



Keeping Faith

A newsletter from the
College of Christian Studies
Anderson University

Ministry Hits Home as Students Serve One of Their Own

By Kris Barnett

I taught my first course in the Master of Ministry program this fall and I have been excited to see the enthusiasm and passion of our students as they pursue God's purpose for their lives. I have also been amazed to see the cohesiveness between students in our classes. They are not only classmates, they are family.

In the Hermeneutics course this fall, one student, Mims Camm, had some financial struggles that threatened to keep him out of class. While tuition was covered, Mims couldn't figure out where the money was going to come from to purchase a required computer program for the course or a laptop to run it. The first night of class he left early, discouraged and unsure if he would return.

During the next class break I overheard some of the other students talking about the issue. I listened as the class discussed how they could help their classmate.

The next week, when the class met, a wrapped package containing a laptop computer was at Mims' seat! Unaware of his

classmate's generosity, Mims did not attend class that night. Undeterred, his classmates presented the laptop to Mims at work the following day.

This bi-vocational pastor was overcome by the generosity of his class. But God didn't stop there. Another student, a local pastor, shared the story of the laptop with his congregation during a Wednesday night prayer meeting. The story was told as a praise report, but the people in attendance recognized a need was still outstanding. As they filed out that night, they placed money in their pastor's hand and instructed him to buy the needed computer program for Mims. When Mims showed up with his new laptop, he was also presented with the funds to purchase the computer program. Mims didn't miss another class!

God is at work in the Master of Ministry program at Anderson. He is building classroom communities that enable students to grow spiritually as well as academically. Has God called you to serve in ministry? We have room for you in the growing family at Anderson University. Come join us.



Mimms Camm (right), a Master of Ministry student at Anderson University, takes notes. Camm is completing his second year in the new graduate program offered by the College of Christian Studies at Anderson University.

New Faculty Bring Practical to Classroom

This past summer, AU's College of Christian Studies welcomed new faculty members Drs. Bryan Cribb, Kris Barnett and Chuck Fuller to the College.

After a five-year tenure at a sister Baptist university, **Bryan Cribb** joins the College as assistant professor of Christian studies, specializing in Old Testament studies. He received his Master of Divinity in biblical and theological studies and his Doctor of Philosophy from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. His primary emphasis in doctoral work was Old Testament theology, with minor areas of study in New Testament theology and Old Testament languages.



Kris Barnett joins AU as assistant professor of Christian ministry and serves as Associate



Dean for the Clamp Graduate School of Christian Ministry. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, receiving a Master of Divinity in Biblical Languages and a Ph.D. with a concentration in preaching.

In his new role, Barnett is responsible for teaching primarily graduate courses in ministry studies, leadership and hermeneutics as well as helping with assessment and administrative responsibilities for the graduate school. Barnett previously has served as pastor to 3 different churches, his most recent being at East Pickens Baptist Church in Pickens, SC.

Chuck Fuller comes to AU as assistant professor of Christian studies.

He teaches on a wide range of subjects, with a particular focus on ministry studies, leadership, and related areas. He received both his Master of Divinity and Ph.D. from



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, specializing in Christian preaching with additional studies in systematic theology and philosophy. He previously was pastor at Bethany Baptist Church in Louisville, KY and adjunct professor of Christian preaching at Boyce College of SBTS.

"These new faculty members bring nearly two decades of pastoral experience to their task, in addition to outstanding academic credentials," said Michael Duduit, dean of the College of Christian Studies. "They are critical assets for us as Anderson University's College of Christian Studies continues to develop as one of the region's outstanding centers for ministry education."

New website offers ministry resources from AU Christian Studies faculty

MinistryU.org is a new website created by the College of Christian Studies at Anderson University in order to provide fresh, biblically-based content for pastors and ministry leaders. The site will feature helpful resources and illustrations as well as articles by AU faculty.

"Our faculty have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with others and this is a great tool for pastors and other ministry leaders alike," said Sara Horn, director of external relations for the College of Christian Studies at AU. "As we continue to add content, we hope to see a community network of leaders develop through the site."

The website will offer blog posts by AU

faculty, sermon illustrations, links to other ministry resources, and observations on ministry and culture. To visit, go to www.ministryu.org.



Online opportunities help church leaders pursue goals for higher education in ministry

Enhanced technologies are making an impact on 21st century higher education, and nowhere is that more evident than in the College of Christian Studies at Anderson University.

The use of online tools and resources is allowing AU to make new educational opportunities available to ministers and church leaders throughout South Carolina, across the US, and literally around the globe. New AU programs offer training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Bachelor of Christian Studies

The Bachelor of Christian Studies degree is the newest program offered by the College of Christian Studies and is designed for adults who are interested in finishing their college education while balancing work and family responsibilities.

This new online program at AU is a rarity, according to CCS Dean Michael Duduit: it is a fully accredited online undergraduate degree for ministers and others seeking a degree in Christian Studies.

"As we examined the needs surrounding ministry training, we recognized there are thousands of people who need to complete a bachelor's degree, but who don't have access to traditional programs," Duduit explained. "Many of them turn to unaccredited online programs, not aware they are limiting their future opportunities. We developed the BCS out of a commitment to provide high quality ministry training for those who need the convenience and flexibility of an online program."

The 120-hour degree program, accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), can be done completely online. Students take a variety of

classes in biblical and theological studies along with practical ministry courses. The program is administered through AU's ACCEL program for adult learners, with courses provided by the College of Christian Studies.

Master of Ministry

The Master of Ministry is a solidly biblical, intensely practical graduate degree offered through the David T. Clamp Graduate School of Christian Ministry, with both classroom and online programs available. The M.Min. helps those already in ministry – as well as lay leaders – pursue their goals of additional ministry education without being forced to leave current church positions or move family.

"The M.Min. functions like a streamlined Master of Divinity degree, focusing on the core competencies of pastoral ministry without the electives or the extended language study," according to Duduit. "It is ministry education designed for the 21st century."

At just 42 credit hours, the M.Min degree program can be completed by most students within two to three years, and stresses a practical, hands-on ministry approach for leaders serving in today's churches.

Online courses are offered in five eight-week terms through the year. Each week, students view 2-3 hours of video content (delivered via DVD or video streaming online). Once a week, students meet with the professor in an interactive online session (via webcam). Students typically take one course per term, completing the program in three years.

The classroom courses are offered in four eight-week terms (two in the fall, two in the spring), with classes meeting one night per



Save the Date

Upcoming AUMinistry Events in 2011

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON PREACHING

May 9-11, 2011
First Baptist Spartanburg
Spartanburg, SC
www.ncp2011.com

PREACHING UNIVERSITY

July 25-27, 2011
Anderson University

South Carolina Baptist Evangelism Conference

February 21-22, 2011
Anderson University

Free Newsletter!
Sign up at auministry.com

week for 3-4 hours per evening. There is also a four-week May Term, and two one-week Intensive courses offered in the summer. These summer courses are taught by Strategic Faculty members who bring extensive practical experience to the classroom. Among AU Strategic Faculty who taught last summer were Ed Stetzer, Ken Hemphill, Brad Waggoner, Don Cox, and Mike Glenn. The degree can be earned within a two-year period for students attending one course during each term (four terms in the year).

Students also can mix delivery modes, taking some courses online and others on campus, based on their own schedules. For more information, visit auministry.com or call the College of Christian Studies at (864) 328-1809.