

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY OF NC

Celebrating 25 Years of God's Faithfulness: A Cloud of Witnesses Quilt

As part of BWIM,NC's 25th Anniversary, we are creating a "Cloud of Witnesses" Quilt in honor and memory of those saints who have encouraged us along our journey. For each \$25 donation toward the Kay Simpson Memorial scholarship endowment, the giver may supply the name of one "witness" to go on the quilt. If a person wants to submit more than one name, she or he should include payment of \$25 per name. Each name submitted will receive one block on

the quilt. If you want us to contact your "witness" (or the family if the witness is deceased) and let them know of this honor, please provide us with the appropriate contact information.

Names submitted do not have to be someone famous or well-known to most BWIM,NC participants. The idea is that we would all be able to gather our "witnesses" into one great cloud (or in this case, quilt!) as a testimony of God's provision for us. Feel free to submit names of peo-

ple whom God has used to shape you into who you are today, people who have helped you live into your call to ministry, or people who have been a mentor to you.

We will accept submissions until November 15, 2007. We look forward to the creation of the quilt that will help us celebrate BWIM,NC's 25 years of advocating for, supporting, and encouraging women in ministry. To God be the Glory!

Two Pieces of the Cloud of Witnesses Quilt

By Terry Honeycutt and Kathy Naish

Students at Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity have, through unique circumstances, been enriched by the giftedness of two outstanding Old Testament scholars, both of whom have a heart for women in ministry. These Christian gentlemen, **James D. Nogalski** and **Gerald L. Keown**, have a shared history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where both taught in the 1990's during that seminary's difficult time of tran-

sition. The changes at SBTS impacted both of their career paths. Dr. Keown came to Gardner-Webb in 1996. When Dr. Nogalski joined the faculty in 2002, they became teaching colleagues once again. For years, their ministries through teaching have nurtured and encouraged numerous women preparing for ministry.

Dr. Keown is Professor of Old Testament Interpretation at GWU School of Divinity and has

recently been appointed Associate Dean. Word Biblical Commentary users will recognize Dr. Keown's co-authorship of the volume, *Jeremiah 26-52*.

Dr. Nogalski is well known in the academic world for his work on the Book of the Twelve "minor" prophets and for his translations into English of various scholarly works. Sadly for North Carolina, he will be leaving GWU this fall to become Professor of Old Testament at

(Continued on page 2)

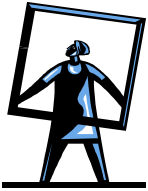
25TH Anniversary Convocation

Ridge Road Baptist Church
Friday, April 11th
10:00 am

Catered luncheon following Convocation
Ridge Road Baptist Church

By reservation. Meat, vegetables, bread, dessert and drink.
More info in Fall Newsletter.

Plan to join the celebration!



Photos wanted!

For a
25th Anniversary
DVD celebrating
Baptist Women in
Ministry
in action . . .
Help us celebrate
how far God has
brought us!
Send us a picture of
you or a woman
you know involved
in ministry
by February
Send to:
Lynn Odom at
momof3knights
@triad.rr.com

Two Witnesses

Baylor University.

In keeping with BWIM's theme of expressing gratitude for encouragers of women in ministry, two former students of Nogalski and Keown pay tribute in this newsletter to these professors who have contributed significantly to their formation as ministers. Kathy Naish, a 2006 graduate of GWU School of Divinity, is Pastor of Spiritual Formation at Viewmont Baptist Church, Hickory. Terry Honeycutt, a 2007 GWU graduate, invests in the music and teaching ministries of First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton. Both were BWIM Scholarship recipients during their seminary days.

Investments. Shares. Risks. I am not referring to the stock market, but to the contributions of those who have encouraged and supported me in ministry. One to whom I am particularly grateful is **Gerald Keown**, Associate Dean of the School of Divinity at GWU.

Dr. Keown was one of my first professors when I returned to school during mid-life to explore a call to ministry. Anxious and insecure, I soon learned that neither gender nor age matters in Dr. Keown's classes. Encouragement and challenge are

dispensed equitably.

Nodding off is not a temptation during Dr. Keown's "colorful" Old Testament lectures! In class discussions he encourages contributions from students of diverse backgrounds and broad theological perspectives. The voices of women and minorities are intentionally cultivated as rich sources of interpretive viewpoints. Each student's experience of God is accepted as valid and a worthy starting point from which to develop one's image of God.

Dr. Keown responded to the following questions of interest to women in ministry.

Q: How have you arrived at the convictions you hold concerning women in ministry?

GLK: My experience in the Baptist tradition always included a strong sense of God working with and through women as well as men. During my youth, gender roles were more rigidly defined within the church, but with an awareness that women offered significant gifts for furthering the gospel. The leadership of committed women was a key element in my spiritual formation as a child.

Two Witnesses

I went through a period of exposure to a rather intense conservative influence, but not of the narrow sort. There was an openness to dialogue, even disagreement about theological ideas. This background made it easy for me to factor in new ideas without perceiving them to be threats to the core of my faith.

I came to embrace a gospel of equality as it pertains to gender. Common sense tells me that God does not gift women with such tremendous abilities if they are not to be put into practice.

Q: Are there particular biblical texts or experiences that have helped shape your attitude toward women in ministry?

GLK: The more immersed I became in Old and New Testament texts, what I encountered in the text solidified my observations. The OT reflects a thoroughly patriarchal culture; yet, it offers remarkable pictures of women who were used of God to accomplish great things. The NT may refer to either men or women as “diakonos,” with no distinction in what God does through those servant leaders. Galatians 3:28 strongly asserts the equality of all in Christ.

Through 25 years of seminary teaching, my experiences with gifted women have served to reinforce my convictions. Those who so bitterly oppose openness of roles for women in the church offer a powerful argument against their own position. The arrogance of those who would presume to speak for God, to decide what God can and cannot do, whom God will or will not call, says more about the protestor than about the idea being challenged.

Q: I know the changes at Southern in the 1990’s were costly to you. What are your reflections now on that time of transition?

GLK: I don’t consider my experience to

be one of great suffering. I functioned as chair of the Faculty Association for five years during the heat of the turmoil with trustees. That brought some unpleasant experiences, but it was also one of the most rewarding times of my life. To be given that responsibility by those who were my faculty colleagues, especially when I think of whom that included, was a great honor. There is a closeness among those of us who endured that time together which is its own special reward. The downside is that the career plan I had at the time was flushed.

One positive result is having the opportunity now to teach in a smaller institution where it is possible to develop much stronger and more meaningful relationships with students.

Q: Sometimes I think progress is being made by and for women in ministry; other times it seems doubtful. More individuals seem supportive, yet many Baptist churches remain reluctant to call women as pastors. How do you evaluate the current status of women in ministry?

GLK: Baptist churches that affirm and ordain women are too often guilty of the sin of inconsistency between what is said and what is done. Some of the strongest condemnations in scripture are reserved for an inconsistency between word and deed.

The irony is that churches are cheating themselves out of some of God’s greatest blessings. Many of the ills which plague churches would be addressed more effectively by strengths more often possessed by women than men. I hope I will see change in my lifetime, but developed patterns are stubborn.

Q: What are your projections for the future?

GLK: Women will emerge as key leaders

Have you been involved in BWIM during the past 25 years?

If anyone has documents, pictures, meeting minutes, etc. of BWIM,NC life from the past 25 years, please contact Alicia Porterfield. aporterfield@ec.rr.com

We’d like to gather copies of such materials for our 25th Anniversary Convocation

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in the church. I simply cannot identify the timetable. At some point, God will accomplish, with or without the assistance of human institutions, what it is that God is about. I suspect that in another generation, things may look very different in Baptist life.

The story from Molly Marshall's seminary pastorate is informative. After she had been pastor for a couple of years, someone observed small children playing church. The boys were excluded from the role of preacher because all of the children knew that preaching was a woman's job!

Besides being a Christian gentleman and scholar of great integrity, quick wit, respected intellect, and servant spirit, you should hear the man sing! I am thankful that Dr. Keown's influence has shaped my preparation for ministry. It is my prayer that somewhere in the formative background of every woman called to ministry, someone like Dr. Keown, will invite her to move forward with confidence into God's service.

Terry Honeycutt

Early one morning, in the fall of 2002, I walked through a door and opened a book. Both actions changed my life. The door opened to a classroom in GWU School of Divinity where Dr. James Nogalski stood at the front taking a class of first semester Old Testament students through the rich details of Genesis. In that first classroom experience, I sat near the back of the room and kept my head down as much as possible. It had been twenty years since I'd been in a classroom and during those two decades I'd been told more than once that I had no business pursuing a Divinity degree anyway. But

Genesis, the book we opened, had come alive for me and Jim Nogalski's teaching was irresistible. Before the end of that first semester, I had raised my hand enough times that I'd surprised even myself. By the time I had completed my degree, Jim had been my professor six times and I had forgotten what it felt like to hide in the back of a classroom. His encouragement and inclusiveness made the classroom a safe place to be both female and a critical thinker.

Before the end of that first year, Jim found scholarship opportunities for me, introduced me to Baptist Women in Ministry, and encouraged me to walk through every door that opened and to push against the ones that wouldn't. I tried to follow his advice, but the truth is that many of the doors opened because Jim pushed them first. Academic doors, doors to ministry, and doors to leadership have opened for me because Jim helps create opportunities for women in ministry. And he's done that for many years, even when the cost was high for him personally. He's had doors close for him because of his support of women in ministry.

This fall, Jim will leave GWU for Baylor University to become Professor of Old Testament in the Religion Department. He will be deeply missed in North Carolina. Baptist women have been blessed by his leadership both inside and outside the classroom.

When I consider the distance from the back of that classroom in 2002 to the place where I find myself today, I know that there are many doors I would never have tried without Jim Nogalski's help and encouragement. I can say "Thank you" in print, but because of people like Jim, I can also say it from the front of a classroom and from a pulpit.

Kathy Naish



Dr. Gerald Keown
Associate Dean of the
School of Divinity at GWU

"The boys were excluded from the role of preacher because all of the children knew that preaching was a woman's job!"



Dr. James Nogalski
Professor of Old Testament
School of Divinity at GWU

UpComing Events

- 8/4/07 CBF College Ministry
Discussion
Greystone BC, Raleigh
- 9/20/07 "Jazz and Job"
Wait Chapel, WFU, 7 pm
- 9/30/07 Molly Marshal to preach
Knollwood BC, WS
- 10/1-3/07 Pastor's School
Campbell Uni. Divinity School
Dr. Walter Shurden
- 10/28/07 Tony Campolo
Wait Chapel, WFU, 8 pm
- 11/13/07 CBF Fall Fellowship
Gathering, FBC, Greensboro
- 12/9/07 Duke Chapel
Dr. Walter Brueggemann
- 2/25-28/08 CBF Youth Ministers'
Retreat, Myrtle Beach
- 3/4-5/08 Tribble Lecture Series
Wait Chapel, WFU
- 3/28-30/08 Alliance of Baptists
Convocation
St. Charles Avenue BC,
New Orleans



Original Grin Tidbits to Tickle Your Ribs

One particular four-year old prayed,
"And forgive us our trash baskets as we for-
give those who put trash in our baskets."

A little boy was overheard praying:
"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy,
don't worry about it. I'm having a real good
time like I am."

Children of Ordained Southern Baptist Women Needed for Research

As faculty members at Oregon State Uni-
versity in Sociology and Women Studies, we
are conducting research about **children of
ordained Southern Baptist women**. We'd
like to talk to adults (over 18 years of age)
who were children during the time in which
their mother was ordained and serving in min-
istry as a Southern Baptist.

We are especially interested in participants
who were children during the early 1970s-the
mid 1990s. We want to explore the experi-
ences of these people in the context of the lit-
erature on children of women in non-
traditional occupations, as well as within the
historical context of Southern Baptist life dur-
ing the 70s-90s.

If you have a child or know of someone
who meets these criteria, please send us her/
his name and contact information
(sshaw@oregonstate.edu) and we will invite
her/him to participate. Or if you know an or-
dained Southern Baptist (current or former)
woman who was raising children during this
time, please send us her information, and we'll
contact her.

Susan M. Shaw, Ph.D.
Director, Women Studies
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
541-737-3082
sshaw@oregonstate.edu

Becky Warner, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Sociology
Oregon State University

Baptist Women in
Ministry, NC, publishes a newsletter
3 times a year.
Editor: Alicia Davis-Porterfield
Graphic Editor: Lynn C. Odom
momof3knights@triad.rr.com

Journey Without Map: Words of Hope for Changing Times

A book about the
life and work of Anne
Thomas Neil is coming
out soon. The work is
the collaboration of
Anne, Karen L. Cald-
well and Karen S.
Moore.

If you would like to
be notified when the
book is available, con-
tact Paula Dempsey at
the Advent Spirituality
Center via email at
adventcenter@
verizon.net

BAPTIST WOMEN IN
MINISTRY OF NC

173 Grove Park Lane
Lexington, NC 27293

Website
www.bwimnc.com

To submit a name for the Cloud of Witnesses Quilt,
fill out and mail in:

Giver's Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ ZIP _____

Phone number: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Name of your Witness: _____

(circle one) In memory of or In honor of

**If you want us to let the witness or their family (circle one) know of this honor,
please provide the appropriate contact information:

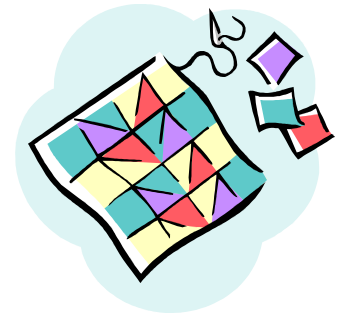
Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ ZIP _____

Please send this form and check payable to: **BWIM,NC, C/O JJ Johnson, Treasurer**
2719 Gordon Street
Raleigh, NC 27608

Thank you for your support of BWIM,NC's 25th Anniversary Celebration
and the Kay Simpson Memorial Endowment.



**A Cloud of
Witnesses
BWIM,NC's
25th Anniversary
Quilt
Deadline for
Submissions
November 15, 2007**

32 Names so far