



# Covington Informer



## From the President's Heart

In this my twenty-ninth year of serving Covington Seminary, I find myself thinking often of our alumni, deans, professors, staff, and students that have been such a blessing to my life through the years. I am amazed, thankful, and blessed for the impact that our graduates and leaders have made both for the church in America and the church around the world. I am astounded at the number and the spiritual quality of the many wonderful men and women of Christ that have touched my life and contributed to this school and her ministry. I am deeply appreciative of the contacts and the updates that you continue to provide; it strengthens me to know that I have had some part in the work that our Lord continues in your lives.

### Dr. Steve Sullivan

Dr. Eddie Ildefonso sent me an update earlier this month concerning his trip to Papua, Indonesia to open a new Covington International Extension there. He is such a precious brother and a powerful tool of our Lord as he both oversees his church in Los Angeles and the international extensions of Covington. After leaving Indonesia, Brother Eddie will visit and teach in the Romanian and the Honduran extensions. Along with these extensions, Dr. Ildefonso leads and teaches in our extensions in Brazil, Chile, Pakistan, India, China, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, and Haiti. He has several other countries under development for future extensions. Please pray for him and this mighty work that the Lord has provided through him and through Covington.

Also, just this past week, Dr. James Hutchings came to see me for a brief visit. He is recovering from a recent surgery and was having to force himself to take the time away from his current pastoral ministry. After serving our Lord for some sixty years in pastoral ministry and serving Covington for over 27 years, he finally retired from those assignments to continue his service to our Christ by taking the pastorate of a smaller rural church. In it the church has only doubled under his leadership. This wonderful precious saint of the Lord has had such a broad and impactful ministry that only heaven can hold the full view of how greatly he has been used (see Dr. Gary Fleetwood's article on page 4).

Like Dr. Ildefonso and Dr. Hutchings, I have such a great admiration and a deep love for these my brothers and sisters that labor and pray with us as we seek to **Train Leaders and Impact Eternity**. As I write, so many come to mind and so many have contributed to this work we have been given. I want to give a sincere thank you to those who continue to serve together with us. I pray many of you will be able to come to our graduation exercises in July. I remain amazed at how our Lord has taken so many who give of their love, their time, and their abilities to a simple approach and a single dedication and have truly touched eternity for our Christ.

Because He Lives,

J. Steve Sullivan, Th.D. President

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TRAINING LEADERS, IMPACTING ETERNITY



## Allen "Randy" Rand Niswonger

Covington Theological Seminary mourns the home-going of Pastor Randy Niswonger who went home to be with our Lord on 1/27/15. Pastor Randy served faithfully as our Registrar and Dean of Students for a year and four months. Randy was a great friend to many who serve and are employed by CTS and he will be greatly missed. Randy loved working with you and had

a genuine love and concern for every student he spoke with. A Master of Divinity graduate of Southeastern Seminary and a Doctor of Theology candidate at Covington Theological Seminary Randy understood the value and necessity of the commitment and discipline that it takes to rightly divide the Word of Truth. He so desperately wanted our students to understand that and have that same commitment as well. Please join us as we continue praying for his wife Oleta, his son Joshua, his daughter Kristina and his mother Barbara in these coming days.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 1Thess 4:13-14ESV

## 2015 Graduation & Alumni Banquet

If you are a graduate of CTS please consider joining us on July 30th, 2015 for our annual Graduation and Alumni Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Each year is an exciting time together for fellowship and finding out what our Lord is doing through CTS internationally. We want you to partner with us through prayer and giving in whatever way that you can through Impact Eternity. Through Dr. Eddie Ildefonso's leadership we are currently operating schools in eleven different countries with multiple other requests to start schools all over the world. Along with celebrating what the Lord is doing through Impact Eternity we will also award those Class of 2015 graduates who have excelled in their studies and stood out among their classmates. We hope that you will be able to join us. We would love to see you in Fort Oglethorpe the week of graduation. If you would desire to volunteer in some way while you are in town then please contact us 706-866-5626 and notify us of your desire to be involved.

Please see pics from previous banquets on page 3.







## IMPACT FOR ETERNITY ON THE MOVE!

Dr. Gary Fleetwood



In January and February of this year, Dr. Eddie Ildefonso and I had the privilege of being invited to speak at two pastor's conferences. One was in the city of Tagbilarian in the Philippines, and the other was in city of Jayapura in Indonesia. During that trip we flew over 30,000 miles, were in flight for 72 hours, spent 30 hours in airports, had 18 separate flight segments, 2 helicopter flights, spent 24 days in 11 cities and 6 hotels, spoke at two pastors conferences, 1 leaders conference, 1 stadium crusade (13,000 people), and 1 evangelistic crusade (1300 people). We were seen on the Indonesian national television and heard on the Indonesian national radio. We also took one trip to a mountain village where the only means of getting there was by helicopter.

In the Philippines, the normal wage is \$7 - \$8 per day, so there was an extremely high poverty rate among the pastors. The pastor who was our host is paid two chickens every month as his normal salary. They have no meaningful infrastructure support systems such as major roads, electricity, airports, or major commerce. Approximately 30 - 40 pastors and their wives were in attendance for the conference and many visitors would attend in the evening sessions. The teaching seminar went from 9am - 9pm each day. It was tragic that none of the pastors had ever read through the Bible, nor could they name the major doctrines of the Bible. Once we recognized what the real need was, we made an adjustment and changed the focus of what we were teaching to address their specific spiritual and pastoral needs. There was no transportation to the venue, so we had to hire a motorized "tricycle" in the mornings, and in the evenings the pastors would bring us back to the hotel on their motorcycles - often times in the rain. In the hotel we experienced earthquake tremors and the electricity going out for various lengths of time. The pastors had no accommodations and slept on the concrete floor of the open air church in which the conference was held. The weather was very hot and humid, and unfortunately there were no showers for the pastors.

In Indonesia, which has the largest per capita Muslim population in the world, the spiritual conditions were much the same as in the Philippines. Dr. Ildefonso and I both took well over 600 pages of teaching notes, but never used that material. Only 11 of the nearly 500 pastors in attendance had ever read through the Bible. The teaching was very direct and challenged the spiritual culture of the Indonesian pastors. We learned later that the teaching was greatly appreciated because one of the attributes that is greatly admired by Indonesians is someone being very direct with them. Dr. Ildefonso preached an extremely evangelistic message to 13,000 people in the soccer stadium. His message was televised on both national television and national radio. Papua, Indonesia, the most easterly island of Indonesia, is the last Christian bastion in Indonesia. Currently, the Christian population is approximately 40-50% of the population of the island, but they used to comprise nearly 80% of the total population. It is very apparent that the Islamic faith has a very aggressive approach in reclaiming Papua, Indonesia.

Much of the conference teaching confronted salvific issues and the fact that the people were trusting in the government as their god. It was very apparent that there was a very minimal understanding of salvation, what it was, and how it was actually received. Also, there appeared to be a very large leadership vacuum within the Indonesian church. While we were at the leadership conference, many of the national Christian leaders of Papua, Indonesia from all areas of Indonesian life, met to evaluate where they were spiritually and what they

needed to do to help turn the spiritual tide of their country. In that process they asked that Covington Theological Seminary make a commitment to come to Indonesia as a seminary extension and help change the spiritual direction of their nation. It was quite an honor to have been so well received. Obviously, Covington accepted the challenge, and in May of this year Dr. Ildefonso met with the Indonesian leaders to establish the parameters and schedule for the Covington extension. They have already hired full time employees to head up the renewal initiative with Covington in order to help ensure the success of the seminary extension.

Our host for the Indonesian trip was a man by the name of Lipiyus Biniluk. He is a graduate of Covington Theological Seminary and he introduced himself to us at the 2014 Covington graduation services where he received his post graduate diploma. At that time, he asked if Covington would be willing to come to Indonesia to help develop a seminary program for them, and it was through his efforts that the trip was arranged and the conference hosted. Covington rejoices in the work that God continues to do in all of the international extensions. The Covington goal at every level is to provide a biblical curriculum that will support the pastoral and ministry efforts of those who are studying for the ministry.

Dr. Gary Fleetwood



Dr. Eddie Ildefonso (left) and Dr. Gary Fleetwood (right) are pictured with two Romanian students holding their diplomas.

## In Memoriam

*Precious in the sight of the LORD  
Is the death of His saints  
Psalm 116:15*

*Randy Niswonger*

*January 17, 2015*

*Ringgold, GA Registrar, Dean of Students*

*Ronald C. Nichols*

*April 19, 2015*

*Marion, AL*



## Dr. Bret Sullivan

It continues to be a great joy in my life to serve you through CTS. It excites me that you are drawn to the Word of God and to the diligent study of Jesus our Lord and His great truth. We pray for you and for your ministries on a weekly basis and know that God is sovereign over all His churches everywhere in the world.

I want to speak to you today about CTS Online. We have been aware for some-time that if CTS was to continue and thrive that we had to provide a quality education online available to anyone anywhere in the world. Through this understanding and vision CTS Online was born. I completed a Masters program through Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and Graduate School entirely online so that I could begin to understand what validated a quality education online. At that time Liberty was rated the number three best online education possible.

I'm excited today to confidently say that CTS Online is an excellent venue for Christian training and study. In a world that emphasizes easy access to a quality education the Lord has been faithful and guided us to an opportunity to provide a first class online education through CTS Online. Our professors have the pastoral experience, academic education, and love for Christ that will encourage, strengthen and help equip you for your calling in Christ to serve His body. These professors love the Church of the Lord Jesus and are passionate about the gospel and the Word of God. They have given their lives for the preaching and teaching of the Word throughout the world. You will not want to miss the opportunity to study with them and further your walk with Christ and your theological education.

On page seven you can view the current CTS Online Courses that are available for enrollment. We are working to add to the available curriculum each semester in order that whole degrees can be completed online. Please consider enrolling in a new degree program for further study and self discipline taking a CTS Online class today. You or someone you know will not regret studying the Word of God with us. We look forward to it for the glory of Christ Jesus in our life and in our seminary. Call me today if you have any questions about CTS Online. 706-866-5626

Dr. Bret Sullivan

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## Investing in Eternity

For many years Covington has offered quality Biblical education at the lowest possible tuition to its students. In the past few years, the decline in the economy has taken its toll on our finances. As expenses have risen and income has decreased, we now have depleted our reserves. Unlike many institutions of higher learning, we have no endowments and we have never instituted a fundraising campaign.

We are not planning such a campaign even now, as those endeavors require both time and an initial amount of capital. What we are asking is that each of you prayerfully considers what donation you may be able to make to Covington. We are 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your contributions will be fully deductible as provided under the law.

You have been faithful in giving toward Impact Eternity, our international missions. That initiative is going well. What we now need is your help here at home as we train men and women in this country for leadership in the Kingdom.

Will you ask our Heavenly Father to supply you with an amount to give to us? We ask for your prayers and if you are able, a donation to help us keep up with our current needs. We appreciate all contributions. Please send your gift to the address below. We welcome your one-time gift as well as your willingness to give on a monthly or other regular basis.

Covington Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 176, Rossville, GA 30741

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## Current CTS Online Course Available

Course	COURSE TITLE	Text Author(s)	Professor
BI-160	Old Testament Survey	Hester	Dr. Bob Craven
BI-180 - A	New Testament Survey - A	Carson & Moo/Benware	Dr. Eddie Ildefonso
BI-192 - A	1 Timothy - A	Liefield/MacArthur	Dr. Gary Fleetwood
BI-192 - B	1 Timothy - B	Liefield/MacArthur	Dr. Gary Fleetwood
BI-235	Acts	Boice	Dr. Bret Sullivan
BI-270 - A	The Ten Commandments - A	Edwards/Ildefonso	Dr. Eddie Ildefonso
BI-270 - B	The Ten Commandments - B	Edwards/Ildefonso	Dr. Eddie Ildefonso
BI-290	Biblical Inspiration	Geisler & Nix/Sproul	Dr. Eddie Ildefonso
BI-338 - A	Romans - A	Newell/Sproul	Dr. Eddie Ildefonso
BI-383	Nehemiah	Brown	Dr. Bob Craven
BI-350	James	MacArthur	Dr. Bret Sullivan
BI-430 - A	Ephesians - A	Boice	Dr. Steve Sullivan
BI-439 - A	Hebrews - A	Obrien/Hughes	Dr. Gary Fleetwood
PS-237	Hermeneutics	Craven	Dr. Bob Craven
TH-464 - A	The Holy Spirit - A	Lloyd-Jones/Walvoord	Dr. Gary Fleetwood
TH-464 - B	The Holy Spirit - B	Lloyd-Jones/Lloyd-Jones	Dr. Gary Fleetwood

**In the Spotlight**

**CTS Online**

Through CTS online you have the ability to enroll in a course at any time and begin that course the following working Tuesday for Covington. The courses operate on a 10 week schedule, but this flexibility allows you to continue taking classes without waiting on another semester. You can contact us today at 706-866-5626 to enroll and begin classes this coming Tuesday so don't delay. If you have any questions then please call us or email at [info@covingtonseminary.org](mailto:info@covingtonseminary.org). We look forward to hearing from you.



## **2015 GRADUATION INTENT FORM**

The following information is needed by **JUNE 20th, 2015** for all who plan to graduate and/or attend the banquet this year. No further information on graduation or the banquet will be sent unless we receive this form. All graduating students must attend both the banquet and the commencement ceremony.

### **GRADUATES - PLEASE CHECK ONE**

- ☐ I do plan to graduate and will be in attendance on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- ☐ I do plan to graduate, but will be unable to attend exercises. (A request to graduate in absentia must be sent as well as your graduation fee.)

### **GRADUATES WHO PLAN TO ATTEND MUST FILL IN INFORMATION BELOW:**

Cap/Head size (in inches to nearest quarter inch): \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Diploma style: Contemporary \_\_\_\_ Traditional \_\_\_\_

I expect to receive the following degree(s):

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I want my name printed on my diploma as follows: (PLEASE PRINT BELOW)

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### **GRADUATION FEES: PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE ONE(S):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Counseling Certificate - \$120.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Institute Program - \$120.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree - \$150.00                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor Degree - \$175.00         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Master Degree - \$200.00                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor Degree - \$225.00           |

### **For those graduates receiving two or more degrees:**

Pay the cost of the higher degree plus one-half of lower degree(s). **Whether attending or not**, a mandatory graduation fee is assessed at time of graduation. **ALL** graduating students are expected to attend the annual graduation exercises unless providentially hindered in which case a Request to Graduate in Absentia must be sent to the Board of Trustees along with the graduation fees.

**I am enclosing \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **for graduation fees.** ☐ Check ☐ Money Order



## **GRADUATES ATTENDING the Alumni Banquet & Awards Ceremony**

[ ] I plan to attend the Alumni Banquet and Awards Ceremony July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Including yourself, please give number in party \_\_\_\_\_.

The Alumni Banquet & Award Ceremony tickets are \$30.00 per guest. The graduates do not pay for the banquet as your costs are included in your graduation fees (above). All guests must be paid for with this form and accounted for above in your total party. Please make payment for your guest(s) below.

## **ALUMNI ATTENDING the Alumni Banquet & Awards Ceremony**

If you are alumni and you desire to attend the Alumni Banquet & Awards Ceremony please complete the following information and make payment below. The Alumni Banquet & Awards Ceremony tickets are \$30.00 per guest.

[ ] I plan to attend the Alumni Banquet and Awards Ceremony July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Including yourself, please give number in party \_\_\_\_\_.

### **\*\*\*PAYMENT FOR THE ALUMNI BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY\*\*\***

**I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Banquet.** [ ] Check [ ] Money Order

I would like to pay for my guest fees for the Banquet by credit card:

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

(3 digit code on back of card - last 3 numbers)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **GRADUATES AND ALUMNI: please print the following information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\*Please print all the names of the guests you will bring to the Alumni Banquet & Awards Ceremony on a separate sheet of paper and return with this form.\*\*\*\*\***

**RETURN TO:** Graduation 2015, Covington Seminary, P.O. Box 176, Rossville, GA 30741



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**Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742**

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**\*\*\*\*\*Important\*\*\*\*\***  
**Graduation Information**  
**Enclosed**

Contact us by phone 706-866-5626 or visit our website at [www.covingtonseminary.org](http://www.covingtonseminary.org)

**TRAINING LEADERS, IMPACTING ETERNITY**

*Covington  
Informer*

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**PRAYER REQUEST**

Dr. Eddie Ildefonso and International Extensions  
CTS Enrollment  
CTS Staff

Family of Brother Randy Niswonger  
Pastor John G. Henry—Graduate Missionary to Zambia  
CTS Board of Trustees

Dr. Gary Fleetwood—Romanian Extension  
Dr. Bob Craven—Alumni President  
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**Website**

**[www.covingtonseminary.org](http://www.covingtonseminary.org)**