

Building up the Body of Christ

CALVARY TODAY

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Welcome to CU!

2024-2025

This year, ResLife is anticipating a fruitful semester in which the new Dean of Students— Ron Sharp— and a strong team of Residence Life leaders are returning to lead the student body in the dorm.

The ResLife team's theme for the 2024-2025 academic year comes from The Gospel According to John—"Who do you say that I am?" with John's answer in John 20:31 as a focal point. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. They will again lead the

student body in weekly devotions, thoughtfully apply the text, and have a correct understanding of Christ's sacrificial love and how that love is modeled in his children.

This year, incoming and returning students are enjoying new improvements to the entrance to the library and the student computer lab! We look forward to seeing the growth that God will produce through the discipling work in the classroom and the dormitory. ■

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The Value of Calvary

What is the impact of a Bible-centered university? This is a good question, and Calvary works tirelessly to find ways to ensure that the impact aligns with the founding vision and fulfills mandates from the constituencies and accrediting bodies it is associated with.

Each year, we collect data from various sources to help the university understand our impact. Much of this data is housed on a publicly available page on our website: <https://www.calvary.edu/institutional-research/> (nerd warning—there is a lot of data here).

Affirmation can also come from neutral sources, like a recently published book that reports the results of a research team that asked a similar question. The book *Christian*

Higher Education: An Empirical Guide examined 513 institutions across North America.

Calvary University scored in the top three percent for holding to its founding and guiding principles.

Each year, the graduating class takes the Bible Knowledge exam from the ABHE—this year's class again scored above the norms in almost every measurable category. More than seventy-one percent graduated debt-free, and more than ninety-eight percent are already employed, a testament to our graduates' academic excellence and professional success.

Additionally, this year, the Missouri Department of Education certified our Master of Education program, a significant validation of our quality and relevance. This means that our graduates can now qualify for roles in public schools as principals and superintendents.

The mission of Calvary remains strong: to prepare alumni who understand and live according to the biblical worldview while also serving in the church and in the world. With more than 11,000 alumni serving across the globe in a myriad of roles, the impact of Calvary and its training continues to be strong and vital today. ■



Our mission is to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and the world according to the biblical worldview.

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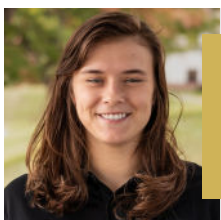
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To subscribe to *Calvary Today*, provide alumni updates, or offer feedback, please visit calvary.edu/alumni.

Staff Updates



Ashley Maxwell, our new Director of Enrollment, is a recent graduate who is excited to share her experiences with the Nikao Leadership Institute, the traveling music group Lux Voces, the Chorale, and theatre productions with potential Calvary students. Her passion for the Lord and her strong desire to see many disciples will motivate and make you feel part of a larger mission as you consider enrolling at Calvary. ■

Alumni Spotlight **Matt Brewer**

Today, there are many beliefs about careers and callings. Should we wait for a calling from God before choosing a career path? Matt Brewer is a faithful servant of God who has held different positions in his professional career. He's been an educator, a businessman, and a missionary. He states: "I believe God's plan for my life is for me to walk in obedience each day. God has given me the opportunity to do a lot of different things, but the joy I've found in my careers has abounded when I faithfully steward the responsibilities of whatever position I have served in." Matt's focus is not on his 401k, but rather his "401 Kingdom."

Matt Brewer graduated from Calvary Bible College with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education in Bible and Mathematics, and received a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Clark Summit University. Although his career path



Matt Brewer, Equity Bank Trust & Wealth Management

began in education, Matt now holds the role of Wealth Solutions Officer at Equity Bank, Trust and Wealth Management. When reflecting on if he felt called to his career path, Matt stated: "I've never believed that the will of God for my life was some mystic thing I hoped I didn't miss. God's plan for my life is to walk in obedience and fellowship with Him each day. For me, success is found in the stewardship of where God has placed me."

As stated earlier, Matt has led a diverse career life. He grew up in Christian schooling and was deeply impacted by Christian teachers, so he pursued a career in education. His first professional job was as a mathematics instructor and coach at Blue Ridge Christian School (1986-1991), where he learned the important lessons of setting an example and being intentional in his work, family, and spiritual life. After a few years of working as a supervisor

for his father's construction business, Matt delved deeper into business when he accepted a sales and marketing position at Tomkins Industries (1993-1998) and eventually a position as Operations Manager (1998-2000).

Tomkins was where Matt transformed into a proactive leader through volunteering to do difficult tasks no one else wanted to do, and going out of his way to challenge himself, even when he had to learn new skills. After helping Tomkins expand greatly, Matt returned to the field of education, where he worked at Kansas City Christian School (2000-2005) as the high school principal. There, Matt applied newly acquired skills from his previous job at Tomkins, taking part in financial responsibilities as well as thriving in his position of leadership where he put his relational competency and passion for coaching to great use.

(Continued on p.6)

"God's plan for my life is to walk in obedience and fellowship with Him each day. For me, Success is found in the stewardship of where God has placed me. "



Matt Brewer, alumnus, speaking at Calvary University in Chapel.



“Who do you say that I am?”

The question Jesus asked in Matthew 16:15, “Who do you say that I am?” (ESV), seems simple enough to answer. Peter’s answer is memorable: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). Yet, the answer given to that question over the past ten years in faith-based higher education institutions where I have served has been remarkably inadequate and confusing. A wrong answer on this question does not result in failing a class, it results in the damnation of the soul.

The answers I have received from hundreds of students are more akin to the “God” of Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, as opposed to the God of

the Bible. The term comes from a landmark book written by Christian Smith and Melina Lundquist Deaton, entitled *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* (Oxford University Press, 2005). In the research, the authors uncovered these five central tenets: 1) A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth; 2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions; 3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about one’s self; 4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one’s life except when God is needed to resolve a problem; and 5) Good people go to heaven when they die. I heard these terms and vocabulary similarly expressed by those students who would consider themselves wholehearted followers of Christ, and from those whose attachment to Christianity was marginal at best. **This is a great concern.**

When the Residence Life student leadership approached me during

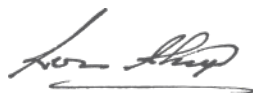
the summer about adopting the question as the theme for the academic year, I was wholeheartedly in agreement. My enthusiasm increased as it was shared that the answer to that question would be provided through a year-long study of the gospel of John. John provides the intent of his writing in John 20:31, which serves as our theme verse: “these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (ESV).

“The burden we carry is that students graduate as **prepared Christians** who will live and serve in the church and the world **according to the biblical worldview.**”

“A wrong answer on this question does not result in failing a class; it results in the damnation of the soul.”

Over the course of the academic year through the study of John's gospel, we at Calvary University will be confronted with the twin challenges of believing and living. The burden we carry is that students graduate as prepared Christians who will live and serve in the church and the world according to the biblical

worldview, rooted in a knowledge of, and commitment to, Christ, the Son of the living God. Will you pray for us to be faithful in the accomplishment of that end, and give accordingly? ■



Ron Sharp
Dean of Students



The Steward's Pen

Scripture tells us a story reflecting what God wants man to know about Him, His plan and His purpose for creation. Nature reveals His existence, majesty and glory, and Scripture gives mankind specific mandates.

Second Corinthians 8 is a significant passage revealing the heart of what God desires. Known for being poor, the Macedonian believers' generosity began with committing their very lives to service by offering any personal help they could give. It is only through God's grace that the Macedonian believers responded in the way that they did.

The second verse identifies financial generosity in the midst of a severe test of economic affliction. The comparison then, for certain individuals or even societies, is not a

“That in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.”

II Corinthians 8:2 (NASB95)

difficult one. It should be a challenge to the western society reader. If the Macedonians, in their circumstances could set aside, what does that say about what I/we/you can do?

This passage is notable in that Paul never mentions the amount that was set aside. Only that they had set aside a gift to help the struggling brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. What he

does say is that they overflowed in a “wealth of generosity on their part”.

In western culture with bank accounts, money market accounts, insurance plans, plans for the future, rainy day savings, set aside for this need, planning for that want, we often miss the opportunity to simply trust God, to lean on him for the needs of today and tomorrow.

Our prayer for you as you consider the challenge of II Corinthians 8 is that God's magnificent and abundant grace would manifest itself in your response, so God's glory would be seen and understood. ■

John McGee
Chief Development
Officer



Alumni Spotlight **Matt Brewer** (cont.)

Then in 2005, Matt and his wife, Mary, made a huge career shift. After deciding they wanted to enter a ministry role, they sold everything they owned and began raising support for a ministry career at Ethnos 360's Faith Academy in the Philippines. Within six months, they raised their supports, "stepped out in faith", and moved to the Philippines with their three children. After three years on the mission field, where Matt faithfully served as an educator, advisor, and leader, he and his family moved back to the states in 2007. When Trinity Academy offered him a position as principal of the school (2007-2017), he accepted.

During his ten years at Trinity, Matt held many positions of leadership in the school, including administration, development, academics, and student life. While there, he discovered his passion for "building" organizations, as well as people. When he resigned from Christian education in 2017,



Matt Brewer sharing with Calvary students during chapel, 2023.

So far as the future is concerned, Matt believes the best years of his service to God through his career are not behind him, but ahead of him...

he started building a training program at Equity Bank, where he coached employees for five years leading to a position as Director of Talent Development handling executive coaching and leadership development, and using his God-given abilities everyday to build up employees into strong and effective leaders.

So far as the future is concerned, Matt believes the best years of his service to God through his career are not behind him, but ahead of him: "My wife and I are turning sixty next year. When I was young, this sounded old, but I believe my opportunities for the Kingdom are great. In our culture we hear things like 'slowing down' and 'retirement'. Yet, I've gotten more involved in service in the last five years than I have my entire life." No matter what career path Matt continues or what opportunities come his way next, he affirms: "Every day, no matter what I am doing, it's my purpose to live a life of integrity." ■

Grace Murphy
Staff Writer



Matt Brewer and his wife, Mary.

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

26 President's Dinner

OCTOBER

3-6 Fall Theatre Production

14-18 Fall Break

25 Fall Student Social

30 Day of Prayer

NOVEMBER

27-29 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

6 Christmas Concert

7 Winter Theatre Recital

14 Evening Lecture Series

16 Christmas Break Begins

For more details, visit calvary.edu/calendar

Alumni Updates

1990s

■ **ROY MILLHOUSE (CBC93)**, accepted a new position as Professor of Biblical Studies at Yellowstone Theological Institute, a fairly new seminary in Bozeman, MT, beginning August 1, 2024.

2010s

■ **GREG THORN (CU19)**, serves as a chaplain with the U.S. Air Force and as Senior Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Brewster, Washington.

2020s

■ **JAMES BRADEN (CU23)**, founded a nonprofit organization called Come to Christ, at the present time focused on doing crusades, revivals, and evangelism.



Calvary students in the 1960s relax between classes

Do you have updates to share? Please visit calvary.edu/alumni and use the contact form to let us know what God has been doing in your life!

Memorial Gifts

IN MEMORY OF PETER FRIESEN

George (CA84) and Christine (Koehler, CA80) St. Germain
Robert (VA77) and Adrienne (Porter, CA77) Sheridan

IN MEMORY OF EILIENE (CRABDRE, CU17) BLACK

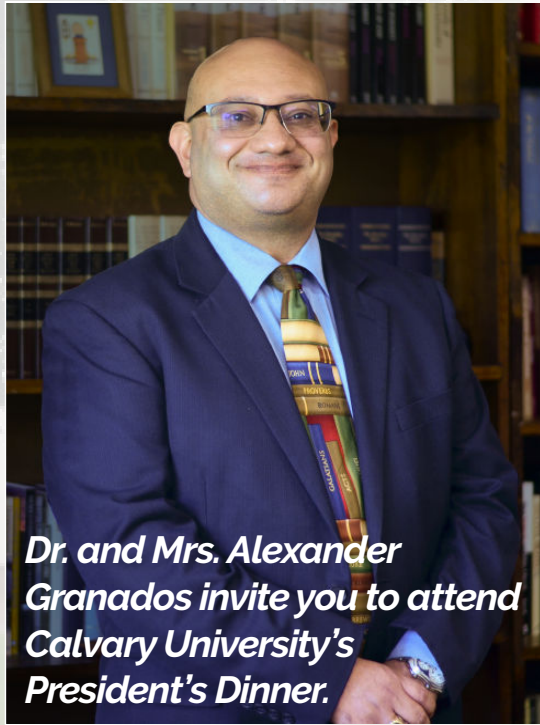
James Black

IN MEMORY OF KAY GEORGE

Gary and Susan Williamson
Patricia Wilcox
Judith Powell
Franklin and Virginia Hawk
Henry and Inge Carner

IN MEMORY OF LAWRENCE MCGEE

Harvey House



Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Granados invite you to attend Calvary University's President's Dinner.



 **CALVARY UNIVERSITY**

Featuring Guest Speaker
Dan Smith
Eleos Coffee House & Ministries

Thursday, September 26, 2024
Marriott, 10800 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS, 66210

Scan the QR code or visit
calvary.edu/presidents-dinner
to register.
Registration opens August 25th.



CONFERENCE on GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

January 27-29, 2025



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KNOWING CHRIST; IMPACTING THE WORLD



Burnham Center
for Global Engagement
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



Dave Deets, D.Min.
*Vice President,
Institute of Biblical Leadership*

Register today at
calvary.edu/coge