



**SOUTH FLORIDA
BIBLE COLLEGE**
& THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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THE MESSAGE

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FALL 2024

FALL ENROLLMENT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

The 2024-2025 school year at SFBC&TS began on a wave of enthusiasm as the college welcomed nearly 700 students—a record-breaking number for a fall semester that surpassed even pre-pandemic enrollment numbers! This landmark achievement emphasizes the vibrant, faith-centered community that draws students from all walks of life.

An especially noteworthy highlight is the growth of the College Academy dual-enrollment program, which opened its doors to 57 new high school students this semester! This more than doubles the total enrollment for the program, underscoring its increasing popularity and the value it provides to kids and families seeking Christ-centered education.

To kick off the new academic year, staff, faculty and students alike embraced the long-standing tradition of the Student Life department's Spirit Week. The campus buzzed with energy as scores of men and women roamed the halls in an array of Christian t-shirts, Biblical costumes, and even whimsical hats! And of course, the campus was delighted to welcome back the beloved orange Tigger as he cheerfully bounced from classroom to classroom.

The vibrant and diverse atmosphere is a testament to why SFBC&TS is such a special and unique place to learn and grow. From inspiring moments in the classroom to the spirit-filled interactions between new and returning students, the start of the 2024-2025 school year has set a bright and hopeful tone for what is sure to be an exciting and rewarding journey ahead. As Dr. Mary, SFBC&TS's president, has often expressed, "God is truly doing something amazing at South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary."

Stay tuned for more updates throughout the year as we celebrate our students' achievements, explore new opportunities, and continue to grow together as a community of faith and learning!



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



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

It is with great anticipation that we proudly welcome two new members to our Board of Directors!



Frank Magliochetti



Dr. William Valmyr



SFBC&TS MISSION STATEMENT

South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary is an institution of higher learning where the Bible is central in preparing men and women for ministry to serve Christ and His Church through Biblical thought and Christian life.



God is truly doing something amazing at South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary. - Dr. Mary Drabik

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BRING BACK THE BLACKSMITHS by Dr. Mary Drabik



Good doctors keep you out of the hospital.

Good lawyers keep you out of jail.

Good pastors keep you out of hell.

In 1 Samuel 13, we see a powerful illustration of spiritual warfare. Under siege by the Philistines, Israel was left defenseless when their enemy took away their weapons. Worse, Israel had no blacksmiths, thus their forces were left without weapons except for those held by Jonathan and King Saul. The people were overtaken, not because the enemy was too powerful, but because the blacksmiths were shut down. This mirrors the state of so many pulpits in America today, and as the strength of our pulpits decline, so does the strength of our country.

Christians are dying on the vine, and sermons are often out of touch. Think of past leaders like Billy Graham and Chuck Colson—where are the modern-day voices like theirs? The dire condition of the church needs addressing. We must speak the truth in love and avoid seeking the approval of men over God. We need a renewed sense of glory, holiness, and conviction, not more feel-good messages.

Just as God placed a Moses spirit on the 70 elders, can He place our spirit on others? Are we equipping our young people today, or are we sending them to the Philistine camp to equip themselves? Are we so worried about public opinion that we fail to consider what the Bible says about the issues facing us today? The world is experimenting on our children and our marriages, and we need messages that go beyond the church parking lot and address these real issues. We need to teach modesty and purity. Instead of offering shallow solutions like condoms, we should teach abstinence and the value of saving oneself for marriage.


We must open the blacksmith shop in our ministries and stir up the fire within. Compromise will lead to defeat. We must speak the truth with kindness and holiness. We need to fight for our children and grandchildren, unify under the cross and the name of Jesus, and break Satan's hold over a generation. We need the heat of the furnace and the pounding of the hammer that is the Word of God. We need that furnace burning like a fire shut up in our bones. It's time to reopen the blacksmith shop.


God is about to do something suddenly—an army will rise, as seen in Ezekiel's vision. Revival should shake us to our core, bringing us to a place of holiness and purity. But for that revival to rise, we need a meat-and-potatoes gospel, not superficial messages and hollow platitudes of holiness. We need bold, authentic truth. Just as a sign at a U.S. Military base might say, "Please excuse the noise, it's the sound of freedom," we need to boldly declare, "Pardon the noise—you are about to hear the sound of freedom!"


Still, we are encouraged by the remnant God has preserved—those strong preachers who stand firm. We need Christians who are fully armed with the armor of God, who do not backslide, compromise, or water down the message. I pray for those Christians and exhort them: Be bold in your ministry. Speak the truth with courage. Stand for character and integrity, no matter the cost!

Holiness means giving God our best, and we have nothing to apologize for. We must be bold, bring back the blacksmiths, and wield the sword of the Spirit—which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6).

Dr. Mary Drabik

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 **The Message Publication Team:**
Jeremy Scott: Senior Editor & Content Director | **Allison Duine/Intersection Online:** Design & Layout
Dr. Mary Drabik: Content Contributor (Exclusive Underwriting at \$2,000/Issue, contact jscott@sfbc.edu)

New Podcast: *Noted*

SFBC&TS is proud to announce a new, on-campus podcast called *Noted*.



Hosted by Germil Agenor and Jennifer Chenoweth, *Noted* explores the personal and professional lives of worship leaders, providing an understanding of their motivations and the impact of their ministry.

Each episode ends with a special segment entitled "High Note" where the hosts and their guests collaborate for a meaningful worship moment.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: You Can Make a Difference!

We are excited to announce that, moving forward, each issue of *The Message* will spotlight specific donation opportunities that align with the current areas of focus for SFBC&TS.

These opportunities can range from scholarships and student services to campus improvements and community outreach efforts.

Your contributions play a crucial role in helping us to fulfill our mission to prepare men and women for ministry to serve Christ and his church!

**2024 Scholarship Drive**

Join the effort and make a difference! We're calling for 100 generous individuals to donate \$100 each month for the next 10 months. Your support will fund our scholarships for an entire year!

Department Highlight: Admissions

Following the record-breaking enrollment for the Fall semester, we want to recognize the outstanding work of our Admissions team, led by Director Aline Rocha Barbosa! Their dedication and hard work have been instrumental in fostering the growth of our student community.



We are also excited to announce that the team itself is growing, with the addition of four new Enrollment Advisors! The continued passion and commitment of this team will doubtlessly enhance the effort to reach even more students and welcome them into the SFBC&TS family.

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