

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION



It's a whole new year, and with it comes a whole new season at South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary (SFBC&TS)! 2023 saw some amazing moves of God in so many ways, and there is no doubt that He will continue to do amazing things in 2024!

SFBC&TS kicked off the new year with Orientation for new students, welcoming a record-breaking total enrollment of over 600 students! This wave of hearts and minds dedicated to pursuing the things of God truly serves to underscore the amazing work God can do when his people answer, *"Here am I, Lord."*

Thank you Intersection Online, Inc. for underwriting this issue!



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Special Chapel Service Honoring Broward Sheriff's Office

In February, SFBC&TS devoted one of its chapel services to recognize and celebrate the collaboration between SFBC&TS and BSO.

During the service, several deputies were honored with awards for their outstanding service, and guest speaker Captain Adam Hofstein expressed BSO's gratitude for SFBC&TS's community initiatives and the privilege of partnering with them. In all, the service was truly a wonderful time celebrating such a powerful partnership.



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PASTOR'S LUNCHEON: A Time of Fellowship & Inspiration

In the heart of our community at South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary (SFBC&TS), a special event unfolds that brings together spiritual leaders from various denominations – the Shepherd's Pie Luncheon. This annual gathering is a profound opportunity for churches near and far to network with one another and with SFBC&TS... and this event was no exception with 35 pastors in attendance! The palpable presence of God, evident through the abundance of ministry leadership in the room, was intensified by the inspiring words of keynote speakers Pastor Jenn Chenoweth and Pastor Darren Bennett.

Pastor Jenn's sermon on valuing purity over perfection struck a chord with the audience, emphasizing the importance of not allowing the pursuit of ministry to become entangled with perfectionism. Complementing this theme, Pastor Darren's talk on surrender and sacrifice reinforced the significance of placing God firmly at the heart of a life committed to ministry, and that a life rooted in worship is worth sacrificing to Him.

This message warrants frequent repetition. Many pastors navigate the complexities of their ministry, juggling family responsibilities, work, financial obligations, and personal devotion. In a society obsessed with overachievement and self-centric success, the biblical... [Continued on next page](#)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COMPASSION AT THE CORE: Living Out God's Justice in Worship and Action

by Dr. Mary Drabik



As mentioned in the Fall 2023 newsletter, I will focus on one of our core values in upcoming issues of our newsletter. This quarter I will be sharing about COMPASSION.

At SFBC&TS, we seek to know the compassion and care of our God. We aim to value what God values. As Christians we need to speak against injustice and support policies and initiatives that promote fairness, equality and justice.

In Amos Chapter 5, God expressed a profound discontent with the Israelites, who were practicing religiosity without righteousness. God's response to such worship practices is remarkably sharp: I hate; I despise; I take no delight in; I do not accept; I do not look upon them with favor. If there is no biblical justice, there is no acceptable worship to God. He is not moved by a full church that fails to care for the less fortunate, or that stands idly by while oppression runs rampant.

We cannot afford to remain silent in the face of injustice. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said it perfectly, "silence in the face of evil is itself evil." No matter how big the crowds, how glorious the music or inspirational the preaching, our worship services are found unsatisfactory to God if we are not at the same time committed to maintaining justice.

God's justice, however, is always tempered with compassion. The Bible speaks of Jesus "being moved with compassion." In the Old Testament, God is described as having compassion more than a dozen times. The Gospels speak of six times where Jesus is said to feel compassion, such as Matthew chapter 14 when Jesus went forth, saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them.

I believe that God is about to show Himself strong through the remnant that He has kept for himself, and as we see injustice and compassionately stand up for what is right, God will move on our behalf.

You are the God who works wonders; You have made known Your strength among the peoples.

Psalm 77:14

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON: Almighty God, many of your children are ashamed today of the unrighteousness in our nations. Please use us to lead a rebirth of character. And Father, as we seek to live holy lives, please keep our eyes on your righteous character, gracious compassion, and faithful loved-based justice.

Dr. Mary Drabik

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PASTOR'S LUNCHEON: A Time of Fellowship & Inspiration

reminder that God rested on the seventh day is always pertinent, and SFBC&TS was honored to host an event that shared this insight with numerous church leaders.

The event itself concluded with a time of prayer, where pastors stood shoulder to shoulder, committing to support one another and their communities with renewed vigor. The sense of unity and shared purpose was powerful, even as the attendees departed.

The consensus was clear: the Shepherd's Pie Luncheon was not just an annual event, but a vital touchstone for encouragement, inspiration, and fellowship. It underscored the beauty of diverse churches coming together in unity, reflecting the broader tapestry of the body of Christ.



Volunteers in Ariel Scholarship Honors Jay and Gail Neer



In a heartfelt ceremony in late January, the staff and community of SFBC&TS honored the enduring partnership with Ariel, Israel, and recognized Gail Neer and her late husband Jay for their pivotal contributions to strengthening this relationship. As a faithful servant of the Lord, Jay, alongside his wife Gail, are known for their lasting friendship and joint ministry initiatives within Ariel over the years. This includes their key involvement in the annual Volunteers in Ariel volunteer trip to Israel.

During this four-week trip, volunteers engage with the Ariel community, teach English to children, and delve into the Holy Land's rich culture. There are also many opportunities to visit sites of powerful significance to the faith, including the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, and even the city of Jerusalem itself. SFBC&TS is proud to offer this transformative experience annually and encourages interested staff and students to contact Nilce Moraes for more information.*

In the spirit of continuing this amazing tradition, and to honor Jay Neer's legacy after his passing in late 2021,

SFBC&TS has introduced a scholarship fund for the Volunteers in Ariel program, aimed at enabling more disciples of Christ to explore the Holy Land. The scholarship's inauguration ceremony, which also welcomed Dina Shalit, former Vice Mayor of Ariel, and her husband Mendy, marks the continuation of this cherished tradition.

*Due to the current geopolitical instability in and around Israel, the Volunteers in Ariel trip for 2024 has been postponed.

SPECIAL CHAPEL SERVICE Honoring Broward Sheriff's Office

Over the past few years, SFBC&TS has experienced continued growth in its relationship with and impact on the surrounding community. One notable example of this is the partnership between SFBC&TS and the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO). In late 2023, the Behavioral Response Unit of BSO established a substation on the SFBC&TS campus. The dedicated deputies of this unit are now a daily presence on campus and have seamlessly integrated into the SFBC&TS family.... [Continued on back page](#)



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