricted! His peace is like a river and passes all human understanding. His joy is unspeakable. His supply is without limit, and He gives and gives and gives again. "His grace has no sides or bottom, and the top has been left off." His wisdom is unsearchable! His strength cannot be excelled. His salvation is unfathomable!

God is not second rate! Hollywood would never have come up with the walls of Jericho tumbling down, the utterly miraculous account of the crossing of the Red Sea by one million fleeing Jews, the seven times hotter fire story of Daniel chapter three, the incredible journey of Jonah for three days in the belly of a great fish or—to top them all—the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Roman's sealed tomb!

God is not partial! "He is not willing that any should perish." He loves the entire world. The Lord came to call sinners—not the righteous—to repentance. He cares for the outcast...the dirty...the poor...the self-righteous... "red and yellow, black and white; all are precious in His sight!"

God is not just another god...He is the One and Only. God is not just another lord...He is the Lord of lords. Many are the gods...Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius...but there is only One Elohim...the Strong One. Only one Jehovah...the Living One. Only one Adonai...the Master. Only one El Shaddai...the Satisfier.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20).

—Robert D. Foster

A Leading Christian Educator discusses...

What We in Christian Higher Education Should Expect of Ourselves

The first expectation is *personal spirituality*. Spiritual formation of one kind or another has been a major component of North American higher education since the earliest printed rules of Harvard prepared in 1636 at the beginning of that institution: “Everyone should consider the main end of his life and studies to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life.”

Tolstoy wrote, “One can live magnificently in this life if he knows how to work and how to love, to work for the person one loves and to love one’s work.” That could be a contemporary mandate for adult educators.

A second requirement is *biblical leadership*. Contemporary Christians seem to have forgotten God’s clear, distinctive New Testament model of servant leadership. Too many pastors, presidents and professors have bought into an autocratic model of leadership that is old covenant in theology, political in style, and outdated even in the current secular literature. The fact that it sometimes works cannot overcome the reality that it contradicts what God teaches about leadership.

My last expectation can only happen if the first two are addressed—*institutional excellence*. Somehow in this digitized, synthesized, miniaturized, and paganized society, our schools must stand as pockets of resistance against educational mediocrity. But don’t confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence simply means doing the very best we can with whatever resources God has given us.

Twenty years ago I offered an appeal in *Christianity Today* for Bible colleges to consider a *progressive* rather than *traditional* format. If I were rewriting that article today it would look about the same as it did then. Remember the words of Pelikan, “Tradition is the living faith of those now dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of those now living.”

You ask me how to achieve these goals. My solution is not unlike the one given by a man during World War II. When asked how to solve the problem of German submarines patrolling the Atlantic near the American coast, he recommended that we heat the Atlantic to the boiling point. This would force the submarines to surface where traditional military weapons could pick them off. Of course someone wanted to know how to heat the Atlantic to the boiling point. The man replied, “You just asked me what I would do; it’s up to you to work out the details.” —*Kenneth O. Gangel*

God Never Comes Next

“Suffer me first...”—Luke 9:59

“Seek Ye first...”—Matthew 6:33

Life is a matter of priorities. Those things to which we give first place determine the quality of our living. With too many of us, the first has become last and the last first; our biggest need is to rearrange our priorities.

A certain man, invited by our Lord to become His disciple, said, “Suffer me first to go and bury my father.” He was really saying, “My father is old and I must take care of him until he dies and then bury him. After that you will be next and I will follow you, but not now. Something else comes first.” Our Lord replied in no uncertain terms, “Let the dead bury their own dead, you go and preach the kingdom of God!” He was saying in effect, “I do not come next. I come first or not at all. I do not play second fiddle.”

Another prospective disciple said, “Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are home at my house.” After the farewells, Jesus would come next. But our Lord sternly replied, “No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” He was saying, “My kingdom is no place for a man with his face pointed one way and his feet the other. I am not taking people to heaven backwards.

Over against all this, our Lord said, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” The temporal needs of life will be added, not subtracted. They have their place but not first place. There is a place for taking care of dear ones and if we do not so provide we are worse than infidels (1 Tim. 5:8). There is a time and a place for farewells. But Jesus Christ does not come next after all else has been attended to. Our God is a jealous God and there must be no other gods before Him.

The Scriptures teach that when a man or woman contemplates marriage, the prospective mate must come first and take precedence over everything and everybody in this world. There are no extenuating circumstances that allow anything else. As the marriage ceremony puts it on the authority of Scripture (Matt. 19:5; 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-23), husband and wife must forsake all others and cleave only to each other until death do them part. This is not limited to its application to adultery in heart or act but to love for anyone or anything that takes priority over husband or wife.

When anybody or anything comes first in our affections ahead of Jesus Christ, then He is not first—but He never comes next. When He does not hold the preeminence in our lives there is spiritual adultery, for if we are Christians we are married to Him (Rom. 7:4).

James wrote: “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). More than physical adultery is in mind in James’s warning. Worldliness is spiritual adultery.

So, whether it is husband and wife in earthly relationships or “that happy bond that seals our vows to Him, our Savior and our God” in the heavenly relationship, one truth stands out as clear as day: what is first must be first. There is no earthly priority ahead of husband and wife, and our Lord will not share the throne of our hearts with another. He is not only First, He is Last, Alpha and Omega, and all the rest of the alphabet of our loves and concerns, earthly and heavenly, fit somewhere in between.

No man worth his salt would wait long on a woman who would reply to his proposal by saying, “I love you but there are other possibilities I must consider first. After that, you will be next.” While she was attending to these other priorities he would find some prospect who had no priorities ahead of him! It is not a matter of wanting to be first on the totem pole; it is the way God ordained it. True love never puts the supreme object of that love second or next or last.

Our Lord spoke to the prospective disciples in our text in a manner that seems almost harsh but He is asking, “Lovest thou me more than these...(anything, everything, anybody, everybody)?” He wants no disciples to whom He is merely a casual concern, a minor matter.

When Abraham started to offer up Isaac, it proved that God came first and Isaac second. God took the will for the deed and spared Isaac, for it is as good as done when the heart is willing.

The invited guests for the supper in one of our Lord’s parables put land, oxen, and wife first. The rich farmer in another parable put prosperity first and his soul second, but God said, “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee...” (Luke 12:20). It is not a matter of “Suffer me first” but rather “Seek ye first.” He must have the preeminence, the precedence, the priority.

We began by saying that life is a matter of priorities. If you have a problem it may be that your priorities are out of order somewhere. When Christ is alpha and omega, first and last, all else falls into place. When He is head of the home—not merely our guest but our host—problems will be solved. When Christ and His kingdom come first, when husband and wife put each other first under the lordship of Christ, houses will become homes.

When our Lord says “Follow me,” let’s forget funerals and farewells and stop saying, “Lord, I will follow thee but...” I am tired of all the talk about what we must sacrifice to follow Jesus Christ. Look at what we *get!* No man or woman thinks in terms of sacrifice to get the mate they love.

He deserves to be first and He demands it. He is not standing, hat in hand, like a bargain on an auction block waiting for some sinner to “accept” Him. Actually, the word is not “accept” but rather “receive, believe, trust, come, commit, follow.” The real issue is, *Will He accept us?* Indeed He will for He said, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” But while salvation is free, it is not cheap. It cost God His Son and the Son His life. Jesus paid it all but all to Him we owe.

The other side of trusting Jesus as Savior is confessing Him as Lord. That means making Him the all-inclusive priority in our lives—first and last. We do not wait until all the funerals and farewells have been attended to, until we have buried father and told the family goodbye, until we have built bigger barns, until some more opportune time, until we feel like it.

Too many church members sit smugly in church on Sunday, some closing the eyes and others eyeing the clothes, and with a dozen other things ahead of God in their lives. Some love a pet dog more than they love the almighty God. They are saying, “Suffer me first...to attend to a hundred other items before I get around to Jesus Christ.” But Christ is saying, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”

I am weary of begging proud sinners to come down church aisles and “take Jesus” as though they were doing Him a favor and the church an honor. All who come like that He will tenderly receive. But when we become believers we also become disciples and the terms for traveling that straight and narrow way are rigidly serious. Few there be that find it.

There is no time to wait for funerals and farewells. Beware of the peril of the uncounted cost, the unburied corpse, and the unforsaken circle. Jesus Christ is the first and last, author and finisher, beginning and end, alpha and omega, and by Him all other things hold together. He must be first or nothing. God never comes next!

—*Vance Havner*

In 1715 King Louis XIV of France died after a reign of 72 years. He had called himself “the Great,” and was the monarch who made the famous statement, “I am the state!” His court was the most magnificent in Europe, and his funeral was equally spectacular. As his body lay in state in a golden coffin, orders were given that the cathedral should be very dimly lit with only a special candle set above his coffin, to dramatize his greatness. At the memorial, thousands waited in hushed silence.

Then Bishop Massillon began to speak; slowly reaching down, he snuffed out the candle and said, “Only God is great.”

Cut-Flower Christians



Almost every woman likes to receive a bouquet of cut flowers. After admiring and smelling them, she wastes no time getting them into water. Even though fresh and beautiful when she gets them, their days are numbered. Because they've been severed from their life-source, they will soon wither and die. One day she will have to throw them away.

Author Lloyd Ogilvie sees in this a picture of the Christian whose spiritual vitality has faded and shriveled. Such a person has become a "cut-flower Christian." This is similar to the illustration our Lord Jesus used in describing the vine and the branches in John, Chapter 15. Just as a branch can't bear fruit by itself, He explained, we can't bear spiritual fruit unless we abide in Him, the true vine (John 15:4).

If a branch could speak, it wouldn't apologize for its need to depend on the vine for bearing fruit. It would say instead, "For this I was made!" Jesus likewise knew we were made for dependence on Him, our life-source—no apology needed! In fact, such dependence is the only way to avoid becoming a "cut-flower Christian."

Let's embrace His declaration, "Without Me you can do nothing." He is really saying, "With Me you can do everything I appoint for you, including bearing much fruit!"

—Joanie Yoder



Patriot University is open 24/7, at least on the Internet. You can place orders, download copies of past issues of *Patriot's Progress*, as well as forms, etc. You can even download a mini-catalog to give to a friend. And you can do all this anytime, day or night at www.patriotuniversity.com

Exciting News for Graduates

Patriot University *Class Rings* will be available from *Jostens* by the first of September. At that time you will be able to find ordering information for the first available style on our website. Additional ring styles will be added in the future. Expect more details soon.



Let us Make This Very Clear!

A few folks have misunderstood our announcement to mean that *Toni* will not be the person you normally talk with on the phone when you call. *That is not true.* She will still be the one who usually answers when you call Patriot.

How to Contact

Patriot University

1135 French Street • Del Norte, CO 81132

Toll-free no. 888-578-9332 Fax No. (719) 657-0304

Email Address: mail@patriotuniversity.com

Web site: www.patriotuniversity.com

Office Hours

Your University Offices are open **Monday-Friday**, except for holiday breaks. *Offices close two hours earlier on Friday.*

Please note time zone differences:

Eastern time office hours—11 to 7

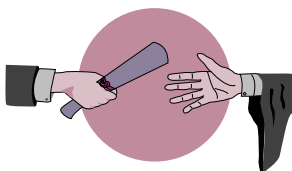
Central time office hours—10 to 6

Mountain time office hours—9 to 5

Pacific time office hours—8 to 4

A student may request an evening phone appointment.

***Patriot University Students
who Graduated in
June & July***



Bachelor of Arts in Christian Counseling

Linda Frandsen

Rexburg, ID

Bachelor of Arts in Evangelism & Missions

Timothy Jordon

Wintersprings, FL

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education

David Radford

Winterville, NC

Paul Tiffée

McKinleyville, CA

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Early Childhood Education

Sharon English

Houston, TX

Master of Arts in Christian Counseling

Tom Williford

Ft. Gibson, OK

Jamie Colby

Dracut, MA

Master of Arts in Christian Education

Juanita Draime

Dayton, OH

Doctor of Ministry in Christian Education

Velesia Hinton

St. Louis, MO

Korean Extension

Master of Arts in Christian Education

Ji Eun Kim

Fremont, CA

Doctor of Philosophy in Theology

Peter Su-Wung Chong

Fullerton, CA

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Social Welfare Work Service

Yong Koo Jin

Jochiwon, Korea