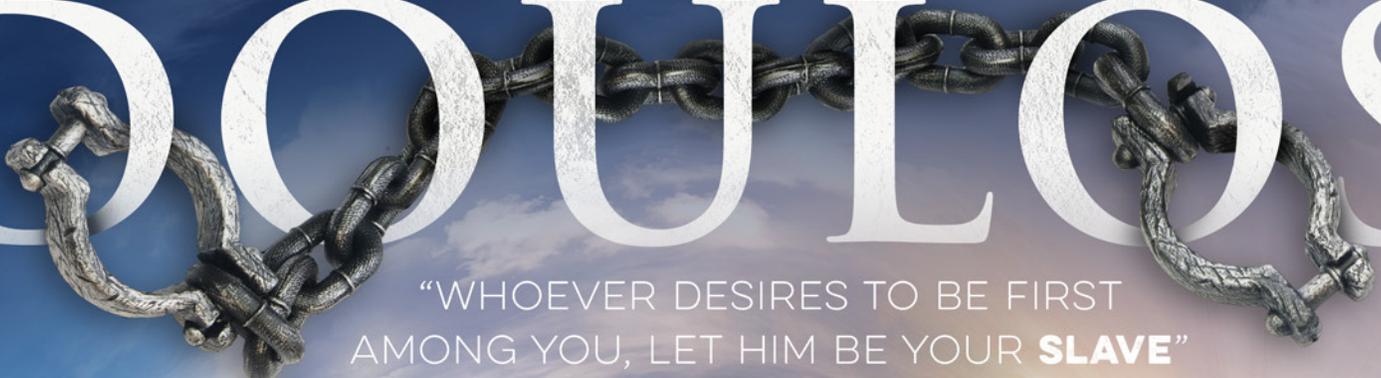


APPALACHIAN BIBLE COLLEGE

DOULOS



“WHOEVER DESIRES TO BE FIRST
AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE YOUR **SLAVE**”



ISSUE 3 · SUMMER 2017

The Servant and His Mission
Student Testimony: David Hock
Alumni Story: Elsbeth Rodgers

– from the –

PRESIDENT'S HEART

Thank you for your special friendship with Appalachian Bible Fellowship. Your partnership engages in a full range of ministries: Appalachian Bible College and Graduate School, Mount Olive Bible College serving West Virginia inmates, Alpine Ministries with its resident camping and adventure programs, and many related church and community ministries. It is exciting to consider the thousands of lives being touched as we serve together!

At the heart of all these is our core commitment to advance the gospel around the world. This issue of *Doulos* portrays that essential element as we reflect on our commitment to missions. As a mission agency, Appalachian Bible Fellowship exists to model and promote our Lord's command to make disciples (Matthew 28:16-20). I believe you will be blessed and challenged as you explore our mission fervor through the features included in *Doulos*.

Our dedication to Christ's missions mandate is included in our "20/20 Vision, Our Destination: Servants For the Church." This strategic plan delineates eight goals we are seeking to accomplish by 2020. Goals five and six specifically identify our desire to see missions advanced.

5. Annually see at least 33% of B.A. graduates pursuing church-commissioned missionary vocations.

While every B.A. graduate majors in Bible/Theology, each will also have a second major. It is thrilling to see how every second major can be effectively used in global missions. For example, we have Camping majors headed to the mission field to lead camping ministries. Our Elementary Education majors often serve in missionary settings around the world. Our goal is to see at least a third of graduates directed into missionary vocations.

6. Annually see at least 85% of B.A. graduates pursuing gospel-focused vocations.

This goal emphasizes our essential purpose of "educating and equipping servants for the church of tomorrow while edifying the church of today." Two overriding words motivate our efforts. First, "URGENCY." Our world urgently needs the gospel. We want our graduates to give themselves for gospel-focused vocations. The second word is "UTILIZATION." As stewards of facilities God provided, we are responsible to utilize these for the advance of the gospel in service to the church.

My wife and I recently ministered for a unique missions conference on the island of Malta. Missionaries serving in restricted access countries like China and Iran were in attendance. It is impossible to describe the powerful impact these humble but heroic servants had upon our hearts. We returned with a zeal to see God move among our students.

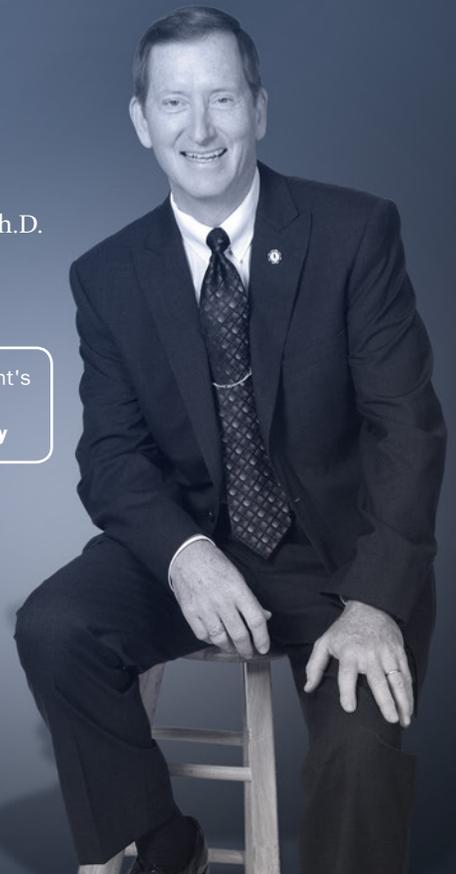
Missions is the heart of God (Isa. 6:8). Thank you for your partnership as we advance Christ's mission in the world ...*Because life is for service.*



Daniel L. Anderson, Th.D.
President
Psalm 84:11, 12



Join the President's
Prayer Partners
at abc.edu/pray



i **Doulos** (pronounced DOO-loss) is the Greek word for "slave." In Matthew 20:25–27, Jesus declares that the qualifying mark of a Biblical leader is to be a "doulos"—a slave for Jesus.

LIVE & LEARN

A MISSIONS STUDENT PREPARES FOR MINISTRY

For full-time ABC students, classes take up 15-20 hours/week. Then there is homework, and of course meals and sleep (blessed sleep!). But what happens the rest of the time? The student experience includes activities besides classroom instruction, with the intent of nurturing the whole person to maturity and usefulness to the Lord. Take senior Missions major David Hock. Extra-curricular involvement in various opportunities has been preparing him for the joys and demands of ministry. **Can you match each activity with the lesson he has learned?**

A “I’m learning that communication is key. Being able to organize and prioritize my commitment—that is another big thing I’m working on. Also, when I’m not sure of something: ask. Recently I didn’t know how to go about a certain task, so I kept putting it off when I should have gone to Mr. Peterson, the faculty advisor. So even though I’m the Committee Chair, I need to always be seeking counsel and looking to others.”

B “Recently in a meeting Dean Childs asked, ‘What are some questions that you guys have?’ And so the last few weeks we have talked about how to confront people biblically, how to speak in love even when you need to put your foot down, how to discern a person’s spiritual maturity or even if they are saved based on their walk. It’s super profitable learning how to approach these situations when—not ‘if’—you get involved in them.”

C “When I’m running that mile during practice and trying to do my fastest time, I think, ‘Why am I even doing this?’ It’s because it keeps my body under subjection, and that’s what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 9. It has also given me practice in keeping a cool head, being calm and patient. Don’t say something that you’ll regret later. It’s a way to relieve my mind, get all the pressure off, and it has made me a better person for future ministry.”

D “My Homiletics class has been great. Dean Gullion has taught me how to preach. I knew how to give devotionals but I had never really been able to preach. I knew what preaching was, but this definitely taught me how to do it. The credit goes to God for my preaching, but it also goes to Dean Gullion.”

E “I help with the youth at my church—whether it’s games or music or giving a devotional—and on Wednesdays I lead music before prayer meeting. My church has just started an evangelism team and I’m hoping to do that next semester. Knowing that Christ’s return is imminent and that people are going to hell every day—it strikes me as something super important.”

1. Warrior Soccer
2. Missions Conference Steering Committee
3. Practical Christian Service assignment
4. Student R.A. (Resident Assistant)
5. Expository Preaching Week finalist



Answers: 1-C, 2-A, 3-E, 4-B, 5-D

David Hock grew up as a missionary kid in Montevideo, Uruguay. As a Bible/Theology and Missions double-major, he is serving an internship in South Africa this summer. He plans to graduate next year and pursue global missions.

THE SERVANT & HIS MISSION

Our Passion and Priority for Gospel Missions

By Jonathan Rinker

What is the passion and priority of your life? Only One Person is worthy of your passionate devotion; only his mission is worth living and dying for.

For over thirty years Appalachian Bible College has summarized its purpose in a concise yet bold motto—*Because Life is for Service*. What reality could support such a sweeping and consuming declaration? Simply put, life is for service because The Servant—the supreme Servant, Jesus—is our life (Col. 3:4).

Therefore, a life of loving enslavement to Christ—God’s lowest and greatest Servant—will be a life surrendered to his mission. In other words, if we are truly passionate for Christ, then his gospel service will be our priority (Phil. 1:20–21, 3:8).

The Servant: Our Passion

For God so loved the world... These familiar words from John 3:16 introduce God’s radical rescue mission into the world—the self-sacrifice of his beloved Son, Jesus. Although many in the world reject God’s Son, those who do receive him are supernaturally born again by his Spirit and brought into a loving relationship with him (John 1:10–13, 3:5–8, 17:26).

Several places in John’s Gospel describe this personal relationship to Christ in terms of a relationship to his word. For example, although many turned back, Jesus’ followers confessed their genuine belief: “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (6:66–69). True disciples like this “abide in” Jesus’ word (8:31), and his “words abide in” them (15:3, 7). These fruitful branches show their love for the true Vine by keeping his commandments, which fills them with his joy and sets them apart from the world for Christ’s mission (14:15, 15:9–14, 17:17–18).

Is Jesus your passion? Perhaps, in alignment with John’s Gospel, we should ask: “Do you love and keep Jesus’ words?” A fervent love for Christ, demonstrated by abiding in his word, is the wellspring of a fruitful passion for his global mission.

His Mission: Our Priority

True disciples, who love Jesus’ word, will find that his mission is their priority. So, what is the mission of Jesus for his Church, as found in the Bible?

Christ’s doxological mission for this age is to build his Church by the advance of his gospel, realized in the maturation of converted sinners who are gathered in reproducing local churches and sent to make disciples among all nations.

Let’s develop the parts of this definition.

1) *Christ’s doxological mission for this age:* In this Church age, Christ is

glorifying the Father (doxology) by giving eternal life to as many as the Father has given him (John 17:1–5, Eph. 3:21).

“...if we are truly passionate for Christ, then his gospel service will be our priority.”

2) *To build his Church by the advance of his gospel:* Jesus promised to build his Church, founded on his divine identity, death, and resurrection, and proclaimed through the dedicated cross-bearing of his followers (Matt. 16:16–28).

3) *Realized in the maturation of converted sinners:* The Lord builds his Church as sinners repent and believe the gospel and as these saints grow

up in the grace and truth of Christ (Eph. 2:1–10, 4:14–16).

4) *Gathered in reproducing local churches*: Those who are placed by the Spirit into the Body of Christ join with other gifted believers to celebrate and proclaim the gospel (Acts 2:41–47, 1 Tim. 2:3–7, 3:15–16).

5) *Sent to make disciples among all nations*: On the basis of Jesus' authority over all, the Church identifies and commissions servants to advance his mission among the nations (Matt. 28:18–20, Acts 13:1–5, 14:21–27).

If crystallized into four components, this one mission could be described by:

- 1) **Exaltation**: A passion to exalt the glory of Christ among the nations
- 2) **Evangelism**: A prioritization to proclaim salvation in Christ among the nations
- 3) **Edification**: A commitment to the healthy growth of the Body of Christ among the nations
- 4) **Equipping**: An investment in identifying, training, and sending servants of Christ among the nations

JESUS' MISSION AND MISSIONS

Christ has *one* mission for this Church age, dynamically expressed in a diversity of missions. However, he did not provide multiple handbooks, one for doing church in our own culture, and another for doing missions outside our culture. Rather, we do the one mission of the Church everywhere, and our one handbook for this mission is the Bible. The mission of the Church is not one program among many other programs in a local church; it is *the* program—the engine that pulls the train *and* the track that aligns all the cars.

WHERE IS THE MISSION FIELD?

We overlook the first 2–3 geographic spheres of Acts 1:8 (Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria) when we talk about the mission field as if it is only somewhere “overseas” or cross-cultural. The mission field is certainly farther away out there, but it is also right where you are and everywhere else that the full rule of Christ is yet to be realized.

Therefore, the mission field is wherever the mission is advancing with the spread of the Word and the growth of the Church (Acts 6:7, 16:5). Distance and cultural boundaries do not define the mission field or the missionary; rather, the genuine advance of the mission is what defines the missionary and the mission field.

JESUS' MISSION AND THE MISSION OF ABC

Appalachian Bible Fellowship is a mission of the Church, for the Church, and by the Church—supported by and serving a coalition of like-minded local churches. These churches, through the Spirit's work, identify prospects for ministry training and cooperate through Appalachian Bible College to equip these servants for the mission.

This partnership of churches for equipping servant-leaders is united by a trio of core values: 1) the primacy of the Bible, 2) the priority of the Church, and 3) a passion for servanthood. Together, these define, first, our *what*: We're motivated, in all belief and conduct, by the absolute necessity and sufficiency of God's authoritative Word, the Bible. Jesus' mission only advances through the advance of his Word. Second, our *where*: We're committed to serving local churches to equip servant-leaders for the Church. Third, our *how*: We're passionate for a ministry philosophy of loving enslavement to others that exalts The Servant, Jesus Christ.

Our passion for The Servant, our dear Savior Jesus, and the priority of his mission are the compelling motivations for world missions and for the purpose of Appalachian Bible College. In short, life is for *gospel* service because The Servant is our life. Is your passion worth living and dying for?



In addition to serving as Vice President of Development, Jonathan Rinker is the newly appointed Chair of the Bible and Theology Department. He recently received a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Baptist Bible Seminary. A 1998 graduate of ABC, Dr. Rinker loves to teach on campus and mentor students in his church. He has served at ABC with his wife, Sarah, since 2001.

Harvest Field Friendships

A MISSIONARY ALUMNA'S REFLECTIONS

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

God's Word changes what it touches. Sometimes it floods with conviction and sweeps us along to new places of revival. Often it quietly soaks down into the soul, enriching in secret, preparing the way for new seasons, new harvests.

It was a privilege to share my reflections on this passage in May, 2006 as the female speaker for the senior class at Appalachian Bible College. Over ten years later it has been laid fresh on my heart as I leave behind the familiar to begin a new season of life.

By the time you read this article, my husband and I, along with our three children (and a fourth on the way), will be replanting our family in South Korea, serving as missionaries with Word of Life. Over the last three years we have been traveling around the United States, raising support. It was always a highlight to visit a fellow ABC graduate. Walking together through a season of study and seeking God nurtured a bond that has only grown deeper over the years.

Men and women faithfully serve their families, churches, and communities, speaking of their desire for gospel-



centered, God-glorifying lives. Tyson and Bethany Hodge minister to youth at a camp in Tennessee; Jamie and Sara Stout serve at a church in Iowa where Jamie is the pastor. Caleb and Tiffany Korth have planted their family in West Virginia to serve in a worship pastor role, while Kevin and Lori Brosius serve their church in the same beautiful state, where Kevin is Associate Pastor and US Army Chaplain. Karisa Clark faithfully invests her life into college ministry at ABC. There are many more families and graduates than I have space to mention who pour out their lives in selfless ways for the building of Christ's Church.

I remember the hours spent soaking up truth and wisdom alongside these friends in classes and chapel. We shared meals together once again, not in Hanmer Dining Hall, but around a kitchen table. Hospitality in many shapes refreshed us, reflecting Jesus' own heart to welcome us into God's family. Not one of these individuals has escaped the touch of sorrow or struggle, but I could sense that these trials have only refined their faith. It was a special joy to observe that their journeys, like my own, have transitioned from

storing up to now pouring into a new generation. The waters of God's Word are still seeping down, nurturing new growth.

There is a popular idea that an education must be an investment yielding an exponentially greater return in financial security and status. Yet life is too precious—its value set by the price our Savior was willing to pay—to be traded and trivialized by solely such a standard. None of the alumni we interacted

with are wealthy in worldly terms, but they demonstrated that their treasure is in God's eternal kingdom. We saw generosity, kindness, grace and love in abundance. Not all are in paid ministry positions, but God is giving these servants full and fruitful ministry in thousands of ways that touch eternity. These sowers have seeds in their hands, ready for God's plan for a new harvest. The hungry receive the Bread of Life in the gospel lived out daily before their eyes. Our Lord has sent His Word into our hearts and it continues to prosper in eternal ways. How many times did we sing "The Prayer of ABC" in chapel? Now it is reality: Sowing, reaping, gath'ring fruit, together we'll rejoice!

"And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together..."

(John 4:36)

Elsbeth Rodgers (née Gaunnac) is a 2006 graduate of Appalachian Bible College. She met her husband, Jeremy, while both were serving as missionaries in Asia. You can follow their new ministry and growing family at rodgersinasia.com.





India, Japan, South Africa, Israel, Brazil and Haiti: these are countries where ABC students are heading for **summer ministries**.

In addition, some 2017 graduates are setting out for Guam, Poland, and India. Others have their sights on stateside ministry. Pray that God would open unto them a door to speak the mystery of Christ (Col. 4:3).

Get a whole new perspective on **Alpine Ministries** as you whiz down the second zip line, added this spring! If flying above the pond isn't your style, check out the new Ga-ga Ball pit or octagon swing when you come to Alpine, the camp and outdoor adventure ministry of ABC. alpineministries.com



Forty-seven baccalaureate **graduates** received their servant's mantles on May 6, including Margaree Wright (Georgetown, ME), Spencer Prichard (Van Wert, OH), and Tyler Norman (Van Wert, OH). Also in the Class of 2017: four Bible Certificate graduates and one Master of Arts.

SERVANT'S NOTES

Professing faith in Christ, thirteen Mount Olive Correctional Complex inmates were baptized by 2017 ABC graduate Ted Cancel in May. Inmate-students of **Mount Olive Bible College**, a ministry of ABC, reach out to those in the prison's Mental Health Unit. One inmate writes, "The Bible College students coming to the Unit have had a positive impact. They listen to our problems and give us advice. They pray for us and with us. They are very knowledgeable of the Bible and often answer our questions or help us to find the answers."



The **Gospel Heralds** are more than a traveling music ministry team this summer. They are bringing laser tag to youth events around the country, challenging teens to "Aim True: Set Your Sights On Things Above." Find their itinerary at abc.edu/gospelheralds.



Alumni Tim and Linda Woodring have spent most of the last four decades as missionaries in Alaska, Canada, and now Mexico. After a graceful battle with cancer, Linda triumphantly entered the Lord's presence last fall. In January, Tim was reunited with a roommate from his student days: Dr. Anderson. Listen online to Tim's heartfelt chapel message: tiny.cc/woodring



After opening in November, the **ABC Coffee Shop** quickly became the homework and hangout spot of choice. Kiki Peterson (Mount Hope, WV) is one of several students trained as baristas and serving up Crimson Cup brand lattes, mochas, and much more. Come try it for yourself; summer hours are weekdays, 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM except Wednesdays, 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM.



ABC students are champion 3-pointers—and that's not just referring to preaching sermons. **Warrior guard Eric Miller** (Twin Falls, ID) won the shootout at the Bible College National Invitational Tournament in February. Teammate Travis Tumlin (Rome, GA) took second.

find more news and photos at facebook.com/AppalachianBible





Appalachian Bible College

161 College Drive
Mount Hope, WV 25880



APPALACHIAN BIBLE COLLEGE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Discipleship and Mentoring in the Local Church

Instructor:
Dr. Mark Johnson
Course work:
September 4–November 10
On-campus module:
October 2–6
abc.edu/graduate



Alpine Ministries Senior Saints Retreat

OCTOBER 19–21

Speaker: Kevin Gullion
alpineministries.com/seniorsaints



Couple's Escape

NOVEMBER 3–4

Speaker: Van Marsceau
alpineministries.com/escape

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