



The Christian Connection™



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A Quarterly Newsletter from Christian Resource Network, Inc.

SOARING COMMUNICATION FOR CHRIST

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many”
(Mk.10: 45 NKJV)*



We Have Hope

Jesus As The Son Of Man

Mark’s gospel portrays Jesus as the Son of Man who came to live among us. He was tempted as we are tempted; He taught and preached the good news about repentance, salvation, and eternal life; He identified with us, healed our pain and sufferings, and died on the cross for our sins so that we could inherit eternal life.

Jesus’ Mission

After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry (Matt. 4:2). Satan tempted Him in the areas of food, obedience, and possessions (Matt 4:3-11). Because of His divinity, Jesus did not sin or succumb to the temptation. He was focused on completing His mission, not to be ministered to, but to save the lost (John 8:36) so that Scripture would be fulfilled (Mk.15: 28).

What Jesus Preached and Taught

During His earthly ministry, Jesus went about preaching and teaching the good news, calling all men and women to repent and believe the gospel, for the kingdom of God is near (Mk. 1:15). He taught about loving God and one’s neighbor (Mk.12: 30-31), servitude (Matt.5: 13-16; Luke 4:8), keeping God’s commandments, caring, forgiving, and having peace with one other (Matt.5: 1-48). All of that could be summed up in one word: “ love “ which is the very essence of Jesus’ character (1 John 4: 8-9).

How Jesus Showed His Love

As the Son of Man, Jesus identified with, and demonstrated his love and compassion by ministering to the poor, the sick, the lost, and those oppressed by society. He fed thousands (Matt.14: 13-21). He healed all manner of sicknesses (Matt.9: 35) including: the blind, the lame, the leper, the woman with a hemorrhage, those who were demon-possessed and those who were lost and needed a Savior (Matt.20: 29-34; Luke 5: 18-20; Luke 5: 12-14; Mk.5: 25-34; Mk. 5: 1-17; Matt.9: 13). He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 12:17).

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The Christian Connection is published by the Christian Resource Network Inc., a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization whose main mission is to provide support to those who are experiencing emotional pain. Other related services include women’s small group training and mentoring services.

If you would like to become a member of Christian Resource Network, Inc., make contributions, advertise in *The Christian Connection Newsletter*, or be on our email list, please contact the editor or visit our website.

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Jesus Was Committed to God's Eternal Plan

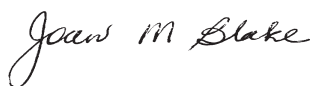
At the garden of Gethsemane Jesus cried out to God, "My Father if it is possible, let this cup pass from me"(Matt. 26: 39 RSV). He never doubted God's power to deliver Him nor did He shy away from His commitment to God's eternal plan: to be the sacrifice for sin, to establish God's kingdom and reconcile the world back to God. He affirmed God's calling and purpose when He stated: "Not as I will but Thou will" (Matt.26: 39 RSV). Jesus was forced to to Mount Calvary and endured great pain as He was tortured, beaten, spat upon, both, during His gruesome journey, and when He was nailed to the cross (Mk. 15:19).

You Can Receive Salvation And Eternal Life

He died a horrific death and demonstrated what a true servant is: to minister and not be ministered to; to sacrifice by taking the place of others and thereby opening up a window for humanity to have direct access to God through Him (John 14:6); securing the gift of salvation and eternal life for those who believe and trust Him by faith, as their Lord and Savior (Hebrews 9:15). Jesus, our ransom, was the first to be raised from the dead, had victory over sin and the grave, so we could live abundantly on earth and for all eternity (1 John 5: 11-13).

May God truly bless you.

In Christ,



Editor/Publisher

Women's Support Group

Are you experiencing emotional pain from the stress of life or feel mentally drained from caring for a loved one? Please email me if you are interested in being part of our bi-weekly support group. Our bi-weekly meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month at a location to be announced.

Email: Jblake@christianresourcenetwork.org

Women's Monthly Breakfast Series

Come and be a part of an educational and fun discussion group! We will grow in Christ as we embrace who we are as women and understand our purpose.

Please email me if you are interested:

Email: Jblake@christianresourcenetwork.org

Do you need prayer?

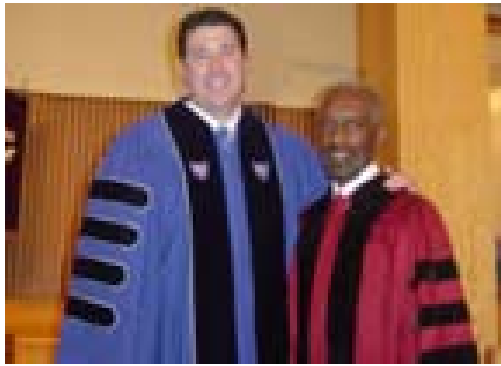
Email your prayer requests at any time to:

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Dr. James Emery White & Dr. Michael E. Haynes

Becoming Makers of History

Message given by Dr. James Emery White

Summary by: Joan M. Blake

Praises resounded as the Twelfth Baptist Church Choir sang: “*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart,*” “*Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me,*” “*What a mighty God we serve,*” and several other renditions. On April 29, 2007, at 10.45 am, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Center for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME), faculty, staff, students, alumni and others, gathered for a convocation service at Twelfth Baptist Church to commemorate the dedication of their new building at 90 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA., held April 28th and named in honor of Dr. Michael E. Haynes, Senior Pastor Emeritus, of Twelfth Baptist Church. Dr. Haynes’ vision, as well as that of others, was instrumental in setting the stage for the birth of trained leaders in the city.

Dr. James Emery White, President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, was the keynote speaker. His message entitled: *Becoming Makers of History*, was dynamic, life-changing, and encouraging.

He mentioned several people, giving dynamic examples of how they chose to stand and make a difference for Christ, not because of egotism or fame, but because they saw a need and wanted to make their lives count. Dr. White recounted Dr. Michael Haynes’ life and vision as a former Pastor: how by faith, courage, and hope, he made a difference in the lives of others in the “quarter mile

radius of his church” amid “poverty, gangs, pimps, drug dealers and racism.” Envisioning that God would raise up trained leaders right here in the city, Dr. Haynes set about “being a part of what God wanted,” joining hands with others in “creating culture, and becoming a maker of history.” Because of his vision, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (CUME) stands on Warren Street and was named in his honor.

Dr. White’s decision to do something great and life changing for God came during a “Kairos” moment in his own life, when he became keenly aware of a “spiritual realm that was real,” “a spiritual war” with a “struggle” for peoples’ souls, and the significance of their “eternal” destiny. He understood then, that the real purpose of doing something great and making history for God, was wrapped up in winning souls and reclaiming the kingdom for God. He chose to forego the thought of living “a life of insignificance” and made a conscience decision to make his life count eternally by “becoming a maker of history.”

The Local Church could “become a maker of history” if its members chose not to be passive “pew warmers” or “maintenance oriented believers,” but walk in its mission as “agents of God’s transforming love:” “freeing the oppressed;” “healing” the wounded; “comforting the grieving; opening its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden and the disillusioned;” providing a place of “belonging for the marginalized; finding resources for those in need; and breaking the chains of addiction.”

When individuals accept opportunities that God presents without considering the costs, they become: “makers of history, revolutionary, dangerous for God,” people with a passion to do something extraordinarily great for God that will touch lives to “eternity.” The Book of Esther exemplifies a woman who was not afraid to risk her life and sacrifice all that she had to save the Jewish nation (Esther 4:16). Dr. White encouraged us to be like Esther and become “world changers, makers of history, people who seek the kingdom, impact the world, and forsake the things of the world.”



Cherry R. Gorton

CUME Building Dedication

As the buses pull in and out of Dudley Square, they roll to the symphony of sirens from the firehouse on one corner, the Roxbury police station on another corner, the ambulances from the hospitals and Emergency Management Service down the street off Massachusetts Avenue. There are days they have passed by crime scene tape marking an altercation between rival youths or angry adults.

But earlier today, on the Warren Street — Kersarge Street corner, the buses rolled by a scene of joyous celebration. Passengers witnessed a Block Party for the new-kid-on-the-block, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Center for Urban Ministerial Education. From a large tent, covering part of Kersarge Street, came the toe-tapping tunes of the Salvation Army Band. Balloons swayed in the breeze, and the Mayor pulled up in his official vehicle to join other civic leaders and the Seminary's newly installed President, Dr. James Emery White. Greeted by Dr. Alvin Padilla, Dean of CUME, they were escorted to the podium to

honor not only the newly renovated Metropolitan Life Building, but the man for whom the building has been renamed, Dr. Michael E. Haynes.

Roxbury and Dudley Square have seen their share of racial hatred, economic unrest, and violence. Yet, this day's events were celebrating the presence of people like Dr. Haynes, and other pastors in the city, as well as the presence of other institutions like Emmanuel Gospel Center, Twelfth Baptist Church, and many churches willing to found CUME and partner with the staff in bringing a ministry of peace and reconciliation. Dr. Eldin Villafane, a founding director of CUME and current professor of Social Ethics often reminds us of our task, bringing shalom to the city, a sense of peace and well-being. Dr. Michael Haynes has been the visionary who showed us the backbone of this program could be the African-American churches who support the effort and share in it. Drs. Doug Hall, Eldin Villafane, and Stephen Mott have created the curriculum framework for this peacemaking effort. The students, faculty and staff of CUME today, showed their willingness to commit to an incarnational presence of Christ to help transform Dudley Square and be a good neighbor in Roxbury

Following the ceremony, a catered buffet was set out and tours of the building were led by students eager to tell what CUME has meant to them. God's blessing to all who participated and attended.

We offer special thanks to God for Dr. Michael E. Haynes, who not only had the vision for an institution of higher education like CUME, but also served long enough on the Board of Trustees at Gordon-Conwell to see that vision grow and become a full fledged campus, just down the street from his home and his ministry at Twelfth Baptist.

Cherry R. Gorton is a Coordinator of library services and an Adjunct Professor at Gordon-Conwell-CUME.



Dr. Alvin Padilla (Dean)

The seminary is very diversified. Over 30 years ago when Evangelicals were leaving the city, Dr. Michael E. Haynes, Dr. Eldin Villafañe and others, envisioned a theological education program that would minister to God's people and prepare them for Christian service in the inner city.

Today that program is thriving, and continues to serve the city of Boston, other cities in the area and throughout the world.

The question to ask ourselves is: If I am called to Christian service should I go to seminary?

Who, Then, Should Enroll At CUME?

Women and men of God of any age or nationality who are called to serve Christ and His Church and who are committed to living, engaging, and being agents of change in the city.

Our past and recent students have been:

- Young women and men who have finished college
- Those who have not even finished high school
- Those who have never been in ministry
- Those who are significantly engaged in ministry

- Those who are called to full time ministry
- Those who are called to part time, volunteer work in ministry
- People who are older and decide to honor the call of God
- People who are younger and want to live significant lives for God
- Those who serve God's people in the community and around the world
- Those who have achieved either a BA, Master's and PHD or a combination of those degrees
- Those who speak English but prefer to speak in other native languages
- Those from within the inner city
- Students from India, Latin America, Africa and around the world
- Students from all socio-economic backgrounds
- Students called to be disciples of Christ in an age of change and want to solidify their Christian foundation
- Students just like you.

Dr. Alvin Padilla is The Dean of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Boston

Letters To The Editor

We welcome your articles, thoughts, suggestions, and feed-back. Contact us at:

Email: Jblake@christianresourcenetwork.org

Psalm 103 (NKJV)
A Psalm of David

*Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me,
bless His holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits;
Who forgives all your
iniquities
Who Heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with
lovingkindness and tender
mercies,
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
So that your youth is renewed
like the eagles,
The Lord executes
righteousness
And justice for all who are
oppressed.
He made known His ways to
Moses,
His acts to the children of
Israel.
The Lord is merciful and
gracious,
slow to anger, and abounding
in mercy,
He will not always strive with
us,
Nor will He keep his anger
forever,
He has not dealt with us
according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to
our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high
above the earth,
So great is the His mercy toward
those who fear Him;
As far as the east is from the
West,
So far has He removed
our transgressions from
us.
As a father pities his children*

*So the Lord pities those who
fear Him,
For He knows our frame;
He remembers that we are dust.*

*As for man, "his days are like
grass;
As a flower of the field, so he
flourishes.
For the wind passes over it, and
it is gone,
And its place remembers it no
more
But the mercy of the Lord is
from everlasting to
everlasting
On those who fear Him,
And His righteousness to
children's children,
To such as keep His covenant,
And to those who remember
His commandments to do
them*

*The Lord has established His
throne in heaven,
And His kingdom rules over
all.
Bless the Lord, all you His
hosts,
You ministers of His, who do
His pleasure.
Bless the Lord, all His works,
in all places of His dominion.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 117 (NKJV)
*Praise the Lord, all you
Gentiles!
Laud Him, all you peoples!
For His merciful kindness is
great toward us,
And the trugh of the Lord
endures forever.
Praise the Lord!*



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