

fall/winter 2016–2017

# Connections

LINKING RHEMA GRADUATES AROUND THE WORLD



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**MOVING  
FORWARD**

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COME  
*expecting!*



# 2017

KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES'

## Winter Bible Seminar

**FEBRUARY 19-24**

ON THE RHEMA USA CAMPUS IN BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA

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**MONDAY-FRIDAY:** 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

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available during evening services.

*Registration  
IS FREE!*

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## REACHING THE WORLD: TRAINING LABORERS

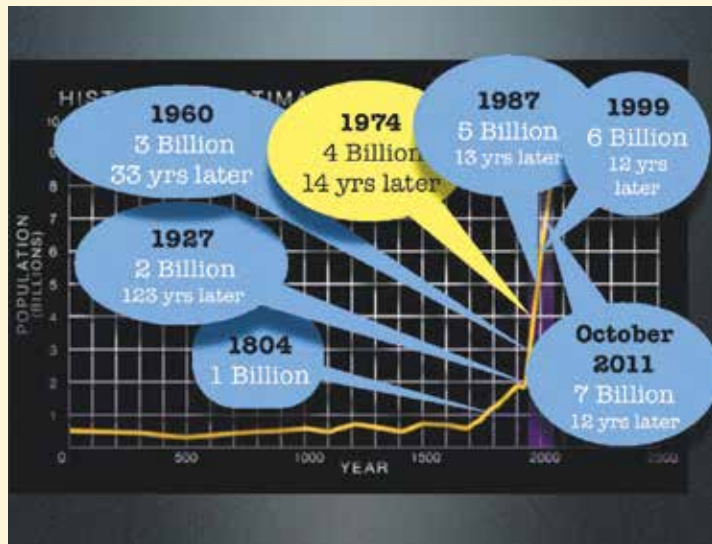
The world's population is fast approaching 7.5 billion. As we consider the graph, it shows that over 6 billion people have been born since 1804. The sharp increase that started in 1927 is startling. But even more revealing is where the birth of Rhema Bible Training College lies within this timeline.

Close examination of the growth spike illustrates God's timing to train many Christian laborers for the last days. God knew more laborers had to be prepared to meet the sharp population increase. Since 1974 men and women of all ages have been led to RBTC for the sole purpose of training for ministry. And since the beginning of Rhema USA, over 27,000 students have walked the halls of our school and are now walking in their homes, on their jobs, in schools, and in churches. They are carrying the Gospel to all the world.

As I consider our history, it is evident—whether we are talking about the '70s, '80s, or today—that the need for laborers has never diminished. The Lord of the harvest continues to call dear ones from all ages and walks of life to be trained at Rhema. And He will not stop calling people until that trumpet sounds.

In the pages ahead, you will read stories of those who attended RBTC years ago, as well as those who have recently become members of our Rhema family. You will notice today's students have similar stories, similar experiences, and similar challenges as those who attended before them. They may be a decade or two younger, but how they came to Rhema and what they experienced while here are so blatantly the same.

Dear alumni, Rhema remains on the same track that Kenneth E. Hagin and Kenneth W. Hagin laid down through prayer, being



led by the Holy Spirit, and obedience to the Lord since 1974. May this issue of *Connections* encourage your heart, knowing that another generation of the New Breed is following your footsteps. Pray for them; support Rhema with your love offerings; and be proud that you are part of a very large family who are dedicated to serving the Lord, following the Holy Spirit, and honoring the Word of God until Christ returns in all His glory.

A Fellow Laborer,

Douglas E. Jones  
RMAI/RAA National Director

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# Then and Now

*God interrupted all of our lives to get us to Rhema, where we became a team and now a family. All of us came to Rhema with a story. Many things have changed over the years, but God is still calling students to Rhema just like He called you. Do any of these sound familiar?*

## I ARRIVED WITH ALMOST NOTHING

### THEN: Jim & Pam Dumont ('81)



In 1978 we were living in northern Maine with our 1-year-old son. I had a very strong call on my life as a result of a supernatural experience. Pam and I had no idea how to follow this call, since we were not

saved in a church.

I had just graduated from college and was working when a friend gave me a tape of Brother Hagin's and told me he had recently started a school in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We left everything and drove to Tulsa in a 1973 Saab 96 with our year-old son. When we arrived in Tulsa we lived in a tent and had \$200.

I went to *Campmeeting 1979* and sowed \$100 because we figured \$200 was not enough to provide. That same day a man from Texas approached us and placed \$150 in my pocket. Each month he sent \$100 to \$150 to help pay my tuition.

God provided a garage apartment for us to live in off of Lewis Avenue. The rent was free in exchange for Pam babysitting and me doing the yard work. We were able to move out of the campground without having to pay a cent!

### NOW: Nathan Dolman ('16)



I was headed down a bad path in my life when one day my sister called me out of the blue and said, "God woke me up at 2 a.m. and told me to Google Rhema. You should check it out." That was July 7, 2014.

I ended up checking it out on July 15 and decided that I would attend RBTC. I later found out that some trusted family friends had attended the school, and I took that as confirmation. I arrived in Broken Arrow on August 21 with only \$400 in my bank account, no house, no job, and not one friend in Oklahoma. But God provided all my needs within two weeks! It was one miracle after another! RBTC has been one of the best interruptions in my life.

“ God woke me up at 2 a.m. and told me to Google Rhema.”

## I WAS GOING ONE WAY—GOD CALLED ME ANOTHER

### THEN: Jessica Bennett ('00)



I grew up in a great church where I was taught how to hear the voice of God. After high school I started college to get my degree in accounting, but about three semesters in I was extremely frustrated.

One night at church I heard the Lord say very clearly, "When are you going to ask Me what I want you to do with your life?" A part of me always knew that I would be in the ministry, but

I didn't know how. I said, "OK, God. What do You want me to do with my life?" He told me, "Go to Rhema."

So I began asking questions. I quit my college courses and began working to prepare for my move eight months later.

At Rhema, God opened my eyes to understand His Word more for my life than ever before. I quickly met my husband at Rhema and we were married the next year. Seventeen years and three beautiful children later, we've been in full-time ministry 14 years and now pastor a church in Canada. The foundation I received at Rhema was life-changing.

### NOW: Melissa McClarty (Current Student)



In 2014 I planned to become a medical missionary, so I was looking into going to Oral Roberts University to get my pre-med degree. Two close friends ended up moving to Tulsa to go to ORU and Rhema, but the Lord wouldn't let me move with them. I was so disappointed, but I figured, "It's OK. God will tell me to go to ORU in the spring!" So I kept praying, trying to get the Lord to agree with my plan.

One day as I was praying, He spoke to my heart: "Just *stop*. The plans you have created in your own head are not My plans!"

He told me to stop trying to figure out His calling on my life and just focus on getting to know Him. Immediately I fell to my knees and with tears I told the Lord I was sorry for not asking what His plans for me were. Then He spoke to my heart: "Go to Rhema next fall."

Over the next several months, I started taking gradual steps toward Rhema. The Lord helped me pay off my community college student loans and provided the money I needed for rent and school at RBTC. Glory to God! His perfect plan is always best.

## I WAS SUPERNATURALLY LED

### THEN: Reatha Gooden ('02)



In April 1996 I attended a Get Acquainted With Rhema weekend [now Rhema College Weekend]. At the Saturday night service with Keith Moore, I was walking around praying and the Lord spoke to me that I would be attending Rhema in four years. Later a friend told me that if I waited, I would change my mind. I told him, "No. I didn't say that about four years—God did."

I didn't tell anyone else except my two sons. Then in November 1999, the Lord told me twice, "It's time to get ready." He led me to start packing up the house, and as I did, everything else began to fall into place. I knew I would need a job, and when a friend suggested I call home health places in Broken Arrow, I did and was hired right away!

Next I needed a home. I got a list of apartment complexes, started calling, and finally reached a manager. She asked me why I was moving to Oklahoma. When I said, "To attend Rhema," she said all I had to do was send the application fee for the apartment and I was in!

When my son and I arrived on July 2, people came out of a nearby apartment to help us move in—and it was old friends from my hometown who had attended RBTC a few years before! They had no idea I was coming. The finances came in as needed for everything. Where God guides, He provides!

### NOW: Darlene Kay Chaney ('16)



I was saved at 11 years old and always had missions on my heart. The Lord supernaturally moved me to Rhema. For example, one morning I had the inward witness to pack an overnight bag, dress for a long trip, and drive to Tulsa. The money was handed to me as I went out the door, and when I arrived it turned out to be College Weekend!

All I knew about Rhema was from a lady who was a student at the time, and she prophesied about God moving me into ministry. I noticed she was different from before, in a good way. During the tour at College Weekend, I stood in Brother Hagin's office and wept because of the tangible love of God that was still present in that room. I knew I was to come.

As I was driving away from campus, I saw in my spirit a banner across the Student Housing complex in big, bold letters that said VACANCY. They had said there *wasn't* any vacancy at Student Housing . . . but God! When I arrived for school on the Friday before Orientation, I found that a newly renovated apartment was available, and I got it! God also provided the finances for the whole year through a family member. I am so thankful for Rhema. I have learned so much, gotten clarity, and felt at home, I didn't want to leave!

## I SERVED GOD ALL MY LIFE

### THEN: Sheri Goodrich ('97)



I was saved as a child and went to church my whole life. I was born again at 5 years of age, baptized in water at 6, and filled with the Holy Ghost at 7 or 8. As a teenager, I was very involved in my church youth group.

After I graduated from high school, I attended college, but I didn't have a direction for my life. Then I attended a youth retreat, where on the last day the speaker talked about following God's plan

for your life. She gave an altar call and I went forward. I had a vision and she laid hands on me, praying exactly what I was seeing in my spirit. When she finished, I prayed, "OK, God. I'm willing, but I need some sort of education."

The next thing He said was, "Go to Rhema." So I went to a "Get Acquainted" weekend and God made His plan very clear to me and directed my steps. I even met the girl who became my roommate later that year.

I would never have chosen Rhema on my own. I didn't feel qualified. But God didn't ask about my ability. He asked only about my availability! I learned more and grew more spiritually in those two years than in all of my 19 years in church.

### NOW: Darryl Morris (Current Student)



I was born again when I was 4 years old, and I knew then that I was called to preach. By the time I was 12, I knew what office I would stand in. I always had passion for the things of the Spirit and the Word.

For 17 years I remained faithful to the church I attended in New York. I was ordained there as a minister. I'd heard about Rhema over the years, and even though the thought of the school would come to my mind and heart every now and then, I had no intention of attending. But a year after my ordination, the Lord put His finger on it for me. So at age 23 I obeyed God and came to Rhema.

“At age 23 I obeyed God and came to Rhema.”



## MY FAMILY THOUGHT I WAS NUTS

### THEN: Don Adkins ('86)



I was saved at 17. I was already married, and my wife and I began to work in the local church. After 13 years we were filled with the Holy Spirit and began devouring tapes and books by Kenneth E. Hagin.

As I watched a video of *Campmeeting 1983* the Lord said to me “Go to that place.” I began immediately making preparations and gave six months’ notice at my great-paying job. Our families had never heard of anyone being in “full-time ministry” or quitting a job and taking their family halfway across the country to attend Bible school. They all thought we were nuts. We were advised by many, “Don’t ruin your lives.”

My wife and I both graduated from Rhema two years later. We have pastored two churches—one for 8 1/2 years and our current church for 20 years. Rhema absolutely changed our lives and changed the history of our family.

### NOW: Rebecca Moore (Current Student)



I was adopted away from my father when I was 7 and grew up in a dysfunctional, non-faith home except for church on holidays. I was an honor roll student because I used school to escape from the hurt in my home.

I had just received a full-ride scholarship to my top-choice college with a promising career in business when God told me to go to Rhema. My family had never really cared about what I got involved with, until then! My adopted father, whom I love very much, insisted that I was in a cult. When I told my family that I was giving up my scholarship to come to Bible college, they all but disowned me, and they made it clear that I would have to provide for myself.

I didn’t know anyone at Rhema. It wasn’t until after I moved a thousand miles from Grand Junction, Colorado, to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, that God told me He would use my obedience to help save my family, and that I would be the start of a new dynasty.

So far God has blessed me with my tuition for first year paid off, a job that is an answer to prayer, and more desire for Him than I’ve ever had before. All I want is to learn more, and to fall more in love with Him.

## I LEFT EVERYTHING BEHIND

### THEN: Daryl Zink ('90)



In 1980 I had a very good job and my wife and I had three sons. But one day in church I asked God what He would have me do. He said, “Go to Rhema.” Up to that time I had read only one book by Kenneth E. Hagin.

When I left church that day, my mind was filled with what it would mean to follow through with going to Rhema. When I came home I sat down on the couch and, to get my mind off what God had said, I picked up a magazine. Lo and behold, it was *The Word of Faith*, which had come “mistakenly addressed” to somebody else! I read an article about RBTC and my wife said it was a confirmation of what God had told me.

I wrote on my application that I did not want to come to Bible school since I did not want to preach and didn’t feel any calling. But I told of what God had spoken to me.

It wasn’t long before I received my acceptance notification! While I was at Rhema, I met Jerry Weinzierl, and little did we know what God had in store for both of us. Today I have served as associate pastor at his church in Sterling Heights, Michigan, for 27 years. Many times I think back to that supernatural moment when God spoke to me. That is where it all began. Many people, including my own pastor, tried to talk me out of giving up everything and going to Rhema. But we stayed with what God had given us, and I’m thankful every day that we did!

### NOW: Jean Pollock ('16)



In February I had a great job and a wonderful new apartment, and I loved my life. Then I was told at work they were going to move me. I was upset and crying when I heard in my spirit, “Don’t worry. You won’t be there long.” So I did not worry.

A week later I got a call from my pastor’s wife and she said point-blank, “You need to go to Rhema now!” I said I don’t think so. The next day I got a call from my pastor, and he said, “You need to go to Rhema, now!” I told him I would think about it.

Well, it witnessed with my spirit and I gave my notice at work. I gave away everything I owned—I did not sell a thing. I left my life, my family—everything I worked hard to get, because God called. I came here April 4th, went to College Weekend, signed up, and now I have finished second year. Being here has changed me and my life! I am doing what He wants of me, and I’ve never regretted it.

“I gave away everything I owned.”

## I HAD NEVER HEARD OF RHEMA OR KENNETH HAGIN

### THEN: Heidi Mueller ('88)



In 1985 I rededicated my life to the Lord and was filled with the Holy Spirit. In the fall, I sensed that the Lord wanted me to go into ministry.

At that time I wasn't familiar with any Bible schools, but knew I needed training. One evening at a Jimmy Swaggart crusade I picked up a brochure advertising his Bible school and decided to complete an application.

But then I had a dream one night. In it, my pastor advised me to attend a Bible school called Rhema Bible Training Center. He also told me that Kenneth Hagin was the head of the school. After awakening, I wrote the names of the school and the man on a piece of paper and called my pastor.

My church was large and my pastor didn't know me personally. I was afraid he might think I was a nut, so I didn't tell him about the dream. I asked if he knew of any good Bible schools and he replied, "We recommend only one—Rhema Bible Training Center, led by Kenneth Hagin." After hanging up, I immediately called Rhema.

I was told that the school year had just begun the previous day and I would not be able to attend until the following fall. I was so disappointed! But God gently spoke to me, "You're not ready yet. Get your finances in order and apply to attend next year."

One year later I was living in Broken Arrow attending Rhema. I'm so thankful that God helped me get on the road to Rhema!

### NOW: Dan Exon ('16)



In February of 2014 we were living in Filer, Idaho. I was working at Idaho Power, where I had been employed for 32 years. I had 10 years to go before full retirement when the Lord said, "Step out and follow Me."

So I started checking into online Bible courses and enrolled in Liberty University online. But when I told my pastor, he said if he had to do it again, he would go to Rhema. I had no clue what

Rhema was. He explained to me about Kenneth Hagin Ministries, but I had never heard of it.

With my pastor's encouragement I read the book *The Believer's Authority*, and as I started praying about it, the Lord showed me a movie marquee in my mind with "Rhema" on it. That was my confirmation.

I knew I would have to retire early, receive a partial pension, and sell our house, the horses, the tack, the trailer, and most of our belongings—plus give away our family pets. We had been trying to sell our house for the past two years so we could move closer to my wife's job, but it wouldn't sell. Once we decided to come to Rhema, the house sold within 20 days.

When the Lord asked me to follow Him, everything fell into place. Since we moved to Oklahoma and attended Rhema, my life has never been the same.

## I SAW A LIFE THAT WAS CHANGED

### THEN: Jason Snyder ('94)



When I was a senior in high school, deciding where I wanted to go to college, my sister was backslidden. She pretended to be a Christian around our parents, so they sent her to Rhema. But her plan was to have them support her while she established residency in Oklahoma, then ditch Rhema and go to art school.

But that year at Christmas break when she came home, I saw a change. Within two weeks of being at Rhema she had given her life back to the Lord and was still in school. I could tell she loved it and was getting to know God for real.

Right then and there I made a decision. I would go to Rhema for a year, get to know God stronger, and then go on to college. Once I was at RBTC, I didn't feel as if I had any call of God on my life, but I was thrilled to be learning about His things. By the end of my first year, I decided to go back for second year.

When I graduated I just wanted to love and serve God the rest of my life, but that November God spoke to me in a time of prayer that He had called me to be a pastor! So for the past 20 years I have been serving in His Kingdom as a pastor. All because Rhema changed my sister's life so drastically.

### NOW: Nakia Maplethorpe (Current Student)



I wasn't very fond of RBTC or RBC until my pastor's son made the choice to come here. He left a boy and came back a man—a man after God's own heart. I've reflected recently with him about his first sermon at home being base level, and now after graduation he is in charge of the youth. I saw this transformation in him and realized that I not only wanted but *needed* what he has. I prayed, applied, and now attend RBTC. It's one of the best decisions I've ever made.

“I saw this transformation in him and realized that I not only wanted but *needed* what he has.”

# Spiritual Life

*The spirit of faith is often caught more than taught, and Rhema's heritage of faith continues as the spiritual experience of today's RBTC students is richer than ever.*



## DID YOU KNOW?

You can join Exaltation every Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. Central Time during the school year at [rhema.tv](http://rhema.tv) or on the Rhema app available for iPhone and Android.

mobility and caused terrible headaches. As he stretched out his arms, his shoulder popped, full range of motion was restored, and his headache went away immediately!"

## RESURGENCE OF PRAYER

### Early Morning Prayer

Every morning on class days from 7:30 to 8:15 at RBTC students gather to pray for awakening and revival. Instructors Kirk DuBois and Phil Anglin lead the prayer sessions.

"We pray for the school, the church, the employees of the ministry, and for the government and political situations," says Kirk. "From there we are led by the Holy Spirit as to which direction to flow. There are times of great joy, times when healing flows, and times of travail or an awareness of His presence."

The students are encouraged to enter in, and they've seen some amazing results. "I tell them we are not spectators but participators," says Kirk. "We don't watch the news, we make the news! We've prayed for national events and seen God move. Over the years we've prayed for hidden agendas in our government to be exposed—and news stories continue to break."

Kirk also emphasizes that prayer is just the beginning. "As we pray for revival and awakening, we also need to *act*," he says. "Many students have been leading people to the Lord at work or in the store, or they have seen people healed or filled with the Spirit. They are learning to be sensitive to the Spirit, recognizing His leading. As a result, they are on the front lines of what God is doing."

## VIBRANT UNITY

### Exaltation

God's presence and power are evident every Tuesday during the school year as students and employees gather together for Exaltation. (Older graduates may remember it as "Share and Praise"). The 30-minute service includes praise and worship, exhortation, and prayer—not only for the students and campus, but for things going on in the world.

Most Tuesdays Rev. Lynette Hagin leads them. Her passion for prayer is contagious as she teaches and shows by example how to be in God's presence. Countless answers have come out of these sessions of corporate prayer.

And sometimes there are miracles.

"During one Exaltation the Lord prompted us to pray for people with back pain and headaches," says Dean Tad Gregurich. "We had them put their hands out and command their arms to be lengthened. One young man recently had shoulder surgery, which limited his



## ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD

### Prayer School

One of the most powerful things about the Rhema experience is learning both natural and supernatural principles. Nowhere is that more evident than in Prayer School, where students are learning the Word *and* how to walk by the Spirit in their everyday lives.

“My heart,” says Prayer School Director Leigh Ann Soesbee, “is that these students take hold of the fullness of what Rhema is all about: the Word *and* the Spirit working together.”

“The spirit of prayer is caught, not taught,” says Leigh Ann. “I find myself demonstrating to them out of my own relationship with God and how I hear from Him. When I got hold of the truth of John 14:17—that I know Him—I finally realized that we’re supposed to be living out of our relationship with God. So I want to help the students walk this out in their everyday lives. When we combine the Word and the Spirit, that’s when we start doing the works that Jesus did.”



## TRANSFORMED LIVES

It’s a learning process. “I’ve seen students who were analytical and only understood the Word in their minds,” says Leigh Ann. “They’d come in and sit in the back row. But as they kept coming, they’d gradually move up a few rows, and the closer they got, the more they saw the spirit of prayer and the spirit of faith, and they wanted it. As the Bible says, “The letter kills, but the spirit gives life” (2 Cor. 3:6). Later they’d tell me, ‘When I first came to Prayer School, I sat in back and thought, “Who is that crazy lady?” But somehow it felt right, and now it’s transformed my life.’ ”

Leigh Ann also invites various Rhema alumni to minister at Prayer School. “I will invite different graduates in, because I know I don’t have everything the students need. I want them to catch the spirit of prayer and faith that’s on these grads, because stories ignite us. They help us take hold of things we maybe couldn’t understand through the preaching of the Word. A story can open it all up and bring revelation.”

It’s been said that Prayer School is a breeding ground for the next generation of Holy Ghost leaders. They are being trained to walk out what they’ve been praying. One Rhema graduate who had been in Prayer School for years as a student told Leigh Ann about an experience she had as a missionary in Indonesia.

There was a lot of instability in the country at that time, and this missionary said, “One day all the Americans were told to get their money out of the banks and to be very careful doing it, because we might get mugged or killed by thieves.”



She rode her bike to the bank, and once she got her money, she went into a bathroom and taped it all over her body—then covered it with her clothes. As she rode away, she saw that men were following her, and she got very scared. “But all of a sudden,” she told Leigh Ann, “inside of me I heard *your* voice saying, ‘You know the Holy Ghost!’ I said, ‘Yes! Holy Ghost, I know You! Get me out of this! What should I do?’ ” Immediately she heard the Holy Spirit telling her to turn left, then right, then left . . . and eventually He led her totally out of the situation. She made it to her apartment completely safe. She told Leigh Ann, “I learned how to hear the voice of God, and to be led by the Spirit, from being in Prayer School.”



# Student Life

*Today's RBTC students have a myriad of ways to get involved outside the classroom. These vibrant campus activities are where life-long friendships are made and callings are cemented by practical application.*

## MAKING NEWBIES FEEL WELCOME

### **New Student Integration**

Today when new students are accepted to RBTC, they are assigned Student Ambassadors—current students who contact them and stay in touch until they arrive. Once the new students are on campus, the Student Ambassadors offer help if needed. “Incoming students already know about the school. They have their acceptance letter and they know what date to show up and how much to pay,” says Recruiter Christy Wicks. “But now they want to know, ‘How do I find a place to live? Where do I work? What grocery stores can I shop at? And are there still cowboys and Indians?’ Student Ambassadors are available to be a resource for them.”



## THEY COME FROM AFAR

### **International Students Group**

Everyone has a story when they come to Rhema, but those who come from overseas have additional challenges—everything from visa and money issues to language barriers and cultural differences. Not to mention being thousands of miles from home.

Enter the RBTC International Students Group, volunteers led by Marianna Moore who help foreign students adjust to American life and feel welcome at Rhema.

“Their presence means so much to us and we want to help them every way we can,” says Marianna. “It takes faith for any student to get here, but when you hear what they’ve gone through and see how they stick it out—their stories are just incredible.”

The group helps international students get acclimated and connected through special monthly events like barbecues, dinners, campouts at the ranch, field trips, and movie nights, and through keeping in touch personally by phone or email.

And it’s making a difference. John Walker (’13, ’14, ’15) from Mexico said, “The international group is like a family away from home. It is rich in fun, culture, and love.” Kenna Guerra (’14, ’15), from Guatemala said, “The international student group helped me to understand that I was not the only one who felt like I was missing a piece of my heart by being away from home. We understood each other, even though we were all from different cultures, different languages, etc. We came to see that being far from home was all worth it, and that in the end we gained another family.”

## MINISTRY TO YOUNG ADULTS AND SINGLES

### **Synergy**

Synergy is the Young Adult & Singles Ministry of Rhema Bible Church. “Our purpose,” says Pastor Craig Hagin, “is to come together, worship the Lord, and hear from God.”

The vibrant group has several unique features. It’s a midweek service with extensive worship. And the messages are targeted for today’s generation.



Synergy has a two-prong approach to minister to the people who attend. The Tuesday night services are designed to help grow and establish the attendee’s faith. And monthly events are planned where lasting relationships can be forged.

RBTC students get to experience what it’s like to be a part of a community. Synergy volunteers get to experience ownership of the activities they’ve planned. It’s a “teams” approach ministry. And this is the heartbeat of Synergy.

“Life Is Better Together” is Synergy’s motto, which jumps off of the Rhema Bible Church motto, “Living Life Unlimited.” There’s no better way to experience life than with others who have a passion for their generation.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Over half of current Rhema students come out of a church pastored by a Rhema graduate.



# Student Life



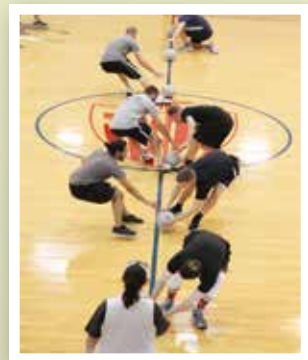
## FOR THE FUN OF IT

### Student Life Activities

“Rhema students obviously get excellent teaching in class,” says Christy Wicks. “What student life activities do is help them make friends and form relationships.” The goals of these activities are (1) have fun, (2) build relationships outside the classroom, and (3) provide hands-on event training for Student Ambassadors and recruit volunteers.

Here are a few examples of the fun that’s happening these days on the Rhema campus:

- **Back to School Event.** A free event in the Ninowski Recreation Center for all returning students and their families with food, table games, skating, human foosball, basketball, inflatable games, and great conversation.
- **Midnight Madness.** A giant pep rally from 10 p.m. to midnight the night before the Eagles Blue/White scrimmage game. The crowd competes and then the players have a 3-pointer contest.
- **Movie Nights.** Free movies at Rooker Memorial Auditorium, along with some sort of competition or activity.



- **Bring a Friend to School Day.** Although students can bring a friend any time they want, if they bring one on these special designated days, both they and their guest get free coffee and donuts!
- **Dodgeball Tournament.** At the NRC with double elimination and great prizes for the winning team(s).

- **Rhema Ranch Overnighter.** A big slumber party, complete with singing around the campfire, hayrides, food, and fun.
- **Rhema College Weekend.** Night of worship, Family Fun Night, and a Job and Housing Fair.



- **Spirit Week.** The week before WBS the dress code switches every day. There’s Hillbilly Day, Mismatch Day, Crazy Hat Day, Dress Like an Instructor Day, ’70s Day, and Camouflage Day, just to name a few.
- **Half-Time Fun.** During every home basketball game the crowd can win prizes playing games like musical chairs, hungry-hungry hippo, paper airplane toss, and more.
- **Late Skate.** Yep, still going! Almost every Rhema grad has fond memories of late skates at the NRC.
- **Day of the Eagle.** A field day near the end of school where students relive their elementary school days by competing for ribbons in hula hoop contests, relay races, cup stacking, a tug of war, and more.



- **Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest.** A time-honored tradition, complete with fabulous prizes.
- **Open Ranch Day.** Students and their families bring their own picnic lunches and enjoy the ranch for a day. Kind of like the church picnic, but on a smaller scale and just for students.
- **Re-Gifting Party.** When students get back from Christmas Break—a great way to get rid of that crazy gift they got . . .

# Student Life

## KEEP 'EM COMING

### Recruiting

RBTC is actively recruiting new students every day through community outreaches, school visitations, VA programs, Living Faith Crusades, and especially their Web presence at [rbtc.org/trendsetters](http://rbtc.org/trendsetters). Those are all highly effective methods, but none is as effective as *you!* “Word of mouth is our best recruiting tool, and alumni are our best recruiters,” says RBTC Recruiter Christy Wicks. “So tell someone about Rhema today!”

### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP RECRUIT FUTURE RBTC STUDENTS!

- Tell more people about Rhema.
- Send them to [rbtc.org/trendsetters](http://rbtc.org/trendsetters).
- Add the Trendsetters website to your tag lines and websites.
- Advertise RBTC as the place where you trained and talk about “when I went to Rhema.”
- Remember that *you* are the fruit of RBTC, and people want to be like you.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Almost 60 percent of the current student body is here because they heard about RBTC through an alumnus.



## VOLUNTEERING AT CHURCH

These days, getting involved at Rhema Bible Church is just as much a part of RBTC as classroom training.

“The Bible training that students are receiving here is wonderful and life-changing,” says Roger Sharp, Director of Volunteer Assimilation, “but there is a practical side of ministry that can only be learned by doing. Rhema Bible Church is the place where they can develop practical ministry skills.”

Students are involved during weekly church services in positions such as ushers, greeters, children’s ministry, and altar care workers. They also have opportunities to go out into the community in ministries such as the Residential Evangelism program and the Prison Ministry.

“Bible study is only one part of Rhema,” says Roger. “Serving is an equally important part. It will develop skills that students can only learn by putting their hand to the plow. Those who get involved and volunteer are better prepared to launch out in ministry or be productive laypeople in their home church.”





# In the Classroom

*Many classes that have made RBTC what it is today are still being taught. In addition, many new classes have been added to equip students more fully in the 21st century and give them the best, well-rounded education possible.*

## Don Burns—Marketing in Ministry

“This class informs and empowers students to take the good news to their community, leveraging the newest tools available,” says instructor Don Burns.

Don starts by establishing marketing principles and practices, then teaches students how to communicate, establish their own brand, and build a marketing plan. According to Don, this kind of information will be invaluable in the lives of most graduates.

“Regardless of their future roles, many will find themselves having to promote an event or program at their church—and some will lead organizations,” he says. “This class teaches them how to define who their organization is, why it exists, how to find their target audience and, most importantly, how to efficiently reach them.”

And apparently, it’s working. Don hears back from graduates often. “Many have commented that it was refreshing to have such a practical and relevant topic on marketing,” he says. “They love the real-life examples and have been able to apply them in their lives.”

## Kirk DuBois—Holy Spirit

This class teaches students to understand, experience, and minister to others the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Just about every year there are students who are filled with the Spirit and speak in tongues for the first time.



“My main goal is for those who haven’t experienced it, to do so,” says Kirk, “and if they *have* experienced it, to keep it alive and be able to pass it on.”

If there’s one word that describes this class, it’s *demonstration*. “We don’t just study singing in the Spirit and praying in the Spirit—we *do* it,” says Kirk. “We make room during class for tongues and interpretation—comparing it to

what others were getting from the Holy Spirit, then discussing what took place.”



## DID YOU KNOW?

The faculty of Rhema USA has over 900 years of combined ministry experience.

The Holy Spirit also demonstrates through miracles. “One day we were all singing in the spirit and the word of knowledge began to flow. One student was wondering if it was real, so he asked God about his injured back and I immediately called out a back being healed in his section. He was instantly healed!”

“Another day, I called out healing for a heart condition, and a student told me months later that she was healed that day and has never had that problem again.”

## Kenneth W. Hagin / Craig W. Hagin—Faith Library 1 & 2

Many alumni fondly remember Faith Library taught by Kenneth E. Hagin. Today *two* Faith Library courses are included in the RBTC curriculum. Faith Library 1 is for first-year students. The first half of this course is taught by Kenneth W. Hagin and the second half by Craig W. Hagin. Faith Library 2 is for second-year students and is taught by Craig W. Hagin.



“My part of Faith Library is not any different than when Dad taught it,” says Rev. Hagin. “I cover what faith is, the authority of the believer, and real faith. I show them that faith is a lifestyle, not a panic button. And from my book *Another Look at Faith*, I go over what faith is *not*.”



Craig Hagin focuses on love, as well as faith. “A big part of the class is taught from Brother Hagin’s book *Love the Way to Victory*,” he says. “Many people call my grandfather the ‘father of modern day faith.’ But those who knew him remember his love walk. The love walk wasn’t really being taught in any other class, so I wanted to include it.”

# In the Classroom

Students are taught faith from two generations. “It’s neat,” says Rev. Hagin. “They get an older perspective from me. I grew up with Dad and have been at it myself for years. Then they get a younger perspective from Craig. They get the best of both worlds.”

In Faith Library 2, Craig teaches the second-year students not only how to live by faith, but also how to teach it. He also includes much of his heritage. “We have younger students who haven’t heard Brother Hagin stories, so I tell them,” he says. “My grandfather’s mandate was to ‘teach my people faith.’ It’s obviously a very important subject to this ministry.

“Faith Library 2 is one of my favorite classes,” Craig continues. “These students are getting ready to finish their second year, and this might be the last chance we get to put more faith into them before they graduate. It’s always exciting to see them put into practice what they’ve learned.”

## Bill Ray—Spiritual Leadership Principles



More than anything else, this class is about influence. “We live in a hurting and decaying world,” says Bill. “Most people decide what to do by the way they feel, and most of the time everyone does what’s right in his own eyes. But God has called us to influence this generation of souls for the cause of Christ.”

Using stories and real-life examples, Bill empowers second- and third-year students to be leaders and influencers right where they are today: on their jobs, in their neighborhoods, and in their families. He says, “If we are not influencing this world each day for Jesus Christ, then we are being influenced by the world against Christ.”



Students immediately begin using Bill’s leadership principles in everyday life. “I’m often told, ‘Wow! This class has helped me so much personally, but also on my job or with my roommate situation or my family,’ ” he says. “One person told me that he doesn’t believe he would have gotten promoted on his job without knowing these spiritual leadership principles. Another said he was able to get his job back after applying principles from the class.”

## Denise Hagin Burns—Child Development

This class teaches students how to take the natural physical development of children and use it to more effectively teach them the spiritual principles of the Bible. “Like my dad always says,” says Denise, “ ‘the natural and the supernatural working together makes an explosive force for God.’ We look at each age group and focus on how they are developing emotionally, socially, physical, and mentally. Then we take that knowledge and show the students how to apply natural principals to help kids understand the Bible better.” This course has been very effective in helping children grow spiritually. “My students have come back years later and have told me that this was the class that helped them the most in children’s ministry,” says Denise.



Rhema Bible Training College is everything it used to be plus a whole lot more, because as we’ve progressed, we’ve learned more. Things are different now than they used to be, but the school basically is still the same. We’ve just added a lot to it.

—Kenneth W. Hagin



*Perhaps the biggest improvement in the classroom at RBTC is the introduction of the Ministry Fundamentals and the 3rd year specialty courses.*

## MINISTRY FUNDAMENTALS AND THIRD-YEAR PROGRAMS

One of the exciting changes happening today at RBTC is the restructuring of our core program to Ministry Fundamentals and the addition of third- and fourth-year specialty programs.

### More Bible Classes



One reason for the restructuring is a cultural shift that has made it necessary to focus more on building and solidifying a Biblical foundation in students. “Many of the current students haven’t ever read a book by Kenneth E. Hagin,” says Dean Tad Gregurich. “A lot of them were saved during their youth group years, so they’ve been taught issues and things that pertain to youth. They need that,

but they haven’t gone through the Bible systematically. The Ministry Fundamentals program has been designed to meet that need.”

The two-year Ministry Fundamentals program includes basic Bible, positional truths, and some general practical courses.

### More Options

It’s still possible to graduate after two years. But if a student feels called to ministry or is interested in specific training, he or she can go additional years in the specialty programs.

“We still have students who choose second-year specialties,” says Tad. “But most want more training, so they go additional years, treating their Rhema experience as a four-year college. It’s like getting two years of general education, then declaring a major and specializing for one or two more years. For example, after the two-year Ministry Fundamentals program, students may choose Biblical Studies for their third year and Pastoral Studies for their fourth year.”

The two-year ministry programs of study include:

- Ministry Fundamentals
- Itinerant Ministry
- Missions
- Pastors Program
- Student Ministries

### More Interaction and Hands-On Experience

“Another reason for the changes,” says Tad, “is that our alumni are looking to hire graduates who already know how to do a job without further training. So we’ve developed these programs to give students better specialization and hands-on experience. Now they leave here better equipped.”



The specialty programs include personal interaction with the instructor and/or guest speaker, along with classroom Q&A times. Students are also assigned projects that require research and teamwork to accomplish. The students engage in event creation and leadership exercises. These skills are especially vital for effective ministry in today’s world. (See below for third- and fourth-year **Specialty Programs**.)

### Looking Toward the Future

“Some things have changed at Rhema, but a lot hasn’t,” says Tad. “Mrs. Hagin has been the director for over 30 years. We have the history, and now we’re looking toward the future, always examining ways to improve. **I think the next 10 years will be the fastest, biggest growth we’ve ever seen.** We want our students to graduate with the skills and information they need, plus the zeal and the move of the Spirit in their lives.”

## THIRD- AND FOURTH-YEAR SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

- Rhema School of Pastoral Ministry
- Rhema School of Worship
- Rhema School of World Missions
- Rhema School of Biblical Studies
- Rhema School of Student Ministries
- Rhema School of Itinerant Ministry
- Rhema School of Helps Ministry

## AN INVITATION TO YOU FROM THE DEAN:

*“Come back and visit! Recently a Tulsa area Rhema pastor sent some of his congregation members to RBTC, and he ended up driving them here every day, so he sat in on classes. He told me, ‘I thought the teaching here was rich when I was a student, but now there’s even more depth to it.’”*

# In the Classroom

## A SNAPSHOT OF THIRD- AND FOURTH-YEAR SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

*These programs can be taken by any two-year graduate of RBTC.*

### Rhema School of Pastoral Ministry (RSPM):

Students in this program learn (1) how to become a valuable member of a pastoral staff team, or (2) how to assume a pastorate, or (3) how to plant a new church. They receive a wide range of courses, including:

- Pastoral Navigation: Developing the necessary skills to keep a church “on course.”
- Keys to Supernatural Ministry: How to manifest the supernatural in one’s life and ministry.
- Church Management: Teaches management skills, organization, administration, and oversight of staff members and volunteers.
- Effective Pastoring: General overview of how theory, spiritual knowledge, and practical experience combine to make effective pastors.
- Church Ordinances: Hands-on experience with water baptism, Communion, baby dedications, weddings, funerals, special services, and so forth.
- Church Planting and Advanced Church Planting Project

“During Third Term we have Pastoral Forum in RSPM,” says Dean Tad Gregurich. “Seasoned pastors come one at a time from around the country to teach for a week. They share with the students invaluable wisdom and practical application from years of ministry experience.” Then during the last term, RSPM students spend six hours a week having church services with the School of Worship, participating in all areas of a service—from preaching and ushering to running sound and doing announcements.

“Graduates of this program have successfully taken positions on church staffs,” says Tad. “Many have assumed existing pastorates, and others have planted churches throughout the United States.”

### Rhema School of World Missions (RSWM):



called to use their gifts in a cross-cultural setting,” says Director Joe Duinick.



The missions program covers three basic areas:

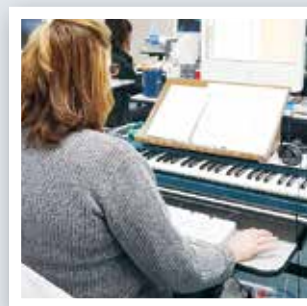
1. **Classroom instruction.** This includes support raising, establishing and maintaining a stateside office, effective cross-cultural ministry, partner communication (newsletters, websites, video), and leadership and team development. A variety of guest missionaries also share with the class.

2. **Out-of-class activities.** There’s a week-long Outdoor Survival Course where students are stretched in spirit, soul, and body. They learn teamwork and survival skills that could be used in a variety of situations, including disaster relief. There’s also a Cultural Immersion Weekend, which gives hands-on experience in international travel, living, and ministry.

3. **Internship.** Each student spends four to six weeks overseas helping a current Rhema missionary. “This gives them the opportunity to apply what they learned in the classroom in the real world,” says Joe.



### Rhema School of Worship (RSW):



Rhema School of Worship is designed primarily for those who feel called to be worship leaders in churches. “We welcome anyone who wants to be a better worship team member or just wants to know more about worship, but our program is focused on the worship leader,” says Rhema Bible Church worship leader Rich King.

The program covers:

- Bible-based courses such as *The Heart of a Worshipper* and *Praise in the Word*.
- Technical emphasis such as leading worship, planning a worship service, working with a worship band, how to conduct a rehearsal, how to put together a music set, and how to work with volunteers.
- Music theory courses such as piano, voice, ear training, Finale software, rhythm knowledge, rehearsal techniques, and how to write charts.

Much of the RSW program is hands-on. Rather than just reading in a book how to play an instrument, the emphasis is on practicing that instrument or theory until it feels natural.

“There is some lecture, but there’s also a lot of assignments and actually working with music,” says Rich. “Then Term Four is almost all hands-on, including a church practicum with the School of Pastoral Ministry. During that time, students spend six hours a week having church services with the School of Pastoral Ministry.”



# In the Classroom

## Rhema School of Biblical Studies (RSBS):



This program offers classes on all books of the Bible not currently in the RBTC two-year Ministry Fundamentals program. “Students leave this program with a greater understanding of the major events and people of the Bible. And they see God’s interaction with man throughout history,” says Dean Tad Gregurich. “They also receive instruction on the Bible’s major themes as found in the Old and New Testament books.”

Students have reported that after completing this program, they have a greater love for the Word of God. They have also testified to a fuller devotional life and a deeper love for Him. Students may include RSBS as part of a four-year plan to prepare for ministry, or they can take it simply to learn more about God’s Word.

## Rhema School of Student Ministries (RSSM):

One of the greatest evangelistic windows open today is among young children and youth. RSSM uses relevant classroom instruction and hands-on application to equip students to minister effectively to newborns through 12th graders. They learn everything from writing curriculum and sermons to handling kids and teens in crisis.

RSSM Students:

- Grow spiritually and find their places as leaders.
- Take part in hands-on learning opportunities.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the needs of children and youth.
- Obtain fresh ideas and vision to build a successful student ministries program.
- Discover how to motivate a team and keep volunteers.
- Learn to flow with the Holy Spirit in children’s and youth services.



## Rhema School of Itinerant Ministry (RSIM):



This program is designed to give students the tools needed to begin or enhance itinerant/traveling ministry. Several itinerant ministry areas are covered, including:

- Evangelist
- Teacher
- Itinerant Missionary
- Itinerant Children’s Minister
- Itinerant Music Minister

RSIM graduates are involved in all of these ministry areas today. The program continues to grow and adapt to fulfill students’ needs.

## Rhema School of Helps Ministry (RSHM):

From lectures to hands-on experience, students in this program learn the various areas of helps ministry. Because Helps is the largest ministry in the Body of Christ, RSHM is designed to teach men and women to fulfill their calling with excellence. The students learn from experienced instructors in the classroom and have opportunities to get involved in the workings of both Kenneth Hagin Ministries and Rhema Bible Church.



# The Legacy Continues

## THE CHILDREN OF RHEMA GRADS

### **Larissa Brown ('08, '09), daughter of Larry ('88, '89) and the late Yolanda ('89, '91) Brown**

Larissa Brown was born in Broken Arrow after her parents came to Rhema and the family ended up making their home here. Even so, there was never any pressure on her to attend RBTC. She got that word directly from God.

“Growing up I always wanted to work with children, so I thought I’d become a schoolteacher,” she says. “But one year during a youth service at *Winter Bible Seminar*, the Lord said He wanted me to start Rhema in the fall and to play on the woman’s basketball team.” So she did.

Larissa grew up in church but says she really got her Word foundation in the classroom at Rhema. “I remember sitting on the edge of my seat in the Doctrine of Righteousness and Life of Honor classes and in Prayer School,” she says. “I learned so much! And being on the basketball team really helped my faith grow and put everything I was learning into action.”

Today Larissa is working in Thailand at Life Impact International ([LifeImpactIntl.org](http://LifeImpactIntl.org)). They rescue children from human trafficking and run homes for children in war zones who are displaced and abandoned. They also support orphanages, run feeding programs for the poor, and help with relief and development work.



“I’ve started a daycare, and I also use my children’s ministry training to teach our children to reach *other* children. Every weekend our rescued kids do outreach programs in different communities. They’ve led thousands to the Lord and have even started a church right on the border! Every single day in the ministry here, I use my Rhema training.”



### **Kaira McKinnon ('15, '16), daughter of Tony ('98, '99) and Kim McKinnon**

Growing up with a dad who graduated from Rhema, Kaira McKinnon says she always had great respect for the school and the Hagin family, but she never saw herself attending.

“In fact, one year at a *Living Faith Crusade*,” she laughs, “I joked with Pastor Hagin that pastor’s kids of Rhema grads should get honorary diplomas!” Little did she know she would be earning her own just a few years later.

In September of 2013 Kaira was studying for her bachelor’s degree at Northern Kentucky University and serving as youth pastor at her parents’ church. She attended the *Kindle the Flame* conference on the Rhema campus in Broken Arrow. The Lord moved and she realized that RBTC was her next step. Then through a series of events, her parents, Tony and Kim McKinnon, took positions on staff at Kenneth Hagin Ministries. The whole family moved to Oklahoma the next summer. Her older sister, Kaitlyn, also graduated in '16 and now serves as a youth minister in Kentucky. Tony serves as assistant to the national director for RAA and RMAI and is an RBTC instructor. Kim serves as executive assistant to Kenneth and Lynette Hagin.



“It’s been the greatest honor to navigate this special season with my family by my side,” says Kaira. “My time at Rhema has given me the infrastructure needed to support and sustain the call of God on my life. Through the in-depth teaching in class and the precise training in the flow of the Spirit at Prayer School, I’ve been given the equipment necessary to fulfill my destiny.”

Today Kaira works on staff with Jen Tringale Ministries and travels with Jen ('96, '97) in the United States and internationally. She also serves as Rhema Prayer School worship leader under Leigh Ann Soesbee ('85, '86) and helps lead worship at Rhema Bible Church.

Kaira realizes the impact her heritage has had on her life. “When you consider the company of men and women that you are grafted into and alongside as a Rhema graduate, and the weighty inheritance that comes with that title, you can’t help but be honored and grateful to God for calling you to this place,” she says. “I’m so thankful that I attended Rhema!”



# Coming Back

*Some students have a unique perspective on the Rhema experience—theirs was divided up. For a variety of reasons they came and left, returning years later to either finish or continue their education.*

## **Cliff Paden ('82, '03)—Reaching a sight-and-sound generation**



Cliff Paden went first year '81-'82 but didn't have the money to return for second year. He always felt a tugging to go back to school. "I couldn't seem to take the next step in my life, and God said, 'You didn't finish the first step. Rhema is a two year school—go back and finish.'"

Cliff returned in 2003 and is now an instructor. "Rhema still teaches faith, but the methods are different now," he says. "Students today watch everything on their phone; they multi-task by texting and listening at the same time. If you show them a visual, they'll take a picture instead of notes. We've changed how we present the Gospel without changing the meat of it. We've put projectors in every classroom so instructors can show video and use PowerPoints. I use a YouTube channel and Facebook. We show them the Gospel instead of just telling it."

There's also more hands-on experience. "Students are now practicing the skills they need in ministry," says Cliff. "It's like riding your bike, not just talking about it."

## **Amy Duininck ('89, '96)—The curriculum continues to improve**

Amy Duininck finished first year in 1989. That summer her second son was born, so she didn't return. She got very involved in ministry at Rhema Church, then came back for second year in 1996.



"I realized that my years of ministry experience in between helped me to glean more from second year," says Amy. "It was so practical! I started applying what I was learning to the ministry I was involved in. I received more from second year by waiting."

She encourages others to come back. "Rhema has always been a place to receive excellent teaching and ministry training, and the curriculum continues to improve."

## **Jolena DeLaCruz ('84, '12, '13)—Getting involved at the church**

Jolena DeLaCruz started Rhema in 1983, but she left after completing only one year. She finally made it back in 2011. While the classrooms were much the same, some things were very different. For one thing, Rhema Bible Church didn't exist her first time around. "I believe RBC enhances the students' experience greatly," she says. "During my second time as a student, I was



on the Connections Team at church, which greeted before service and helped integrate new visitors. The value of getting involved at the church while attending school was priceless."

## **Chad Speer ('05, '06, '16)—Trained for the next part of God's plan**



In 2014, Chad suffered two staggering losses—both his wife and his pastor died of cancer. He needed to regroup, so he returned to Tulsa. "After I got here, God nudged me to go back to school.

"I truly believe I was trained for the next part of God's plan for my life," he says. "Rhema has an atmosphere of faith and love that is unmatched, which helped re-center me after a rough couple of years. If I hadn't come back, I probably wouldn't be able to take over a church as the senior pastor." In June 2016, Chad moved to Three Rivers, Michigan to be an associate pastor and eventually take over the church.

"Coming back made all the difference in my life. Preparation time is never wasted time!"

## **Gwen Mullins ('93, '16)—Everything now says 'family'**

Gwen Mullins attended Rhema Bible Church most of her life and always wanted to go to RBTC. She tried once right after high school and then again with small children at home, but had to leave both times before finishing. She made it back in 2015 and loved it.



"To me, everything says 'family,'" says Gwen. "The first day as we walked in the door, the instructors were lined up in the halls cheering us on! All year long the admissions office ladies made an effort to learn our names. Student ambassadors were everywhere, smiling, talking, greeting, and getting people involved. Fellow students care about you. I felt like people were glad to have me there."

“I truly believe I was trained for the next part of God's plan for my life.”

—Chad Speer

# Where Are They Now?

## 1976

**Vic Porter ('76)** and his wife, Robin, have been in ministry for 40 years. They've started five churches, pastored three, traveled and held seminars on leadership, helped start a Christian hospice, and started the Institute of Self-Worth (a Bible school for prisoners) and several businesses. He's written a book and five Bible curriculums, which are placed in prisons in all 50 states and 119 countries. Since May of 2005 more than 300,000 inmates have been born again through these outreaches.

## 1980

**Judi Crabb ('80)** and her husband, Edgar, have served in children's ministry for over 21 years at Agape Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. They've taken missions trips to Belize, Northern Ireland, and Costa Rica. They've held workshops on *The How-Tos of Children's Ministry*, conducted children's crusades, and written a children's curriculum called *You Are God's House*, which they offer free to Rhema missionaries. [YouAreGodsHouse.com](http://YouAreGodsHouse.com)



## 1983

**Terry ('82, '83) and Kristine ('82) Oxley** have been pastoring for over 30 years. They pioneered two churches in Oregon and currently serve as pastors at True Life Church just outside of Redding, California. Terry has a doctorate in pastoral care and Kris is a registered nurse. [TrueLifeRedding.com](http://TrueLifeRedding.com)



## 1984

**Craig and Susie Perkins (both '83, '84)** founded Heart Touch Music (formerly known as Father's Heart Music) and have traveled and ministered in music since 1984. They have two sons, Zachary and Jeremy, and are recently empty-nested. They live in Kirksville, Missouri. [HeartTouchMusic.org](http://HeartTouchMusic.org)



## 1985

**Deborah Breda ('84, '85)** is a retired banker living in Delmar, Maryland. She recently became a teaching director for the Salisbury Community Bible Study, an interdenominational Bible study group for women and children. She leads a group of 60 women and 30 children in a weekly study of the Old and New testaments. [CommunityBibleStudy.org](http://CommunityBibleStudy.org)



## Shawn Simmons Collier ('84, '85)

celebrated 30 years in the ministry this year. She also celebrated the 20-year anniversary of the multifaceted Harvest Time Ministries, a church, boarding school, and girl's home she founded in Clayton, Alabama. Shawn is also an evangelist. She and her husband, Paul, live in Louisville, Alabama. [HarvestTimeMinistriesInc.org](http://HarvestTimeMinistriesInc.org)



## 1987

**Deborah Banks ('86, '87)** lives in Champaign, Illinois, and travels as an itinerant minister. She mentors musicians in church music departments, and she also preaches and ministers in music in church services. [DeborahKBanksMinistries.com](http://DeborahKBanksMinistries.com)



## 1993

### Joe ('92, '93) and Dani (Pueblo '91, '92) Hernandez

pastored a church in the San Francisco Bay area of California. In March of 2016 they moved to Dubai, United Arab Emirates. They have started a cell group in their apartment and plan to launch City of Dreams Church on Easter Sunday 2017. They will also start Rhema UAE that September. The Hernandezes have two children: Zoe, 13, and Max, 12. [JoeHernandez.us](http://JoeHernandez.us)



## 1994

**Jim Harper ('91, '94)** and his wife, Tanya, are missionaries to Belarus. They are involved in pastoring, teaching, altar counseling, singles ministry, youth ministry, prison ministry, ministry to the deaf, evangelistic outreaches, church building projects, hosting missions teams, and church planting. They have three children: Anna Marie, 8, Natasha Joy, 10, and Jimmy Andrew, 12. [JimHarper.org](http://JimHarper.org)



## 1995

**Tony ('95) and Bev ('92) Erby** serve in ministry at Eagle Mountain International Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where Tony is senior associate pastor. In May 2015 Tony completed a doctorate in education at Capella University. He also holds a doctorate in psychology.





# Where Are They Now?



## 1997

**Jack and Marie Myers (both '95, '97)** recently purchased a new ministry headquarters in Plant City, Florida. The facility houses Jack Myers Ministries, Life Christian University, and Life Family Church. In addition to pastoring the church, they have traveled and held crusades and revival meetings in the U.S. and 13 foreign countries. [JackMyersMinistries.com](http://JackMyersMinistries.com)

## 1998



**Dustin Martin ('97, '98)** and his wife, Mandy, announce the birth of their son, Ezra Mack, born August 30, 2015, and weighing 10 pounds, 7 ounces. They live in New Braunfels, Texas, where for 7 1/2 years they ministered to students and adults at two different churches. In February of 2012 they launched Martin Ministries International, and now they travel and minister in the U.S. and overseas. [MartinMinistries.tv](http://MartinMinistries.tv)

## 2000

**Alisha (Saling '99, '00) Hill** was remarried on January 16, 2016, to Brooke Hill in Fallon, Nevada. Alisha is a nail tech and Brooke is a teacher and head football coach at Churchill County High School. They have six children: Micaiah, 20, Maddi, 16, Ethan, 15, Levi, 13, Tristan, 12, and Paityn, 7.



**Jesse ('99, '00) and Julie (Jones '99, '00, '01) Miller** announce the birth of their son, Benjamin, born on January 19, 2016, weighing 8 pounds 13 1/2 ounces. He joins his older sister, Abigail, 7. The Millers live in Santee, California, where they have pioneered Chain Reaction Church in El Cajon (San Diego area). [ChainReactionChurch.com](http://ChainReactionChurch.com)



## 2001

**John Thomas Boykin ('00, '01)** and his wife, Catrice, married in November of 2008 and live in Summerville, South Carolina. Recently they formed Boykin Global Network Ministries and started Faith Bible Church. They have a son, Jabrell Joyner.

**Leonard Cruze ('99, '01)** and his wife, Pamela, are living in Sacramento, California, where Leonard works at Encina Prep High School as campus monitor and head varsity basketball coach. They have two adult children. [SanJuan.edu/encina](http://SanJuan.edu/encina)



**Carolyn Everette ('00, '01)** recently became associate pastor of Morrilton First Assembly Church in Morrilton, Arkansas. She was in the charter class of Rhema School of Pastoral Ministry (RSPM) and has three adult children.

## 2002

**Andrew ('01, '02) and Elizabeth ('00, '01) Braze** were called to China in 2005. Their son, Joshua, was born in 2006. They moved to mainland China in 2007 and have been living there ever since. Their ministry focuses on Bible schools, leper colony outreaches, orphan care, human trafficking rescue, abortion alternatives, children's camps, clean drinking water projects, agricultural projects in poor villages, and many other country-sensitive ministries. They also minister in Laos, Myanmar, and other neighboring countries. Their second child, Rachel Anna, was born in 2009. [AsiaCommission.org](http://AsiaCommission.org)



## 2003

**Miyang Kim ('02, '03)** has been a music director at American Catholic Church for over 20 years. She lives in Fairbanks, Alaska, where she also works as an acupuncturist and director of a Korean language school.



**Lloydetta Kent ('02, '03)** works to help girls get free from a life of sex-trafficking through Precious Fruit Ministries, Inc. She lives in Broken Arrow where she also works as a real estate agent and has three children: Michael, 30, Jordan, 23, and Rebekah, 17. [PreciousFruitMinistries.com](http://PreciousFruitMinistries.com)

**Theo Koerner ('02, '03)** and his wife, Veronica, moved to Malaga, Spain, in 2013. There they pastor a church, Iglesia Cristiana Vida en Cristo, and have a vision to support pastors and leaders all over Europe. They have two children, Isabel and Johan. [TheoKorner.com](http://TheoKorner.com)

## 2005

**Mike and Christel Anderson (both '03, '05)** have pioneered and pastored several churches since graduating. Mike has also been a jail chaplain and a leader in the Sons of Thunder motorcycle club. They have been pastoring The Rock on the Ridge Church in Greenville, California, since January of 2015. [TheRockOnTheRidge.com](http://TheRockOnTheRidge.com)

# Where Are They Now?

STUDENT  
DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER 1

## 2010



**Joe David ('08, '09, '10) and Holly ('07, '08, '10) Alvidrez** announce the birth of their first child, Levi Maddox, born on July 20, 2016, weighing 8 pounds 9 ounces. The Alvidrezes live in Youngsville, Louisiana, and are currently on staff at Metro Life Church in Lafayette with pastors

Caleb and **Alicia (Hankins '01) Moran**. Joe David is creative and music director and Holly is executive worship leader and director of In Christ International Bible College. **WelcomeToYour.church**

**Daniel and Anna Cavazos (both '09, '10)** in 2014 took over the then-nine-year-old Holland campus of Resurrection Life Church in Grandville, Michigan. In January of 2016 that campus became fully autonomous and they are the senior pastors. They live in Holland and have three children: Evelyn Grace, 4, Judah David, 2, and Juliana Rae, 1. **RLCHolland.com**



## 2011

**Harrietta Basile ('10, '11)** is a full-time missionary and an author. In September of 2015 she began a one-year internship with Bridge of Love International in Siliguri, West Bengal, India. **RenderedPowerful.com**

**Joab and Amanda Fischer (both '10, '11)** announce the arrival of their second son, Levi William Fischer, born June 21 weighing 8 1/2 pounds. He joins his 2 1/2-year-old brother, Jayven. The Fischers are assistant pastors at Faith Family Church in Hong Kong and also help churches, orphanages, and underground Bible schools in mainland China. **FaithFamilyHK.com**



## 2013

**Russ Rutler ('12, '13)** recently accepted the position of director of facilities at Liberty Church International in Weatherford, Oklahoma. He is overseeing the transformation of a 180,000-square-foot former factory building into a global missions base. He and his wife, Alma, live in Tulsa. **LCI.online**



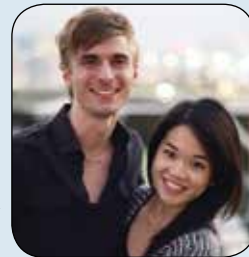
**Aaron and Stephanie Tice (both '12, '13)** recently completed the adoption of their two adorable daughters, Alexis Lillian, 5, and Addison Ruth, 4. The Tice family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 2016 and are helping launch a new church. Aaron is a welder and Stephanie is a stay-at-home-mom. Both are active in youth ministry and children's ministry.



## 2014

**Mack Eardman ('12, '13, '14)** served as a youth leader in Coweta, Oklahoma, during his years at Rhema. Now he and his wife, Reagan, are serving as youth pastors at Extreme Church in Pryor, Oklahoma. They have a daughter, Audra, 5, and a baby on the way. **ExtremeChurch.org**

**Naiah and Janis (Chan) Fischer (both '13, '14)** are full-time missionaries living in Hong Kong. They are working to reach the unreached people of China through concert outreaches, Bible camps and schools, missions trips to China, and more. They also serve as associate pastors and worship pastors at Faith Family Church. **FaithFamilyHK.com**



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you've had a wedding, a new baby, something exciting happen in life or ministry, or just want to update fellow alumni about your life, write [rmai@rhema.org](mailto:rmai@rhema.org) and let us know!

**PLEASE help us make the most of your updates and photos by following these tips.**

### Tips for writing to us:

- Look at past issues and see what others have sent us.
- Tell us where you live, what you're doing in life or ministry, and how long you've been doing it.
- Remember to include your spouse's and children's names.

### Tips for sending photos:

- Send close-up shots with faces close together.
- For baby pictures, please include Mom and Dad too. (Your fellow alumni want to see you as well as your baby!)
- Digital Photos: Send only sharp, good quality photos with high resolution—300 pixels/inch on your computer or digital camera. (If you are unsure of what pixels/inch your camera gives you, set your picture size to its highest resolution and largest file size; then we can adjust accordingly.) **Low-resolution photos used for Internet sites and e-mail do not work well for print magazines like Connections.**



# Where Are They Now?

2015

## Alumni Spotlight

**Lyle Weber ('14, '15)**

Lyle Weber came to RBTC USA all the way from Cape Town, South Africa, where he held a prestigious position at the University of the Western Cape. There he taught financial accounting, finance, and auditing at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

“At the start of my last year at school, the Lord specifically told me ‘Go to Rhema,’” says Lyle. “I came with no money and no sponsor, but my fees got paid, I ate every day, and I was able to travel. It’s nothing short of a miracle and God’s faithfulness.”

On May 7, 2016, Lyle married his wife, Brittany (a graduate of Evangel University), at the Chapel at Ana Villa in Colony, Texas. Sixteen of Lyle’s fellow Rhema grads also came to the wedding (see photo).

The Webers now attend and serve at Gateway Church, where Lyle is part of the stewardship team at the Dallas campus and has been teaching several classes. He has also authored six books dealing with financial compliance for churches and Bible meditation.

“I never wanted to come to Bible school—I had my own plans and dreams,” says Lyle. “But giving up my dreams for His has been the greatest thing I’ve ever done, and He has far surpassed Mark 10:29–30 in my life. He is so faithful!”



Rhema grads attending Lyle’s wedding (l to r): Garret Dekker ('13, '14), Susie Dekker ('13, '14), Corinne Garcia ('13, '14, '15), Jessica Pohlman ('14, '15), Jeremiah Calsing ('14, '15, '16), Avery Detring Weston ('15, '16), Joel Weston ('14, '15, '16), Lyle & Brittany, Brett Weston ('14, '15, '16), Yang Liu ('14, '15, '16), Daniel Premenko ('14, '15, '16), Max Krinitsyn ('15, '16), Maksim Datsko ('14, '15), Melissa Schweizer ('13, '14, '15), Johnson Dunn ('15, '16), Kristina Krinitsyn ('15, '16), Frances Krinitsyn ('15, '16).

2016

**Selena Garcia ('15, '16)** lives in San Angelo, Texas, and is a secretary for LGTZ Trucking. She recently became the youth leader and runs the bookstore at her home church, Trinity Fellowship. [TFCSA.com](http://TFCSA.com)



## HOMEGOINGS

|                    |                         |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| '78                | Robert E. Grace         | September 17, 2015 |
| '78, '79           | Esther Butler*          | August 19, 2015    |
| '79, '80           | Greg Roe*               | February 10, 2016  |
| '80, '81           | Roi Emiliani*           | April 3, 2016      |
| '81                | Michael Burton          | July 28, 2016      |
| '82                | Gordon Okerstrom        | November 2015      |
| '82, '83           | Wanda Casper*           | June 19, 2016      |
| '82, '83           | Milo Reno               | July 2, 2016       |
| '82, '83           | Frank Reeder            | March 11, 2016     |
| '83, '84           | Greg Lovell             | June 2, 2015       |
| '83, '84           | Carl Lundgren           | June 13, 2015      |
| '84, '85           | Frank Kernan            | April 14, 2016     |
| '84, '85           | Betty Porter            | May 23, 2016       |
| '84, '85           | Tari Steinmetz          | 2016               |
| '85, '86           | Mary Ann Adkins         | September 29, 2015 |
| '86, '87           | Joseph Drake            | July 26, 2016      |
| '87, '88           | Lorrie A. Medford       | September 16, 2015 |
| '87, '88           | Gloria Pinson           | July 20, 2016      |
| '87, '88           | Regina Van Meter        | July 3, 2016       |
| '88, '89           | John W. Fell            | May 9, 2015        |
| '88, '89           | Frank Rabinowitz        | December 5, 2014   |
| '89, '90           | Alma Rose McKenzie      | February 16, 2016  |
| '89, '90           | Samuel Diaz             | March 1, 2016      |
| '89, '90           | Yolanda Brown*          | April 26, 2016     |
| '90, '91           | Dagmar H. Dietrichs     | June 15, 2016      |
| '90, '91           | Lance Dossie            | August 25, 2015    |
| '90, '91           | Nicholas Szapkiw        | February 23, 2016  |
| '91, '92           | Dave Berry              | January 12, 2016   |
| '91, '92           | Elena Briseno           | January 9, 2016    |
| '91, '92           | Barbara Johnson         | September 15, 2015 |
| '92, '93           | Richard Buesinger*      | November 9, 2015   |
| '92, '93           | Susan Guthrie           | 2015               |
| '92, '93           | Patricia A. Moses       | October 15, 2015   |
| '92, '93           | Thomas Wayne Rogers     | October 27, 2015   |
| '92, '93           | Wendell Williams*       | August 1, 2016     |
| '93, '94           | Aubrey Johnson          | January 1, 2014    |
| '94, '95           | David Campbell          | January 2, 2016    |
| '95, '96           | Gary Conyer Jr.         | February 10, 2016  |
| '95, '96           | Nancy Laursen           | May 1, 2016        |
| '96, '97           | Daniel Graham           | September 11, 2015 |
| '96, '97           | Steven W. Suggs         | April 10, 2016     |
| '98, '99           | Simone Butler           | May 6, 2016        |
| '99, '00           | Kelly Christman         | September 30, 2012 |
| '93, '94, '00      | Richard Loyd Davis      | May 27, 2015       |
| '96, '00           | Marlin Merrell          | August 22, 2015    |
| '01, '02           | Janice Modder           | December 15, 2015  |
| '02, '03           | Detty Laidlow           | July 29, 2016      |
| '04, '05           | Lucy Alexander          | July 5, 2015       |
| '04, '05           | Levi Hammond            | February 19, 2016  |
| '05, '06           | Helen Brown             | April 1, 2016      |
| '05, '06           | Robert Andrew Jenkinson | June 2, 2016       |
| '06, '07, '08      | Jennifer Lamboy         | February 21, 2016  |
| '09, '10           | Marcus Watkins          | July 18, 2015      |
| '12, '13, '14      | Lee Gerhardson          | June 30, 2015      |
| '12, '13, '14, '15 | Francis Ann Watson      | November 25, 2015  |
| '13, '14, '15      | Christopher Weidman     | September 4, 2015  |

\*Indicates past or present member of RMAI (Rhema Ministerial Association International)

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HOMECOMING**  
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[rhema.org/wbs](http://rhema.org/wbs)

**SPRING  
COLLEGE  
WEEKEND**

**SPRING COLLEGE WEEKEND**  
April 7-9  
[rhema.org/rcw](http://rhema.org/rcw)



**INTERNATIONAL RHEMA DAY**  
May 7  
[rhema.org/ird](http://rhema.org/ird)



**CAMPMEETING**  
July 22-28  
[rhema.org/cm](http://rhema.org/cm)



**KINDLE THE FLAME®  
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
September 28-30  
[rhema.org/ktf](http://rhema.org/ktf)



**A CALL TO ARMS® MEN'S  
CONFERENCE**  
November 2-4  
[rhema.org/cta](http://rhema.org/cta)

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### MARCH 5-7

#### VICTORY LIFE CHURCH

1741 W. QUEENS STREET | **HAMPTON, VA 23666**  
PASTORS PHIL & BARBARA PRIVETTE | (757) 838-1304  
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-TUES. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

### MARCH 8-10

#### VICTORY WORSHIP CENTER AND WORLD OUTREACH

200 HAMMOND LANE | **STAUNTON, VA 24401**  
PASTORS RAY & LIZ EPPARD | (540) 886-6249  
WED. 7:00 P.M. | THURS.-FRI. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

### APRIL 2-4

#### SUMMIT CHURCH

1200 E. 30TH STREET | **FARMINGTON, NM 87401**  
PASTOR DAN & JANE MORRISON | (505) 325-8525  
SUN. 6:30 P.M. | MON.-TUES. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

### APRIL 5-7

#### WORD OF LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER

3520 N. BUFFALO DRIVE | **LAS VEGAS, NV 89129**  
PASTORS DAVID & VICKI SHEARIN | (702) 645-1990  
WED. 7:00 P.M. | THURS.-FRI. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

