

ENVOY

APRIL 2015




EMMANUEL
CHRISTIAN SEMINARY

The Coopers:
Party of 5

The Emmanuel Faculty

Milligan Integration
Update



THE COOPERS: Party of 5

Midwest natives Bryce & Mavryn Cooper now serve a church in Maryland and raise three beautiful daughters

Bryce Cooper grew up in the Tonganoxie Christian Church in Tonganoxie, Kansas. He was greatly influenced by his youth minister who was also his high school soccer coach, role model, mentor, and friend. Mavryn Cooper grew up at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church in Greenwood, Indiana. Her parents were active in the church as volunteers in the youth ministry. Both Coopers were blessed to grow up in Christian homes and in Christian churches with connections to Manhattan Christian College, where they met.

After graduating from Manhattan Christian College in 2005, Bryce and Mavryn came to Emmanuel Christian Seminary to pursue further preparation for Christian service. They each graduated in 2009 with Master of Divinity degrees, Bryce with a concentration in Christian Education and Mavryn in Christian Care and Counseling. While attending Emmanuel, they both held children and student ministry positions at First Christian Church in Johnson City.

Professors at Emmanuel helped connect the Coopers with the Church of Christ at Manor Woods in Rockville, Maryland,

where Bryce is the associate minister of student ministries and Mavryn volunteers as the preschool ministries coordinator and runs a homeschool co-op that their three children are a part of.

Together, they recently served on a team that worked to develop the discipleship curriculum for the church. Their congregation is also undergoing a building campaign, for which Bryce and Mavryn served on a team tasked to plan spiritual renewal events and activities. Bryce particularly has utilized his Emmanuel training in Christian Education to bring structure and great programming to the youth at Manor Woods. He feels that quality training in graduate school has prepared him for

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long-term youth ministry.

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Coopers for ministry beyond the church walls, as well. They are active in the community and their neighborhood, coaching soccer, helping at camps, and ministering to families.

Adoption has helped the Coopers more fully appreciate God's love for them as His adopted children and model that love for others.

As the Coopers started a new life in Maryland, they also started their family. In 2011, they welcomed into their home twin girls from Ethiopia, Eyerusalem and Tsion. This past fall in 2014, the Cooper family grew again and became a party of five with the addition of another Ethiopian princess, Hikma. The twins are now 7 years old and Hikma is age 9. The girls are home-schooled and all currently in the second grade. They like sports, horses, and gymnastics.

When asked how adoption has impacted Bryce and Mavryn, they responded that they are "extremely tired, but mostly blessed" to have had the opportunity to see how God can redeem brokenness and place the fatherless into families. Now, Bryce and Mavryn more fully appreciate God's love for them as His adopted children and model that love for others.

Their church family has been most supportive of this adoption. The girls have Maryland aunts, uncles, and grandparents. The entire Cooper family has been blessed by the love they feel from the congregation at Manor Woods. The church is very diverse in nationality, race, and cultural background, which has helped the Coopers feel very much at home.

One of the challenges of ministry in Maryland is related to the diversity of the area. Rockville is a suburb of Washington D.C. and is extremely in need of Christ's message. Their community has mixtures of religious, political, socio-economical, and cultural backgrounds. All of these present a challenge to the Coopers' ministry.

Emmanuel is proud to claim both Bryce and Mavryn as distinguished graduates who both are committed to Christ and His Church. ✝



THANK YOU

Top 30 Supporting Churches

EMMANUEL EXISTS TO SERVE THE CHURCH, AND EMMANUEL EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE CHURCH. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE FAITHFUL SUPPORT OF CHURCHES AND ACKNOWLEDGE BELOW THE TOP 30 SUPPORTING CHURCHES FOR 2014. THANK YOU!

First Christian Church, Johnson City, TN	\$50,100
Community Christian at High Vista, Davenport, FL	\$30,969
Mountain Christian Church, Joppa, MD	\$20,000
Savannah Christian Church, Savannah, GA	\$14,750
Ten Mile Christian Church, Meridian, ID	\$13,300
Grandview Christian Church, Johnson City, TN	\$12,405
First Christian Church, Dodge City, KS	\$12,166
Tigard Christian Church, Tigard, OR	\$8,300
First Christian Church, Roseburg, OR	\$7,485
Academy Christian Church, Colorado Springs, CO	\$7,350
Chandler Christian Church, Chandler, AZ	\$7,200
East 10 th Street Church of Christ, Roanoke Rapids, NC	\$7,200
East 9 th Street Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN	\$6,750
Church of Christ at Manor Woods, Rockville, MD	\$6,630
Coquille Christian Community Church, Coquille, OR	\$6,268
Southwest Christian Church, East Point, GA	\$6,242
Highline Christian Church, Burien, WA	\$6,000
Boones Creek Christian Church, Gray, TN	\$5,891
Cayuga Christian Church, Cayuga, IN	\$5,385
First Christian Church, Hugoton, KS	\$5,344
First Christian Church, Pomeroy, WA	\$5,305
First Christian Church, Cumming, GA	\$5,087
Tonganoxie Christian Church, Tonganoxie, KS	\$5,000
First Christian Church, Erwin, TN	\$4,850
First Christian Church, Hermiston, OR	\$4,804
Colonial Heights Christian Church, Kingsport, TN	\$4,600
Blanchard Church of Christ, Blanchard, PA	\$4,536
Fairmount Christian Church, Mechanicsville, VA	\$4,500
Willamette Christian Church, West Linn, OR	\$4,404
Sun City West Christian Church, Sun City West, AZ	\$4,115

A SHARED MISSION

AN EXCERPT FROM THE
EMMANUEL WESTERN
SCHOLARSHIP DINNERS
HELD IN OREGON &
WASHINGTON IN MARCH 2015

*by Dr. William B. Greer
President
Milligan College*

I love being part of an organization that is so mission-focused. And lest you think I'm just talking about Milligan – I'm not, exactly. I'm talking about the church. We have a 2000 year old mission to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything commanded. What a mission we have – to save the world by making disciples of all nations!

Milligan College and Emmanuel Christian Seminary play a part in this global cause by pursuing noble missions of our own. Our institutions have, in Milligan's case for nearly 150 and in Emmanuel's case for nearly 50 years, been helping to make disciples.

Milligan's mission of "honoring God by educating men and women to be servant leaders" and Emmanuel's of "preparing men and women for effective ministry" are not incompatible or mutually exclusive. They are one and the same. In fact, we've both been supporting the pursuit of the greatest mission of all. We have both, in our own way, been providing the world with preachers, missionaries, church planters, accountants, bankers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, computer programmers, occupational therapists, teachers, counselors, coaches, artists, photographers, and poets – all of whom have witnessed in their own way, wherever it is that they are planted – for the good of the Kingdom of God.

And so, as we look to a future as one institution, we do not sacrifice one mission for another. We do not, as we come together, erase the identity of one, in favor of the other. We do not, as we come together, forget the history of either institution as if it is no longer relevant. We do not, as we come together, seek to eliminate those things that make either of us unique, because we

recognize that both physical and philosophical diversity among our students, our faculty, and even our academic perspectives, make for a richer academic experience.

As president of Milligan, my job is to cast a vision, secure resources, and then get out of the way to let a great team of people execute our plans. There is a terrific team of people who are deeply committed to executing our plan of bringing these two institutions together in ways that will be mutually beneficial for both Milligan and Emmanuel but, more importantly, will be beneficial for the kingdom.

We covet your prayers and we ask for your continued support as we come together and as we march forward together as one. We intend to grow because the church needs well prepared, thoughtful ministers and I believe that together, Milligan and Emmanuel are uniquely positioned to fill this need. And this growth will need to be fed. And we thank you for your support and for feeding this ministry for the past 50 years. But if we're to be the kind of college and the kind of seminary that this movement needs, we'll need you to stay with us, well beyond the point at which we come together.

When we look back at Emmanuel's 50 year and Milligan's 150 year history, we can see the hand of God in what has been done. Imagine how much more can be accomplished once we have pooled our resources and brought together the collective strength of our faculties, our students, our alumni, our supporting churches, and our friends – like you – in pursuit of our common mission.

Our work is not done, our mission not yet complete. There are disciples to make and a world to save. ✝

INTEGRATION UPDATE: The Boards of both Milligan and Emmanuel have approved the final merger document, and, pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the schools will be united effective July 1, 2015. Emmanuel will be part of Milligan's School of Bible and Ministry, one of five schools comprising Milligan's new academic structure. The integration will bring strength to both institutions.



The Emmanuel FACULTY

In its 50 year history, Emmanuel has gathered a quality faculty. With the integration of Emmanuel into Milligan College, we are pleased to announce all of our current full-time faculty have received contracts from Milligan to continue teaching at Emmanuel.

- Dr. Paul Blowers teaches Church History and received his Ph.D. from Notre Dame.
- Dr. Rollin Ramsaran teaches New Testament and received his Ph.D. from Boston University.
- Dr. Jason Bembry teaches Old Testament and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.
- Dr. Roy Lawson teaches Christian Ministries and was awarded his doctoral degree from Vanderbilt University.
- Dr. Miriam Perkins teaches Theology and Society and secured her doctorate from Catholic University of America.
- Dr. Kip Elolia teaches Theology and World Christianity. Dr. Elolia is from Kenya and received his Ph.D. from Trinity College at the University of Toronto.
- Dr. Jack Holland received his Ph.D. from Texas Woman's College and teaches Christian Care and Counseling.
- Dr. Mike Sweeney teaches World Mission and New Testament and was awarded his doctorate from Union Presbyterian Seminary.

About a dozen other individuals teach at Emmanuel on a part-time basis or as adjunct professors and will continue in these roles as-needed, including Dr. Philip Kenneson, Dr. Lee Magness, Dr. Tim Ross, Dr. Teresa Welch, Dr. Tony Twist, Dr. Aaron Wymer, Dr. Robert Wetzal, Dr. Jeff Miller, Dr. Mark Matson, Dr. Bruce Shields, and others. Some of these special faculty instructors are on the Bible faculty of Milligan College. Emmanuel's faculty continue to be one of the top attractions to students who want to prepare for ministry. ✚

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Mike Sweeney

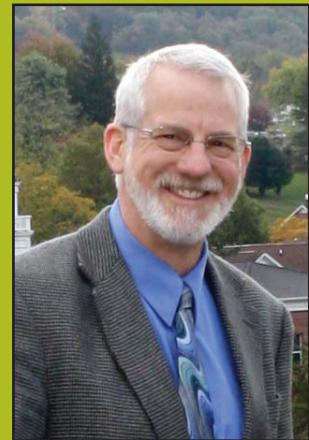
In May 2014, Emmanuel closed the office of President as a position no longer needed with the upcoming integration into Milligan College.

Dr. Mike Sweeney, who had served as Emmanuel's president since 2009 and previously taught on Emmanuel's faculty since 2006, returned to serve on Emmanuel's faculty once again as Associate Professor of World Mission and New Testament.

As a professor of world mission, Sweeney is able to pull from his 15 years of experience working in Papua New Guinea with Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) from 1991-2006. He served as the primary translator in the Mum translation. He was also a consultant for other PBT translation projects in Papua New Guinea and worked closely with the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Papua New Guinea.

Dr. Sweeney also leads the charge in the seminary's innovative online Master of Christian Ministries program. He highly values technology and understands every aspect of educating a person online, while at the same time appreciating the face-to-face mentoring in preparing ministers and missionaries. This program takes an Emmanuel education to those students who simply cannot move to East Tennessee for the residential program.

Dr. Sweeney received his Ph.D. in biblical studies from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Virginia and his M.Div. from Emmanuel. He is an excellent scholar and it is great to have him return to the faculty.





Being shaped for ministry

First-year student Zach Maclellan came to Tennessee from California to study exercise science. He found himself called to and mentored into church ministry.

Zach Maclellan, a Milligan College graduate from Chino, CA, came to East Tennessee and Milligan based on a recommendation from a family friend. Originally an exercise science major, Zach's involvement in the leadership of Milligan's Vespers program helped redirect him toward Biblical studies.

Vespers and working with Youth in Ministry (YIM) showed Zach he had the talent to speak in front of others and to engage with each of his 20-plus volunteers and 100 regular Vespers attendees on a more personal level.

Zach's thoughts on pastoring and preaching were more distilled when he interned with Phil Roberts at Colonial Heights Christian Church in Kingsport, Tennessee, during the summer of his junior year, and now

in his current role in youth ministry at Boones Creek Christian Church in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Zach sees God's call back to the southwestern U.S. when he completes his M.Div. degree. He hopes to work in discipleship and small groups in a larger church setting, eventually focusing on preaching, teaching, and vision-casting as part of his ministerial work.

"I'm ready to get on about God's

"I'm ready to get on about God's mission for me."

mission for me," he says. But first he knows preparation is key. Even as a first-year student, Zach has experienced the great impact Emmanuel is having and will have on his future ministry. He

appreciates the personal involvement of the professors – not just their concern for him and others as students, but with their deep interest in their spiritual development and wellbeing.

Zach also credits the great community of the Emmanuel Village as a major factor in his successful "journey." He sees God's love borne out daily as the Village residents rely on each other, studying and sharing as they work to follow God's call.

"God is using Emmanuel to help me mature and grow to be the Christian leader he calls me to be."

Zach and his fiance, Hillary Hughes, met at Milligan. Hillary also plans to attend Emmanuel and prepare for ministry. ✝

Published By:



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Rollin A. Ramsaran, Academic Dean • Dan R. Lawson, Chief Development Officer

Emmanuel Christian Seminary is supported by the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ and provides theological education for men and women from across the United States and around the world. Emmanuel Christian Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools, 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110, phone: 412-788-6505. The following degree programs are approved by the Commission on Accrediting: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Christian Ministries, and Doctor of Ministry. Emmanuel Christian Seminary is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Christian Ministries, and the Doctor of Ministry degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Emmanuel Christian Seminary.

please JOIN US



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2015

Dr. Rubel Shelly, Speaker

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2 PM

Gregory Center at Milligan College
Reception following ceremony

Emmanuel is greatly blessed to have Dr. Rubel Shelly, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Lipscomb University and previous professor and president of Rochester College, as our commencement speaker. Dr. Shelly spent much of his ministry as pastor of The Family of God at Woodmont Hills in Nashville, TN, where he served for 27 years. During that time, he also taught at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Tennessee State University. A Ph.D. graduate of Vanderbilt, Dr. Shelly is the author of numerous books, papers, and publications. He is committed to the gospel's presentation in a decidedly non-sectarian way. He and his wife, Myra, have three children and reside in Nashville.



EMMANUEL NACC BREAKFAST

Dr. Rollin Ramsaran, Speaker

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 7:30 AM

North American Christian Convention
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Regency Ballroom E
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dr. Rollin Ramsaran, Emmanuel's Academic Dean and Professor of New Testament, studied in the Boston area for several years before joining Emmanuel in 1994. He holds the Ph.D. in New Testament and Christian Origins from Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; a M.A. in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary (in conjunction with the Westwood Christian Foundation); and a B.A. in Bible and Preaching in America from Pacific Christian College. He has experience in youth ministry, church planting, and pulpit ministry in various communities in California and in Brookline, Massachusetts. Dr. Ramsaran has been leading the school's academic life since June 2013. To purchase tickets (\$20 ea), contact Mary at 423.461.1530 or mpage@ecs.edu.



EMMANUEL LUNCH AT OREGON CHRISTIAN CONVENTION

Dr. Bill Greer, Speaker

THURSDAY, JULY 2, NOON, JUBILEE LODGE

William (Bill) Greer, Ph.D., has served as 15th president of Milligan College since 2011, during which time the college has been recognized as one of the Best Colleges and Best Values in the South and on the President's National Honor Roll for Community Service.

Emmanuel alumni have an influential role in the Oregon Christian Convention. Mary Ellen Lantzer-Pereira (MDiv '90) serves as president of the 2015 Convention. The keynote speakers are Dr. Rick Grover (MDiv '93, DMin '98), senior pastor of East 91st Street Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana; and Dr. Mark Krause (MDiv '83), dean and professor of Bible and Ministry at Nebraska Christian College.



ENVOY

APRIL 2015

The Emmanuel Faculty

Spotlight on
Dr. Mike Sweeney

Student & Alumni
Spotlights

Milligan Integration Update

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SEMINARY

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EMMANUEL
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WELCOME ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR



Emmanuel is pleased to welcome Lauren Gullett as its new Director of Admissions. Lauren, who earned her M.Div. at Emmanuel in 2002, began her duties on January 12. Lauren previously served as pastor of sports and recreation at Central Christian Church in Mesa, Arizona. For the past three

years, she has worked in marketing and public relations and has owned her own marketing and design company for the past year and a half.

She is married to Jared (Milligan, '01), and they have five children: Julian (9), Emmie (8), Gabrielle (6), Salome (4), and Campbell (3). Lauren and Jared shared, "We loved our time in East Tennessee, so we hold a very special place in our hearts for Appalachia and our schools."

Emmanuel is blessed to have Lauren and her family as a part of our community and look forward to her leadership as she helps the seminary to grow and flourish.