

Building up the Body of Christ

CALVARY TODAY

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December 2024

www.calvary.edu

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Moving Forward 2024-2025

This is a truly momentous year for Calvary University. In May 2025, we will be celebrating a significant milestone in our journey as we graduate our first Ph.D. candidates in Bible and Theology. As we move forward, the next editions of Calvary Today will review the remarkable journey to this event. Dr. Mike Dodds, our esteemed Dean of the Seminary, will guide us through this historical reflection.

In 1966, Calvary Bible College embarked on a journey of growth and

development with the establishment of a Graduate Division offering a Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and enrolling an initial class of eight students. The course offerings and specialization tracks expanded over the years, culminating in the addition of a Master of Divinity. In 1992, under the visionary leadership of Dr. James Raiford, the Board of Trustees approved renaming the Graduate School to Calvary Theological Seminary, marking a significant milestone in our institutional history.

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Seminary Spotlight cont.

Since its inception, Calvary Theological Seminary has remained steadfast in its commitment to biblical education, guided by our core values of a consistent, normative hermeneutical approach to Scripture that affirms the inerrancy of Scripture, young earth creationism, complementarianism, and dispensationalism. Our goal of equipping faithful servants for Christ is the driving force behind our commitment to teaching the biblical languages, requiring practical ministry experiences, and expecting the highest scholarship in the study and communication of God's Word.

Currently, Calvary Seminary offers four Masters level programs.

Master of Arts in Bible and Theology (MABT) – for equipping the student with the foundational understanding of the Bible, theology, and the appropriate learning tools for life and service.

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling (MABC) – for attaining the biblically and theologically focused education for men and women who desire to enter biblical counseling service.

Master of Divinity (MDiv) – for preparing men and women for ministry in the local church, mission field, and other ministry-related settings.

Doctor of Philosophy in Bible & Theology (PhD) – for producing exegetes and theologians who serve the academy and the church

as researchers who promulgate their findings through publication, education, and ministry leadership.

Each program builds upon a core of Bible and Theology courses essential for laying the foundation of the degree in God's Word. Accredited with the Association of Biblical Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission, all programs are available in residence and online. Taught by scholar-practitioners who are men and women who exemplify their academic qualifications by degree and have refined their teaching through their experiences as pastors, missionaries, biblical counselors, and ministry executives. Therefore, God's Word is taught with theological precision and imparts the vision of life change in student's lives as they prepare to minister in their future vocations.

As the current Dean of the Seminary, I stand on the shoulders of those who came before, from the founding Dean – Dr. Edgar James to Dr. James Raiford and Dr. Thomas Baurain. In recent years, the 5-year BA-MDiv degree has been a significant addition. This program enables future church leaders to complete a BA degree in Bible & Theology and the entire MDiv degree in just five years, significantly reducing their time and expense to get into ministry sooner. With the addition of the BA-MDiv and PhD, we continue to deepen our commitment to producing scholar-servants for Christ.



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

If you're thinking about strengthening your ministry toolbox – we invite you to consider joining us in the classroom at Calvary Theological Seminary. ■

Dr. Michel Dodds
Dean of the
Seminary



Alumni Spotlight **Dan & Wendy Smith**

Dan ('89) and Wendy ('89) Smith grew up in Kansas City and attended Blue Ridge Christian School. Upon graduating they both enrolled at Calvary Bible College pursuing music degrees.

As the speaker for the President's Dinner on September 26, 2024, their story of how Christ led them to establish Eleos Coffee House and Ministries is filled with echoes of the training they received at Calvary.

Raised in homes where they were taught to pursue Christ, listen to and obey the spirit – this talented couple crossed multiple intersections where choices were made to honor God and follow his call, not the call of this world.

A year of praying, waiting and calling on the lord led to the vision for Eleos Coffee House and Ministries.

Early in their career, as talented musicians, they ministered in full time roles at local churches in the Kansas City region. Eventually the call for a full-time performance-oriented ministry presented itself. But only after considering for a time a professional recording contract.

Hearing what the professionals wanted them to do, Dan and Wendy felt the pressure and the call to

honor God with their gifts, but not through a professional contract. Choosing instead to establish a ministry-based music ministry. The travels eventually became a challenge with a young and growing family, and they settled roots in a local church – again sensing the timing as they listened to the Spirit guide their decision making.



Dan and Wendy Smith, Calvary Alumni

In 2008, the time for ministering full time in a local church had come to an end. But, without a clear sense from the Lord as to what might be coming next. A year of praying, waiting, and calling on the Lord led to the vision for Eleos Coffee House and

through a daily Bible study.

Today, Eleos desires that it be a catalyst for community transformation. Hoping to see a culture of godliness and goodness among the residents of our communities that is directly traceable to an acceptance of the good news of God's love in Jesus. We believe this transformation will be evidenced in noticeable decreased crime, neighbor helping neighbor, a sense of morality and a renewed vibrancy in churches to engage the community with compassion, preach the gospel and disciple believers toward maturity in Christ.

You can also enjoy the fruit of this ministry, and support the work that God is doing in and through Dan and Wendy by clicking [this link](#). ■



Ministries. Across the last decade, the homeless and downtrodden from one of the poorest communities in Kansas City, have received both an excellent cup of coffee and the gospel – the good news of Jesus

Dr. Granados Provides a Momentum Report for Our Calvary Family and Friends

“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith”

- 1 Timothy 1:5

Time flies when you are having fun! I arrived on campus on January 4, 2021, as the fourteenth President of Calvary University, and I am grateful to the Lord for calling me to serve Him. After four years as President, I thought it would be appropriate to provide a momentum report for our Calvary family and friends.

Spiritual Momentum

Calvary University promotes the development of intellectual and spiritual maturity, leadership potential, servanthood, and a sense of mission and ministry. We cultivate godly relationships among students, staff, faculty, and with alumni, the local church, and the society in which we live. Ron Sharp, Jamie Franz, and Kara Miller, in the Student Development department, work diligently to provide quality care for residential and online students. Campus community life is active and vibrant. The campus-wide focus for this academic year is the gospel of John. Dorm devotions are off to a strong start since we have an

outstanding team of small-group leaders and an engaged student population.

What a joy it is to fellowship with the saints. Hebrews 10:24 encourages us to “...consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...” Chapel at Calvary University provides excellent opportunities for us to come together as students, faculty, and staff to think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise (Philippians 4:8). Our central focus in chapel is always getting to know God better through His Word. Chapel typically includes elements of teaching, discussion, interaction, praise and worship, prayer, and service. This is part of our mission to “...prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview...” Chapel is held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:05 am to 11:55 am in the Liberty Chapel. You can livestream our chapels at <https://www.youtube.com/@CalvaryUniversity>, or you are always welcome to join us in person.

Practical Christian Ministries, under Dawnita Phillips’s exceptional leadership, continues to be a key component of students’ involvement on campus, in the local church, and in the community. Calvary places a high priority on students’ involvement in

a local church while being trained for service, requiring a minimum of 24 hours per semester.

Financial Momentum

John McGee, Chief Development Officer, labors faithfully and effectively with me to raise the necessary funds for our institution. **Our faithful steward investors give our students the assistance they need to graduate with little to no debt. 71% of our 2024 graduates graduated with no debt.** We appreciate our generous supporters helping us in our mission to make Calvary University education more affordable and accessible to all our students. **The average tuition and fees per year at Calvary is \$13,692 vs. the average private non-profit university cost of \$35,852 per year.** We offer 20 internal institutional scholarships, and 90% of undergraduate students receive grants or scholarship aid. The average award per student in grants and scholarships is \$7,184. We award \$1.4 million annually in financial aid, and our expected gift income of \$1.3 million for FY24 was met. To God be the glory for His gracious provision through His people.

Academic Momentum

At Calvary University, we hold

the Scriptures to be true, the focal point of our educational process, and the authority for all we teach and do. If the Bible is what you want, then Calvary is what you need. Emphasis on the Bible is a distinctive of Calvary. We are a people of the book, and thus, All Calvary baccalaureate degrees include a major in Biblical Studies (30+ semester hours of Bible) and the selected professional major. Our 2024 graduates tested 12% above the national average in theology. The undergraduate class of 2024 had 96% of graduates in ministry.

Under the leadership of Dr. Teddy Bitner, Chief Academic Officer, our academic programs are being enhanced and expanding. We have added Microcredentials, an educational path comprised of specific courses to develop mastery in a particular area. Tailored to meet the demands of today's industries, these short-term options offer targeted learning opportunities.

Microcredentials Offered

- » Basic Homiletics
- » Bible
- » Systematic Theology
- » Corporate Culture
- » Advanced Homiletics
- » Basic Greek Proficiency
- » Basic Hebrew Proficiency

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved our Master of Science in Education (Educational Administration and Leadership) curriculum. Consequently, a Calvary University graduate Education major can now become state-certified to

serve God as a principal in a Missouri public school.

The Professional Directed Studies Department enables academic learning in cooperation with other CHEA-accredited institutions. Students can study at

New PDS Degrees Offered

- » Communication Studies
- » Computer Information Systems and Analytics
- » Crisis and Disaster Management
- » Design and Drafting Technology (Civil and Architectural Design)
- » Engineering Technology (Management)
- » Environmental Safety and Risk Management
- » Human Development and Family Science
- » Public Relations and Strategic Communications
- » Social Work
- » Sociology

Calvary and integrate courses taken from another academic institution to major in an academic program not offered at Calvary. We recently added nineteen new majors (See sidebar for details or visit <https://www.calvary.edu/academics/professional-directed-studies/>).

Calvary University also recently announced a new academic pathway to empower students pursuing ministry and healthcare careers. In collaboration with the University of Central Missouri (UCM), Calvary introduced a pathway from an Associate of Arts to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This unique partnership allows students to earn an Associate of Arts in Ministry Studies from Calvary and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UCM,

providing a comprehensive foundation for their future careers.

Commencement this year will be a historic occasion. **The first Ph.D. students in Bible and Theology will graduate on Saturday, May 10, 2025.**

Institutional Momentum

God is doing great things at and through Calvary University. We have updated our website! Visit us at <https://www.calvary.edu/>. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. We now have 11,196 alumni serving around the globe. Our current student body of 250 students comes from 36 states and 16 countries.

We are making several improvements to our facilities. A generous steward investor helped us with the campus landscaping by donating and planting 68 trees. The dormitory, Pyramid Athletic Center, soccer field, and baseball field are being remodeled.

Calvary Collective is our music team and outreach program that helps recruit students while providing an excellent experience for the music group's students. They are actively booking churches where they will perform and recruit.

Our athletic programs have been competitive. In 2021, our Men's Basketball team won the NCCAA Division II Regional Championship and competed in the NCCAA Division II National Championship Tournament. In 2023, our Women's Volleyball received an at-large bid to compete

Momentum Report **cont.**

in the NCCAA Division II National Championship Tournament. In 2024, our Women's Basketball team won the NCCAA Division II Regional Championship and competed in the NCCAA Division II National Championship Tournament.

We have officially launched a Men's Baseball program and look forward to formally introducing you to Mick Simpson, the Head Baseball

Coach who is actively recruiting for the Fall 25 academic term.

By the grace of God, Calvary University's ministry continues and is advancing. I spend my days talking with alumni and promoting Calvary University to prospective students and steward investors. I am blessed to preach often at various supporting churches. I enjoy going to our concerts, recitals, and theatre productions and

cheering on our athletic teams. I love serving our Calvary family. I hope and pray this momentum report has been informative and encouraging to you.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" – Psalm 119:105 ■

**Dr. Alexander
Granados**
President



The Steward's Pen

The season brings an anticipation of the celebration of the incarnation - the birth of Christ in our homes, churches, and throughout society. More than 2000 years ago, the angels' declaration to the shepherds in the field announced the arrival of the long-awaited one. The declaration inspired the shepherds to go and see what the Lord had done.

The season reminds us to ponder God's thoughtfulness again and care in providing a Savior for man through the incarnation of his son. In our pondering, do we – as stewards of his manifold grace - remember and

**For today in the city
of David there has
been born for you a
Savior, who is Christ
the Lord.**

Luke 2:11 (NASB 1995)

respond with the richness of the gift?

As Calvary approaches the end of the semester and the calendar year, we are thankful for God's mercies, grace, and provision in many ways through the years. This fall, we have been blessed with the planning and prayers

to culminate in several delightful announcements, new academic programs, a new baseball program, and investment through key gifts into the facilities.

During this Christmas season, we join the shepherds in pondering what the Lord has done and is doing anew. As stewards, Let us deeply reflect on the generosity of God's grace and goodness, and how we can respond in kind.

John McGee
Chief Development
Officer



Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- 6 Christmas Concert
- 7 Winter Theatre Recital
- 14 Evening Lecture Series
- 16 Christmas Break Begins

JANUARY

- 6 Offices Open
- 27-29 Conference on Global Engagement
- 30-2/1 On Ramp - Village Missions

FEBRUARY

- 7 Board of Trustees Meeting

MARCH

- 10-14 Spring Break
- 21-23 Spring Musical
- 28 Feast & Fund *Live & Silent Auction*

MAY

- 9 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 10 Commencement

For more details, visit calvary.edu/calendar

Alumni Updates

MARRIAGES

- **TYLER CHESLIK (CU22)** and Miriam McCubbin (Current Student), October 12, 2024
- **JACOB O'DWYER (CU24)** and Elizabeth Caston (Current Student), October 12, 2024
- James Kaatz and **CARYS APPLEBEE (CU21)**, October 12, 2024

DEATHS

- **EULA MAY KEENER (SHOOK MB54)**, June 29, 2024
- **JACK MERRIAM (CA86)**, July 8, 2024

1960s

■ **MICKEY KAUFMAN ('66)**, serve as the Director of Stewardship Ministries at Riverside Bible Camp.

1970s

■ **DWIGHT LEHMAN ('71)**, Mentors future Crossworld International Staff and vets resources for the Crossworld community.

■ **MICHAEL MARTENS ('74)**, Primary consultant for the "Sopi" Bible translation team. This is a large people group (approx. 5 million) that is 99% Muslim.

1980s

■ **CRAIG NORCROSS ('82)**, Involved with the Pastoral Care Ministry at his church. This involves visitation to the sick, shut-ins and elderly, wedding officiant, funeral officiant teach the water baptism class, and work with the Praise Team and Altar Team.

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 LAWRENCE MCGEE

- MR. & MRS. TIM (CA86) MCGEE
- JIM (CA83) & FAITH (MCGEE CA83) SCHNEIDER
- MR. & MRS. TIM CAMINITI
- MARK (CA91) & ANDREA MCGEE
- SHERRILL MCGEE

IN MEMORY OF KAY GEORGE

- KAREN HAMMOND
- WANDA WILSON
- DANA GEORGE-BERBERICH

CONFERENCE on GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
January 27-29, 2025



Transformed:

KNOWING CHRIST; IMPACTING THE WORLD



Burnham Center
for Global Engagement
CALVARY UNIVERSITY

Register today at
calvary.edu/coge

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



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

Save the Date!

Feast **&** *Fund*

Live and Silent Auction

3.28.2024

*If you would like to be a sponsor or
donate an item, please email:*

John.McGee@Calvary.edu

**Check out our
new Website!**

www.calvary.edu

**Click here for
a list of our
new academic
majors!**