

Ryan Center News

Volume 4

Fall 2006

Upcoming 2007 Conference: “One Bible, One Gospel... Exploring The Unity of Scripture”

The Ryan Center’s bi-annual conference on bible study has been set for April 27-28, 2007. The theme will be “One Bible, One Gospel: Exploring the Unity of Scripture.” The plenary speaker will be **Dr. Paul House**, Associate Dean and Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama.



Dr. Paul House

Dr. House is the author of *Old Testament Theology*, and *1&2 Kings* in the New American Commentary. He is currently writing on the Minor Prophets for Crossway’s ‘Preaching the Word’ Series. He is also writing a commentary on the book of Isaiah for the Mentor Series from Christian Focus Publications.

Dr. Ken Mathews, Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, will also join us to lead a breakout session. Dr. Mathews has written the much appreciated two volume commentary on Genesis in the NAC series and will soon be publishing a commentary on Leviticus.

Dr. Grant Osborne, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, will

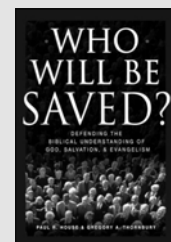
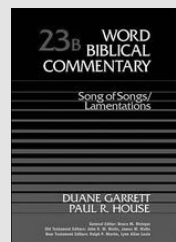
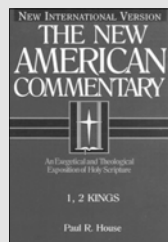
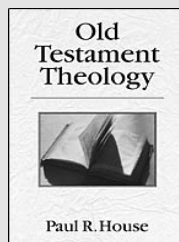


Dr. Ken Mathews

also join us again to lead in a breakout session. Dr. Osborne has become a regular and a favorite at our conferences for his clear, faithful teaching. **Michael Card**, whose music and bible teaching we greatly appreciated last year is also scheduled to

(Continued on page 2)

2007 Conference Speaker Paul House is author of ...



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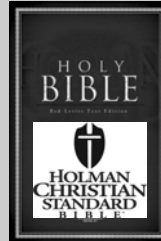
return. Many Union faculty will also lead breakout sessions including George Guthrie, Brad Green, Hal Poe, Gary Smith, Kelvin Moore, David Gushee, Jim Patterson, Todd Brady, and Mark Dubis.

Ray Van Neste, Center Director, said, "Many people in our churches struggle to understand how the Old Testament applies to us and often end up thinking only the New Testament is significant for the Christian today. As part of our mission of enhancing and enabling sound biblical interpretation we are pleased to host this conference and to have such men as these willing to come and teach."

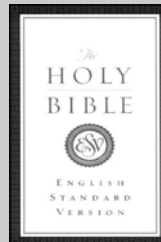
This year there will also be two breakout sessions led by teachers from Explorers' Bible Study, co-sponsors of this conference and last year's. One of these sessions will focus on leading effective bible study groups for women. Logos Bible Software will also be present with a representative leading a breakout session on using bible software for bible study.

Registration will cost \$45 per person (\$35 for groups of 10 or more). Registration at the Ryan Center website (www.uu.edu/centers/biblical) will open this fall.

Upcoming Conference Speakers Who Have Contributed to Recent Bible Translations:



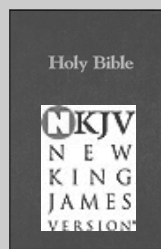
Dr. Paul House
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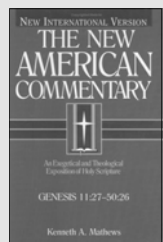
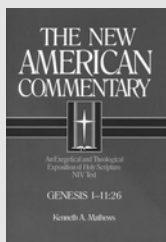


Dr. Grant Osborne
Dr. Ken Mathews
Dr. George Guthrie
Dr. Gary V. Smith



Dr. Gary V. Smith

2007 Conference Speaker Ken Mathews is author / co-author of ...



Forthcoming
Commentary
on
Leviticus
"Preaching the
Word" Series
Crossway Books

Area Businessmen Use Ryan Center as Outlet for Building the Kingdom

The Ryan Center has been pleased to receive significant book donations recently from two area businessmen, Robert Caldwell of Jackson and Lee Simmons of Lexington. This was the second donation from both men. Caldwell donated a large number of books valued at thousands of dollars. As he gave the books, Caldwell stated, "These books are my friends." This was not merely a collection but books that had nurtured and encouraged him over the years. Although he hated to part with these "friends" of his, he believed that the Kingdom of

"These books are my friends!"
-Robert Caldwell

Christ would be better served if a broader audience had ready access to them.

The collection included centuries-old classics such as the complete works of Jonathan Edwards in library-quality hardback, numerous books by Charles Spurgeon as well as a magnificent portrait of Spurgeon, and numerous recordings of sermons and lectures by a variety of evangelical giants. The theological richness and fine condition of the books have already caught the attention of visitors to the Center. The Spurgeon volumes will be used to start a specific Spurgeon collection and the Spurgeon portrait

already hangs prominently in the Center. Ray Van Neste said, "Spurgeon is an appropriate figure to be highlighted by the Center for Biblical Studies. As a Baptist pastor he brought the bible to the common person in a remarkable way. His sermons had theological depth as well as pastoral warmth and evangelical fervor. He stands as a model of communicating the bible to the people, which is what the Ryan Center exists to do as well."

Simmons also noted that he felt he wanted to pass on the richness of his books. His donation, valued at several hundred dollars, included a number of key texts on pastoral ministry such as Lloyd-Jones' *Preaching and Preachers* and other classic works such as J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*.

Guests of the center have been delighted to peruse the recent additions. More than one has commented on the quality of the collection, not just the condition of the material but the richness of the titles included. One patron was amazed to discover that these particular works came from the personal libraries of church laymen, noting that the collections rival that of many pastors.



This donated portrait of **Charles Haddon Spurgeon** is on display in the Ryan Center.

Ryan Center Brings Cambridge Scholar to Speak at Union University

Last Fall The Ryan Center for Biblical Studies sponsored a visit to Union University by Dr. **Bruce Winter**, Warden of Tyndale House and Director of the Institute of Early Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England. Dr. Winter has written and lectured extensively on the background, culture and society of the New Testament world. His popular works include *The Book Of Acts in Its Ancient Literary Setting*, *Paul and Philo Among the Sophists* and *Seek the Welfare of the City: Christians as Benefactors and Citizens*.

During his visit to Union University Dr. Winter spoke to the Pauline Epistles class and also delivered two general lectures which drew from the Corinthian letters. His first address, entitled "Sex and the Church: Only Fools Fornicate" was directed particularly to students. His second lecture, "The Church in Crisis: Modern Strategies and Ancient Corinth" addressed ways the Corinthian church

was compromising with its culture and striking parallels with the Western church and its culture.

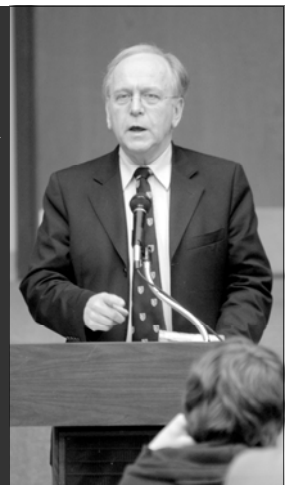
The lectures were well attended and reactions were very positive both by students and faculty alike. Center Director Ray Van Neste said, "It is a privilege to host on our campus such a prominent scholar who also clearly has a passion for the church. I am pleased that this seems to have been beneficial to students, faculty and area church leaders."

In addition to his responsibilities at Cambridge University, Dr. Winter also serves as Senior Research Fellow in the

Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

The Ryan Center hopes to continue hosting prominent biblical scholars to enhance the learning of students, professors and area pastors.

Bruce Winter,
 "...a prominent scholar who also clearly has a passion for the church."



Ryan Center Publishing Recommended Book List for Building Your Own Ideal Reference Library

The Ryan Center is currently compiling a list of the "best of the best" bible study tools available for use by pastors and church leaders. We are drawing from the recommendations of various professors including those from Union University's School of Christian Studies. The aim of this publication is to provide pastors, students and anyone interested in serious bible study with a checklist of the best available tools and resources. The Ryan Center has spent months compiling recommendations from a variety of scholars hoping to identify which commentaries, dictionaries, monographs, etc. are the best in their specific areas. We have reviewed the latest offerings from over a

dozen publishers in order to identify which are most helpful for sound and serious biblical exploration. Rather than trying to survey the entire landscape of broad, academic biblical study, this list is specifically designed to target those works which will be most helpful for pastoral use.

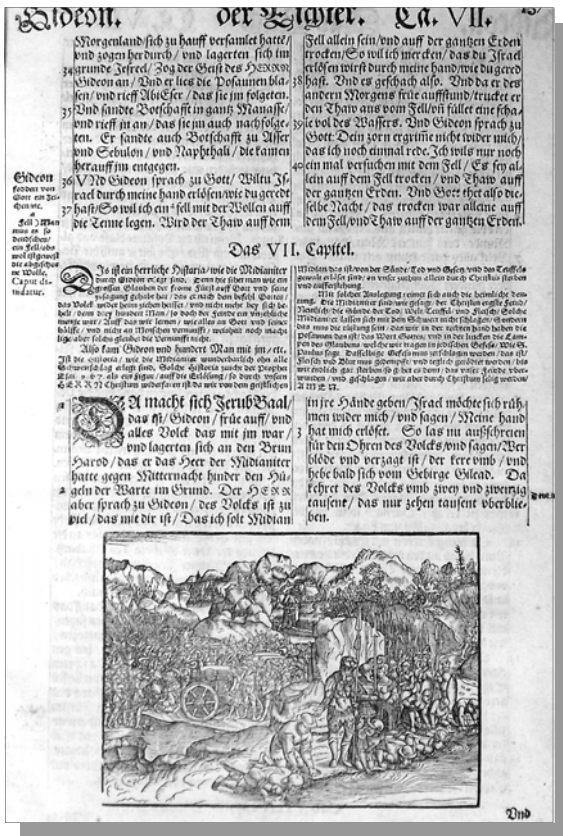
The options seem endless for anyone wanting to purchase or recommend a "good" book on a certain subject. Hopefully this publication will remove the guesswork for many who do not have time to do such extensive investigation for themselves.

The publication will provide recommendations on a variety of subjects. It highlights the "best of the best" commentaries available for each book of the bible and lists some the most helpful books on theology, Greek and Hebrew languages, church history, etc.

Readers will find answers to questions like, "What is a good book on how to study the bible?" and "what's the best resource for understanding the book of Revelation?" It is our hope that many will find this very helpful and enable them to purchase the most useful and worthwhile tools for their own personal bible study.

Artifacts On Display in Ryan Center

The Ryan Center is always seeking historical artifacts which will best exemplify our purpose - aiding churches and individuals in the reading and study of Scripture. In addition to our 1615 copy of the Geneva Bible and 1708 copy of Beza's Greek and Latin New Testament, we have acquired a page from Luther's translation of the bible and a page from an early printing of the Hebrew Bible. Each of these demonstrates the continuing efforts through the centuries of bringing the Word of God to people.



Above:
An original hand-made paper leaf with woodcut illustration from the **1594** folio edition of the Luther Bible. Printed in the German language and published in Wittenberg by Zacharias Lehmen. The text is from Judges 6:34 - 7:25: "Der Geist des..." ("But the spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon . . . The Lord said to Gideon, "They that shall lap the water with their tongues, as dogs are want to lap, thou shalt set them apart by themselves... and by the hand of the men that lap I shall give you victory in battle against the Midianites")



Above:
One curious feature of the woodcut engraving depicted on the Luther Bible leaf is the armor of the soldiers. The artist who carved the scene chose to depict Gideon's army wearing 16th century European armor. Gideon's actual soldiers would not have worn armor such as this in the 12th century B.C.

Right:
An original page from the *Chamishah Chumshei Torah*, a Hebrew Bible printed in Antwerp by Christopher Plantin circa **1580**. The text shows the opening verses of Numbers 22, the story of Balak, Balaam and his donkey. Numbers 22:2 - 25:9 is the 40th weekly *parshah* ("portion") in the annual cycle of Torah reading practiced in Jewish synagogues to this day. Regular, systematic and public reading of Scripture is one of the values and goals of the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies.



R. C. Ryan Center for
BIBLICAL STUDIES

Location:	Contact:	Hours:
Union University	731.661.5579 (telephone)	Tues, Wed, Thur.
Jennings Hall - 3rd Floor	731.661.5118 (facsimile)	9am - 5pm
1050 Union Univ. Drive	rvannest@uu.edu (e-mail)	Friday
Jackson, TN 38305-9901	bdenker@uu.edu (e-mail)	11:30am - 4:30pm

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A Word from the Director...

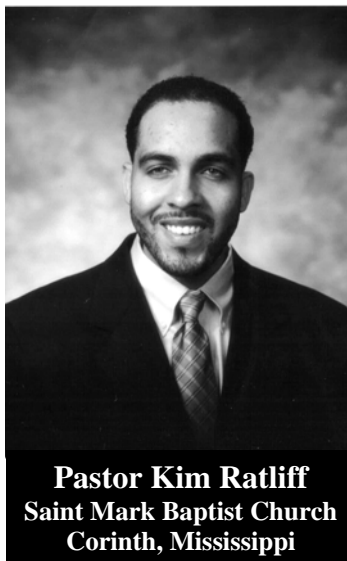
The Ryan Center has had another encouraging year, and I am excited about the upcoming conference. We wanted you to have the chance to hear from Pastor Kim Ratliff who attended our previous conference (his testimony and photo are to the right). We have received numerous encouraging notes on how the conference has been helpful to people.

I hope you will be able to attend this year and will encourage others to attend as well.

As I have mentioned before, we are able to keep conference registration at such a reasonable price due to gifts and sponsors. If you would like to help provide scholarships for people to attend the conference or to help us in our effort to raise the money for keeping the Ryan Center open full time during the week, please contact us.

May the Lord continue to bless you in your study of His Word.

-Ray Van Neste



"As a bi-vocational pastor it is especially important to keep the saw sharpened. The Ryan Center for Biblical Studies Conference gave me exposure to methods of bible study and material from leading theological scholars. The insights were fresh and the fellowship was special. Attending last year's conference led me to enroll in Union University's Master of

Christian Studies Program which has benefited my ministry work tremendously.

So whether you are looking for something to help develop your knowledge base or if you need a time of spiritual renewal I am sure you will find something that will appeal to you at the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies Conference."