

# PIONEER

MARCH 2014 EDITION

## Doctor of Ministry Degree sets you Apart

**W**hat do well-educated, full-time ministers want? Often the answer is: to share their knowledge and experience with others and so help build God's kingdom.

If your desire is to spread the Gospel and to become a published author or contributor to professional ministry publication — you may discover the preparation, training, and foundation you need to achieve this goal, through the Doctor of Ministry program.



"I am currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree. When I first considered Luther Rice, I did so with the idea of receiving a quality education, which would enable me to become a better minister for Jesus Christ. I am at the mid-way point of my journey and I must declare: Luther Rice is exceeding all of my expectations! The instruction and the curriculum have been excellent. Thank you Dr. Flanagan (and the outstanding faculty) for a tremendous experience thus far."

Derrick Keeter, current D.Min. student

And this is just one of the many beneficial outcomes of your D.Min. degree, as Derrick Keeter's recent Facebook post points out. The Luther Rice Doctorate of Ministry degree also:

- ✓ Allows professionally-minded pastors and ministry leaders to advance their careers to the highest level.
- ✓ Challenges you to take your professional experience and academic background and marry them with advanced theological and ministerial concepts.
- ✓ Improves your ability to think critically.

- ✓ Critiques and pushes for excellence of your writing and communication skills.
- ✓ Puts you in dialogue theologically and practically, with experienced professors and authors regarding matters related to ministry in the 21st century.

Each of these facets of the D. Min is vitally important in its way, according to Program Director for the D.Min. degree, Dr. Tony Guthrie.

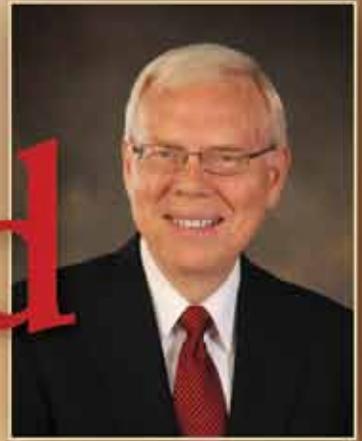
"The quality and success of the Christian ministry are very often determined by the minister's ability to

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# A Personal Word



from DR. FLANAGAN

**Y**ou've heard it said: "The Christian's faith is not a leap into the dark, but a step into the light."

This has been proven in many ways, including through the recent search for "the historical Jesus." Skeptics decided to determine once and for all if this Man, Jesus of Nazareth, really lived and did the things the Bible says He did.

That search has ended with a resounding "yes" to the existence of Jesus. Of course, that Jesus really lived and died does not necessarily lead one to salvation. Facts alone do not lead to faith. However, without facts, faith is meaningless.

The facts direct us to a historical Person who was who He said He was and who the New Testament writers said He was. Thus we can joyfully make that "step into the light" which is our decision to trust Jesus with our lives.

We can know that salvation is sure and steadfast — based on *truth*, not on theory.

My early background in teaching was mathematics. I have the tendency to make sure  $2 + 2 = 4$ . My research has shown over and over that the Bible and history provide more than adequate proof that what I believe is true. The further I step into the light, the more light is shed upon the truth about Christ and the validity of the Word of God.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James H. Logan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

President

# Alumni honored: Dr. Rick Erwin celebrates 25 years of ministry at Procter Baptist Church

**D**r. Rick Erwin, D. Min., exemplifies what it means to be an alumnus of Luther Rice Seminary — service to God through service to others.

He and his wife, Lynn, recently celebrated his 25 years as pastor, Bible teacher, and counselor at Procter Baptist Church, in Port Arthur, Texas. But their ministry extends far beyond the walls of the church.

Dr. Erwin has been a distinguished leader in his community, serving on the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Hospital, the local chapter of the American Red Cross, and even as a past president of Board at the Port Arthur Community Home, where he continues to volunteer. He is also a member and former President of the Port Arthur Sertoma Club.

Additionally, Dr. Erwin has led Procter in community wide activities supporting racial harmony, community spirit, and denominational tolerance.

This spirit of service can also be seen in Dr. Erwin's wife, Lynn. A retired educator and librarian from the Port Arthur Independent School District, Lynn now teaches a ladies' Sunday School class and is a librarian at

the church.

Together, the Erwins have led Procter Baptist as an active church in local and global missions. The congregation helped to establish a mission church in Alpine, Texas. The church also teamed with Franklin Graham's organization, Samaritan's Purse, to serve as the regional collections site for Operation Christmas Child. A ministry known as FLIP (Faith Lives In Practice) was also founded under the direction of Dr. Erwin.

Dr. Rick Erwin not only ministers to those in his church congregation, but also volunteers and serves the members of his community. He is a shining example of the Christian concern and ministry we should all be providing to those

around us — both in our church families, and in our communities.

If you have an update you would like to send to us please email the Alumni Services Office at [alumni@LRU.edu](mailto:alumni@LRU.edu). We love hearing from all of our current students and graduates.



## *Continued from page 1*

think critically, biblically, and theologically; and to communicate that thinking in oral and written fashion. That thinking must also be applied to real-life ministry activity," Dr. Guthrie says.

The D.Min. degree is a 30-hour program that is structured to be completed in three years. The programs purpose is to provide advanced competencies and biblical insights into the practice of ministry for those actively involved in vocational Christian ministry.

Find out more about the Doctor of Ministry degree. Contact Dr. Tony Guthrie at 770-484-1204 or visit [LRU.edu](http://LRU.edu) today.



*Program Director for the D.Min. degree, Dr. Tony Guthrie, encourages ministers to consider this important degree option.*

## **History of Innovation**

- Dr. Robert Witty, the founder of Luther Rice Seminary, popularized the Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min.), for pastors and Christian leaders, in the 1960's.
- Dr. Witty worked to advance and promote the D.Min. as a viable academic degree offering.
- He also pioneered the idea of theological education being available through distance education studies.

Luther Rice is grateful to be able to honor the proud legacy of our founder, Dr. Witty, by continuing to offer the Doctor of Ministry degree program to Christian Ministers and leaders around the world.

# Welcome Steven Steinhilber

## Vice President for Administration

Luther Rice is proud to announce the newest member of the administrative team, Steven Steinhilber, Jr., as Vice President for Administration.

His duties will be focused on administrative functions such as enrollment management, budgeting, marketing, strategic planning, student admissions, and other areas. We are honored to have such a talented individual onboard, and excited to see what he brings to the staff and faculty team.

Steven had a successful business career as a financial controller, and chose to follow God's call to ministry in 2012. He earned his Master of Apologetics here at LRU in 2013, and is now enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree program.

"My family and I are very grateful for the opportunity that Dr. Flanagan has provided for me to contribute to a wonderful institution, which God has continued to bless for over 51 years," Steven said.

He is married with one daughter. Steven also volunteers as a Lay Pastor at his church, CrossRoads Baptist Church, in Social Circle, Georgia.



*Vice President for Administration Steven Steinhilber has joined the leadership team of LRU.*



## Alumni faces every parent and teacher's nightmare: a school shooter

The frightful retort of the handgun's firing —  
The floor at his feet shattering as the  
bullets drove in —

Malcolm Quillen was faced with the nightmare of every parent and teacher: a school shooter, right in the front office of Ronald E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy where he works.

The gunman was shouting orders, telling Quillen to flee — which he did. But the LRU alum (Master's of Ministry and Master's of Leadership) knew that others were in grave danger. He phoned police, reached the school principle, and gathered everyone he could in a locked room to await the outcome of this volatile situation.

Thankfully, no one was hurt — police were able to apprehend the gunman without incident. He turned out to be a young man with mental problems who had stopped taking his medication. The shooter said he had not intended to harm anyone else, but hoped to die in a shoot-out with the police.

"My life flashed before my eyes. I began to think about my wife and daughter," Quillen later said.

We're proud of all our alumni, and especially proud of Malcolm Quillen for keeping a cool head and helping get others out of danger in this frightening incident. We're also proud of him for the difference he is making in the lives of students in DeKalb County, Georgia.

He was recently honored by the School Nutrition Association with their President's Award of Excellence for his outstanding work as the Georgia School Nutrition Association (GSNA) President.

In support of the national "Let's Move" initiative to fight childhood obesity, under Quillen's leadership, the GSNA spearheaded more than 100 related activities and events across Georgia. Mr. Quillen works as a school nutrition manager for DeKalb County (GA) School System. Between the two schools he oversees, his team serves more than 1,200 lunches and 450 breakfasts daily to a combined enrollment of 1,300 students.



# YOU have an important role to play

## *The Importance of Alumni Referrals in Student Recruitment*

**W**e want to build the LRU community with more people like you.

And there's simply nothing more powerful than friends of LRU telling their friends, family, and coworkers about the experience they had at LRU. Your recommendation encourages more people like you to come here and creates a more powerful network for all alumni.

Luther Rice's smaller, more intimate setting and personal approach to biblical education is a great attraction for prospective students — and perhaps the best sense of our priority on quality education comes from the role alumni play in recruiting efforts. They help us recognize prospective students who have the potential to become spiritual Christian leaders.

"It's amazing to see the number of referrals that come through alumni. The largest source of our referrals is from alums," says Vice President for Administration, Steven Steinhilber.

Alumni referrals also have a lasting impact on the Luther Rice community.

"Alumni know identifying prospective students helps admissions," says Russell Sorrow, Director of Marketing. "They also know referrals are an investment in the strength and future of the LRU network."

We're grateful for the active alumni who visit us at recruiting events off-campus, promote us in their churches, and come back to LRU to engage with students, speak in chapel, and tell others about their own experiences.

That direct connection often provides personal insight not always available in a college catalog or on a website.

"The greatest value Luther Rice alumni offer the prospective student is sharing their experiences of the program and how they used their knowledge and degree to be successful in their own ministries," Sorrow says. "It's just the value proposition prospective students are looking for as they evaluate theological schools. They want to know the return on investment of all their hard work."

If you are an alumnus, we appreciate your referral of students to LRU. You can start by directing them to our website at [www.LRU.edu](http://www.LRU.edu). You may also have them contact an Enrollment Advisor directly by phoning 1-800-442-1577 or via email at [admissions@LRU.edu](mailto:admissions@LRU.edu).

And of course, if we can be of any assistance to you, or you would like us to send you some extra materials just to have on hand, just contact the Alumni Services Office at [alumni@LRU.edu](mailto:alumni@LRU.edu).

*We truly value and are very grateful for every referral.*



## A Heart for God— a Vision for the Future

### 2014 LRU Missions Conference

Please make plans to attend the special meetings of our 2014 Missions Conference March 18 and 20 — these exciting services are open to the public:

**Tuesday March 18, 10 am**  
**Dr. Harold Rawlings**

**Thursday March 20, 10 am**  
**Dr. Robert Williams**

Our annual Missions Conference is a highlight of the year — students and guests are inspired by speakers who share how we can impact our world by spreading the Gospel and making disciples!

*We look forward to seeing you here at the LRU chapel. Free lunch provided.*



## *You're invited!* 2014 Alumni and Friends Luncheon, Baltimore

If you're in the Baltimore area on June 10, consider yourself invited to attend the 2014 Alumni and Friends Luncheon — and get a FREE gift!

The luncheon, being held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, is open to all graduates, current students, families, and those that may still be considering attending Luther Rice.

You'll get a catered chicken dinner, hear the State of the Institution Address by Dr. Flanagan, meet the new Vice President for Administration, and take home a gift of appreciation from LRU.

***Seating is limited—registration and ticket purchase is required.***

**More Information and Registration at**  
**[www.LRU.edu/luncheon2014](http://www.LRU.edu/luncheon2014)**

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### ***Return Service Requested***

*Providing biblical education for Christian ministers and leaders around the world.*

LRU is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).

LRU admits students of any race, religion, sex, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability, except where required by specific religious tenets held by the institution.



# ***Stay connected on the go***

## **Sign up for LRU E-newsletter**

If you're an alumnus, and we don't have your email address on file, please get it to us today!

We will *not* share the information with any other organization, so you will not be getting any spam... but you *will* be signed up for our electronic newsletter (coming soon) and other important e-updates from LRU.

**Just email your name and preferred email address to [alumni@LRU.edu](mailto:alumni@LRU.edu) today.**

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