



Christmas 2015

Dear Friend of Taylor,

As 2015 comes to a close, my heart is filled with gratitude for all that has taken place this year. We were able to visit with so many who celebrated Taylor's 75th Anniversary, here on campus, in BC, Manitoba and in California at the NAB Triennial. What a great reminder of the impact this institution has had for the Kingdom!

Speaking of the Triennial, I think most that were able to attend had a deep sense of God's pleasure in our renewed sense of common purpose and the spirit of cooperation and unity, not the least of which is displayed in the joint capital campaign that was announced there. It is so great to be a part of what God is doing in and through the NAB.



Photo: Students at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary pause outside their classroom. Taylor President Dr. David Williams will be teaching here in January 2016.

The past couple of years I have found it so rewarding to be able to work more closely with our friends at the Cameroon Baptist Convention, including at the seminary in Ndu (CBTS), and to be in closer partnership with Sioux Falls Seminary and the NAB office. God has been doing something significant in our midst in these partnerships. As I write this, I am preparing to head back to Cameroon to do some teaching, to help the administrative team at CBTS as they seek to be faithful to the task of educational ministry, and to meet the administrative team at the Baptist seminary in Kumba; I am excited to think about the things that God is preparing for the joint effort

in the future, particularly what we can learn from them about theological education.

Above all, Taylor students and alumni continue to be a tremendous source of pride and joy. Sometimes I can hardly believe all of the ways they are making a difference in the world – there is a long list of ministries and churches being served in creative and life-changing ways! How things have changed since I was a seminarian. In those days we sat around dreaming of the ministry God would lead us into. Today's students talk about the ministry God already has them invested in. Our newest students always seem to be balancing eagerness with a bit of nervousness, and it is a joy to mentor and teach those who are hungry for God's Word and those who are applying themselves to wisdom.

My message throughout our 75th Anniversary celebration has been that we are working to reimagine theological education for ministry in the 21st century. More than ever, we need to be mindful of Jesus

...developing Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

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final directive to “make disciples ... teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you” Our students and faculty, our alumni, our generous contributors, our supporting churches – all know the urgency of this moment. With confidence in God’s faithfulness, we are looking with expectation to the next 75 years!

As you rejoice in the fulfillment of God’s Advent promises during this Christmas season—promises that were fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus, may you also be filled with wonder at all that God is doing. Emmanuel – God is with us!

Shalom,

David Williams, President

P.S. If you know of someone you believe God may be calling into ministry, feel free to share my contact information with them. I would love to show how Taylor can come alongside of what God is doing in their lives through theological education and training.