

# FAITHFUL AND GRATEFUL

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A PRAYER JOURNAL



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CURATED BY THE STEGALL SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP  
ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

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THE STEGALL SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP  
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## *Introduction*



What does it mean to be faithful? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as being “steadfast in affection or allegiance; loyal.” When I reflect on the first 10 years of the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation, “faithful” is a word that immediately comes to mind when I think of the generous donors who have made this mission their mission.

Without the faithful support of people who care about both the struggles of seminary students and the continuance of the church of Jesus Christ, this foundation would not exist.

In response to your faithfulness, I am overwhelmed with a deep sense of gratitude. God has so richly blessed the gifts that you have so generously given in the past, and I know that He will continue to multiply future gifts in years to come.

These 20 devotionals were written for you by students, alumni, and board members. Interspersed among their devotionals you will also find prayers and hymns, which hopefully serve as inspiration.

There is space following each devotional for a place to record your own reflections. My prayer for you is that, perhaps, one of these devotionals may speak to you in a way in which you are moved to Christian action in response to your gratitude.

Thank you for your endless faithfulness.

Gratefully,

Karl K. Stegall

August, 2017

## Paulette Thompson

Board Member

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

### “Bigger Than Any One of Us”

*A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

-Proverbs 11:25, NIV

Many of Karl Stegall's words from the pulpit have stayed with me over the years. "The church is not a haven for saints, but a hospital for sinners," is one that bubbles up in a variety of circumstances. We, the church, are such a mixed lot, yet we are held together by a common faith. A faith that saves us in as many different ways as we are different people.

Yet, today, national and local statistics are clear, the United Methodist Church that has blessed so many of us, has a declining membership. It is disturbing to me that the very faith communities, sound teachings, and ministry structures that I have personally benefited from could be less accessible to future generations. The Stegall Foundation is a strong backlash to that decline, and it can be even stronger with our help.

A friend of mine reminds me that there is always enough, if we each do our part. The Bible is full of scriptural teachings on giving and God's blessings to those who help others. Your giving to the Stegall Foundation has helped future generations as well as seminary students, and it will continue to do so. There is a joy in that. A joy that comes from being a part of God's work that is bigger than what anyone can do by him or herself. "God loves a cheerful giver," but sometimes, the joy comes from the giving.

"Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

**Prayer:** *Thank you, Gracious Lord, for blessing the work of the Stegall Foundation, for blessing both those who give and those who receive with the joy of being part of Your work in this world. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 25 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

**Lucas Tribble**  
Scholarship Recipient  
Student at Candler School of Theology

## **“Therefore, Go!”**

*Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you.*

*And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

-Matthew 28:19-20, NRSV

At General Conference 2016, our global church had the theme of “Therefore, Go!” It was a play on the Great Commission that Jesus delivered to the disciples in Matthew 28. Recently while leading a week-long youth mission trip, I repurposed this theme for our study and reflection. In the process, I was reminded that whether you are a 100-year-old woman in Zimbabwe or a 13-year-old boy in Smiths Station, Ala., the Great Commission is phenomenal instruction for all people.

This passage of scripture is Jesus’s sending forth of the disciples that they GO and make disciples of ALL nations. “All nations” is wildly expansive and, when you think about the responsibility that this entails, it is overwhelming. But, we have that assurance from Jesus’s last words of the passage: “Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Even when our tasks are daunting, Jesus Christ is with us always!

With my call to ministry partially being through missions, this thought of making disciples of all nations is always on my mind. As seminary is an extremely costly endeavor, I have been comforted by the support afforded me through the Stegall Foundation. Through the foundation, we are together - donors and students - equipping people to make disciples of all nations. I can personally testify that through the Stegall Foundation, Christ is with me always.

Therefore, Go and make disciples in everything that you do.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank you for being with us always as we continue to work toward your calling of making disciples of all nations. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 20 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

**Jack Allen**  
Scholarship Alumnus

## “Urgent Need”

*And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive.*

-Titus 3:14, NRSV

One of the wonderful things about the Stegall Foundation is that it has the flexibility to meet every student's needs, however they are presented. As a commuting student, I spent nearly \$300 per month in gas alone. The Stegall Foundation allowed me to allocate financial resources where I needed them the most so that I could concentrate more fully on my seminary studies.

Paul, writing to Titus, instructs him to teach God's people that they need to devote themselves to good works. In doing so they will then be able to meet the urgent needs of this world. As God's people, we can see the urgent needs all around us.

Training up excellent clergy leadership is an urgent need that grows with each passing day. As our culture in the United States continues to move away from the church, there must be well-trained pastors ready to lead faithful disciples. The Stegall Foundation, through its donors, stands ready to meet this urgent need in the Alabama West-Florida Conference.

Being responsible for the next generation of clergy leadership seems like something reserved only for a select few. However, the Stegall Foundation offers everyone the ability to devote themselves to good works. The prayers and financial contributions of our donors are directly meeting an urgent need faced by our church today.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, May we all be found productive with the abilities God has given us to meet this urgent need. Amen.*



~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 25 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

## Ken Roach

Scholarship Recipient  
Student at Asbury Theological Seminary

### “Shoot Again”

*He said to the King of Israel, “Strike the ground with them;” he struck three times, and stopped. Then the man of God was angry with him, and said, “You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Aram until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Aram only three times. -2 Kings 13:14-19, NRSV*

When I was a teenager, I felt a calling from God to go into ministry, but I ignored that calling and went down a different road. After some big mistakes in my life, God drew me back to Himself. Yet for years I didn't feel worthy to pursue the ministry. When I finally did answer that calling, I was so encouraged to find people ready to financially and prayerfully support my journey through the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation. Through their faithfulness God was showing me that I could take another shot.

In this text from 2 Kings, God's prophet Elisha is near death, and he wants to pass on a spiritual blessing to God's people. So, he asks the king to shoot a series of arrows. King Joash obliges, but he stops after three shots. Elisha reveals that every arrow represented a victory in battle for God's people.

Is God calling you to shoot again? Maybe there is an area where you have failed to be obedient to His calling, or perhaps you think the opportunity to serve God has passed you by. Heed the message from Elisha: shoot again!

Our God is a God of second chances. There is no limit to what He can accomplish, if you are willing to take another shot.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, thank you that you give us opportunities to take another shot for your kingdom, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Empower us through your Holy Spirit, and use our lives in ways that bring honor and glory to you. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 25 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

## Lyrics to "Find Us Faithful"

written by Jon Mohr

### "Find Us Faithful"

*Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much;  
and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.*

-Luke 16:10, NRSV

We're pilgrims on the journey  
Of the narrow road,  
And those who've gone before us  
Line the way,  
Cheering on the faithful,  
Encouraging the weary,  
Their lives a stirring testament  
To God's sustaining grace.

After all our hopes and dreams  
Have come and gone,  
And our children sift thru all  
We've left behind,  
May the clues that they discover  
And the mem'ries they uncover  
Become the light that leads them  
To the road we each must find.

May all who come behind us find us faithful.  
May the fire of our devotion light their way.  
May the footprints that we leave  
Lead them to believe,  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey.  
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful.

**Prayer:** *Lord, find us faithful. Help us to be a testament of your unending grace and mercy and show others the path to life eternal through you. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 20 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

**Karl K. Stegall**  
Volunteer President  
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

## **“A Cheerful Giver”**

*If God has given you money,  
be generous in helping others with it.*

**-Romans 12:8, The Living Bible**

Her name was Iloise Elisaberg. I met her at the altar of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Ala. many years ago. On that particular Sunday, I had preached a sermon on giving. When I gave the invitation, Iloise walked down the aisle to join the church. The congregation was singing loudly and enthusiastically the closing hymn when she whispered softly her name in my ear, “I-L-O-I-S-E E-L-I-A-S-B-E-R-G.” I could not hear her voice above the congregational singing, and I presented her as “Mrs. Berg” as we welcomed her into the church.

When the service had ended, Brenda told me that I had embarrassed the dear lady and she probably would never come back to the church. Brenda insisted that I drive by her home and apologize to her. When we drove to her residence on Price Street and rang the doorbell, she warmly invited us in. I told her how much I regretted introducing her by the wrong name.

She smiled and said, “That is perfectly all right. I was in your church this morning for the first time when you spoke about giving. At my age there are not many things that I can physically do around the church, but I can give. God has blessed me so much through the years, far greater than I ever deserved.

I would love to buy new choir robes for your choir, and if you have any youth and children that want to go to Blue Lake this summer, I would love to pay their way.”

I was moved to tears. The person whom I thought might never return to our church had overwhelmed me with her spirit of generosity. She took seriously those words of the Apostle Paul, “If God has given you money, be generous in helping others with it.” (Romans 12:8, The Living Bible)

**Prayer:** *Dear God, thank you for the joy that we find when we give to others in need. Amen.*



## Terry Mitchell

Board Member

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

### “Planting Seeds Today for the Church of Tomorrow”

*But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the Word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.*

-Matthew 13:23, NIV

While traveling, I recently heard a story on the radio about a small Methodist Church in Birmingham that was having to close its doors due to a lack of congregational support. The story further stated that this church was the 21st Methodist Church that had closed in Alabama in the past 18 months. For those of us in the faith, this is very concerning. Especially considering that, as believers, we accept that the “Body of Christ” is the church.

Reflecting on our passage of scripture, if ever we need to be planting our seeds (resources) upon fertile ground it is now! As people of faith, God has entrusted us to bear fruit for His Kingdom. Through the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation, we have an opportunity to use our resources to help plant “those seeds” on the most fertile ground - seminary students who are following God’s call to be a disciple. In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever that the Body of Christ grow and bear fruit for the transformation of the world! If we want a way to witness our seeds multiply, the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation provides us the opportunity to help build a legacy of disciples that will lead and grow our Churches of tomorrow.

Genesis 26:12 states, “Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year one hundred times what he planted; and the Lord blessed him.” We need the blessings of the Lord to multiply and equip the Body of Christ. I genuinely believe in and have witnessed the results of supporting these future disciples through the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation. My prayer is that others continue to join in this effort of planting seeds on good soil that will bear fruit!

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, Thank you for multiplying the seeds I am planting in others. Through your grace, help those seeds grow and bear fruit for Your Kingdom. Amen.*



*~ Reflection ~*

A series of 22 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

## Jeremy Pridgeon

Board Member

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

### “Responding to the Call”

*The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”*

*And I said, “Here am I; send me!” -from Isaiah 6:1-8, NRSV*

This passage from Isaiah is often read during a Service of Ordination and Commissioning. The imagery is rich: winged seraphs, live coals, a smoke filled house, with the Lord seated in the Temple. It is a terrifying scene for Isaiah, as he stands before the Almighty, and yields his life when the Lord asks, “Whom shall I send?” and he replies, “Here am I, send me!” All of us who have experienced the call to ministry know the reservation, and even dread, that can come from saying, “Send me!”

Best I can tell, Isaiah did not have to complete a four year baccalaureate degree, an additional three years of study at a General Board of Higher Education and Ministry approved seminary, or two more years as a provisional member of the annual conference before he was sent out to ministry to the people of God. And while Isaiah did not have to do all of these things (and more!!!), those desiring to be United Methodist ministers do!

God has always provided through God’s people. I have never witnessed this provision in more tangible ways than when I did (finally!) yield to God’s call on my life and began to prepare for ordained ministry. At a time where I certainly felt lonely, wondering what all of this would mean for my life, your support during those years helped me to understand that I was not alone. Through the support of those who gave during the “Faith Promise” program that preceded the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation, I learned of what it means to be connected in Christ, to be part of the Church, and to have the encouragement of others during those formative years. Thank you!

God is still calling women and men. They, like Isaiah, are experiencing those moments of doubt, fear, worry, and anxiety, in how they might fulfill the expectations of the calling placed on ministers in The United Methodist Church. I want them to learn, as I did, that they do not walk alone. God’s people walk with them as well.

**Prayer:** *Lord, bless those that you have called for the work of ordained ministry in your church. Sustain them in their journey and reveal yourself to them along the way. Let them walk with your people throughout the blessings and challenges of life as pastors and teachers of your gospel. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

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## Kevin Haynes

Board Member

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

### “Trust Instead of Worry”

*Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.”...And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. -Matthew 14:13-21, NRSV*

The Disciples were worried. They only had five loaves and two fish. They didn't realize it at the time, but the Bread of Life was standing right next to them. They had forgotten that their God was the God who provides, even when our human minds can't fathom it.

Worry can consume us. Our health starts to fail, relationships become strained, our paycheck runs out before our month does. But worry will not change our situation, only faith can do that.

In his book, “Fearless,” Max Lucado suggests eight worry-stoppers that can help us when we want to worry instead of trust in God's provision.

1. Pray first. Instead of pacing the hospital floor, pray that the surgery goes well.
2. Slow down. Take the problem to Jesus and then “rest and wait patiently for him” (Psalm 37:7).
3. Act on it. Become a worry “slapper,” Lucado says. Treat worry like mosquitoes; the moment a concern surfaces, deal with it.
4. Compile a worry list. Lucado says to review your list and ask yourself how many of your worries turned into reality.
5. Evaluate your worry categories. Pray about them.
6. Focus on today. God meets our DAILY needs.
7. Unleash a worry army. Share your prayer concerns with a few loved ones and have them pray for you.
8. Let God be enough. He already knows what you need. Seek Him first and He will give you everything you need (Matthew 6: 32-33).

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, help us to rely on You in times of turmoil rather than focusing on the problem at hand. Give us the wisdom to know how to deal with our problems and the courage to act on that knowledge. Thank you for always being more than enough. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

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## Gillian Lisenby Walters

Scholarship Alumna

### “Scattering Seeds”

*And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up...Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

-Matthew 13:4-8, NRSV

This farmer in our scripture lesson acts like he does not know what he is doing. It seems like he is just slinging seeds around – throwing them on the road, into bushes and weeds, on to rocks and untilled dirt. Now my husband Charles is the farmer in our family, not me. And though I still have a lot to learn, I’m pretty sure that is not how you are supposed to plant seeds. Most people usually pick a spot with good soil, sometimes you even check the pH, you plant the seeds the determined length apart depending on the kind of plant, and so on. You don’t just throw the seed wherever you want in places that don’t seem fertile.

A few years ago I was able to plant wheat and cow peas just like this farmer. And compared to our usual systematic way of planting, I found it incredibly freeing to just throw the seed and trust that something would grow.

Perhaps, the farmer isn’t so foolish after all. Instead of trusting in his own ability to get things just right – he was freed to experience the joy of trusting God to make the seed grow. This doesn’t mean he doesn’t do anything. He plants; but he plants even in the unexpected places hoping for new growth to arise in new places.

My own ministry started off seeming as if it, too, wasn’t the “right soil,” as I majored in biochemistry at Huntingdon College. Yet that didn’t stop others from throwing seeds toward me that encouraged me to follow a call to ministry. Because of the seeds that have been scattered through the Stegall Foundation I see growth popping up all over the place throughout our conference and it brings me great joy!

The farmer, unhindered by expectations of perfection, scatters seeds in unexpected places. May we be encouraged to do the same.

**Prayer:** *Gracious God, empower us to have the courage and creativity to scatter seeds in unexpected places. And allow us to experience the joy and freedom that comes in trusting that you will be the one to make them grow. Amen!*

~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 20 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

**Karl K. Stegall**  
Volunteer President  
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

## **“Brighten the Corner Where You Are”**

*Whatever is true...honorab...pure...pleasing...commendable;  
if there is any excellence and if there is anything  
worthy of praise, think about these things.*

-Philippians 4:8, NRSV

There is an old gospel song entitled “Brighten the Corner Where you Are” that I often heard when I was a child. It was written by Ina D. Ogden in 1913; perhaps you remember the lyrics to her song:

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,  
Do not wait to shed your light afar,  
To the many duties ever near you now be true,  
Brighten the corner where you are.

Brighten the corner where you are!  
Brighten the corner where you are!  
Someone far from harbor  
you may guide across the bar;  
Brighten the corner where you are!

There is an old Chinese proverb which reads “It is better to do a good deed at home than to go a thousand miles away from home to burn incense!” The longer I continue in the ministry the more I realize that none of us will ever be able to change the world alone, but each of us can change our own little part of the world for the better in the places where we live and work each day. If enough of us would seek to “brighten the corners” of our own little worlds with seeds of love, encouragement, or understanding, perhaps we might be surprised at the ripple effect those planted seeds might have on others

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, please shine through my life today that I might brighten the corner where I am privileged to live, work, and play. Amen.*



~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 25 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

## William Canary

Board Member

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

### **“It’s Not How Much We Give, But How Much Love We Put into Giving.”**

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

-Matthew 6:21, NIV

Over the years, Dr. Karl Stegall has encouraged me to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. His mission to provide scholarships to seminary students reminds me daily that my number one priority in life must be God. Serving on the board of the Stegall Foundation allows me to renew my faith whereby, God speaks to my heart, mind and conscience and I hope to help others see how they can do great things in the name of God.

Our family’s giving to the Foundation has become a lesson in love! Christian stewardship calls for a prayerful and realistic assessment of what we can give, and giving it in such a manner that Christ is glorified. Christian giving is, in many ways, representative of our total commitment to serve the Lord.

In 2017, we will once again make a contribution to the Stegall Foundation at Christmas in the names of friends and family. By offering this gift each year, our family is able to both meet the needs of our current seminary students while also preparing the church for the future. The message we will insert in our Christmas cards reads:

*Merry Christmas!*

*With much thought, prayer and consideration we have made a gift donation in your name to the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation, which provides scholarship resources to the seminary students in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. This gift will provide critical resources to the Foundation in their mission of preparing the future of our Church. You can learn more about the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation at: [www.stegallscholarship.com](http://www.stegallscholarship.com)  
May God Bless your family!*

**Prayer:** *God, Bless those who can give without remembering and can receive without forgetting. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

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**Kristen Wright**  
Scholarship Recipient  
Student at Candler School of Theology

## **“Reflecting on God’s Beauty”**

*O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations; his marvelous works among all the peoples.*

-Psalm 96: 1-3, NRSV

One of my favorite things about the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference is its proximity to the Gulf Coast beaches. Growing up in Baldwin County, my family and I often took beach vacations where we would swim, make sand castles, collect shells, and soak up vitamin D. Going to the beach has always been a way to recenter my mind and soul; a time to refocus on what is around me. The countless grains of sand on the beach, along with the crashing waves and water for miles, reminds me of the thoughtful care that went into God’s creation.

It is no secret that our lives are fast paced. We are pulled in a million different directions in a given hour of the day. However, the present moment and scenery surrounding us is not something we should ignore.

Stepping outside on a summer day and being immediately warmed by the sun reminds us of the God who created the light and called it “good.” Having a conversation with a loved one reminds us that we love because “God first loved us.” And even when the storms of life surface, we remember that “for everything there is a season.” Though it can be foggy at times, God’s beauty is all around you.

The scenery around me has now changed from Gulf Coast beaches to the bustling city of Atlanta as my husband and I attend Candler School of Theology. With this change of scenery, there have been moments where we worried about the future, but that’s where our Stegall Foundation donors always seemed to step in. We have never felt a lack of support because of your constant prayers, cards, and needed hugs anytime we return home. The gifts of our donors have helped us appreciate more fully the blessings of God, and see the beauty in all situations.

As we go out into the changing scenery that accompanies everyday life, may we all take the time to stop and reflect upon God’s beauty that surrounds us.

**Prayer:** *God of love, help me to slow down today and appreciate what is around me. Open my eyes and heart to see the beauty in all that you have created. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 22 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

**Brad Goode**  
Scholarship Alumnus

## “God is With You”

*When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.*

*But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break...Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. -Luke 5:1-11, NIV*

When I first felt called to attend seminary my first response was, “No.” Among other things, I was afraid of the time commitment and academic challenges on top of an already full workload. There was also real fear about the cost associated with attending seminary.

As I read this passage it was clear these disciples were about as confident in their ability to catch fish that evening as I was about being able to manage seminary. However, when God calls us we can be confident He will provide. Those disciples didn’t think they could catch a fish and yet, Jesus sinks the boat with fish in abundance! Right now there are men and women all over our Alabama - West Florida Conference who feel God nudging them to trust Him and take the next step in faithfulness. Yet they don’t think they can afford seminary. I want to tell them that I have experienced how God uses the donors of the Stegall Foundation to keep seminary students afloat through this season of life.

From time to time we all find ourselves doubting the possibility of the things to which God has called us. However, we can move forward with the certainty that, through grace, God has provided us with the abilities needed to accomplish our mission. The grace that has been given freely is a grace of empowerment. When we believe this, we can respond as Simon Peter does in this passage, “Because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

What are the nets you need to let down in your life? Where is God calling you and what action do you need to take today?

**Prayer:** *God, give us the strength to trust in you. Show us where our nets need to be lowered so that we can more fully follow you and fish for people. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 25 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

## Temple Millsap

Board Member

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

### “Untold Things”

*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required;  
and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more  
will be demanded. -Luke 12:48, NRSV*

All throughout my life, a recurring thought has troubled me: Why did God place some of his flock in comfortable, stable, loving families, in the wealthiest country in the history of the world at the zenith of its historical world power; and why did God place others in the middle of poor, forgotten, places of conflict and pain like Somalia or Syria? It is a mystery.

What is not a mystery is what we are called upon to do about the inequity. Sometimes the issue of human suffering seems so daunting that we are paralyzed into inaction. We've all thought to ourselves, "this problem is so big, how can I even begin to put a dent in it." The answer is that no one person (other than Christ) has the power to save the world. Yet if each of its 7.5 billion inhabitants do their own small part - if each of us will commit every day to just one small random act of kindness for someone else - the world would quickly be a better place. The power of many people doing small things together can be an overwhelming force for good.

Seven years ago, the late Bishop Paul A. Duffey spoke to those assembled at the annual Stegall Seminary Scholarship Dinner of Celebration. During his address that evening, he contributed \$1 toward the foundation's established \$5 million goal. (You can watch Bishop Duffey's amazing message on our foundation's website at [www.stegallscholarship.com](http://www.stegallscholarship.com))

Although it was just \$1, Bishop Duffey warned Karl to not underestimate such a small contribution because it was "loaded." He said it was loaded with imagination, faith and most of all, with love and that anything so loaded would allow the foundation to do "untold things." Bishop Duffey is no longer with us, but his prediction was spot on. Just seven years after his prescient message, Bishop Duffey would not be surprised at all to know the Stegall Foundation has a new goal of \$10 million in sight. This new goal will be reached because each of us doing our small part will ordain it. And through your gifts, untold things will be done for the kingdom of God!

**Prayer:** *Gracious God, we stand in awe of all of the amazing things you have done. Help us see where we can do our own small part to changes the world. Amen.*



~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 20 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

**Teresa of Avila**

(1515-1582)

## **"Christ Has No Body"**

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

-1 Corinthians 12:27, NRSV

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

**Prayer:** *Gracious God, how am I to be your body on earth? Guide me in the way you want me to use my hands and feet to share your compassion with the world. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

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## George Goodwyn

Board Member

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

### “Well Done”

*Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, “Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” -Matthew 25: 35-40, NRSV*

God has blessed each and every one of us with the gifts, talents, and abilities to respond to the needs of others. Yet, as we look in the mirror, what do we see in the reflection? Do we see eyes that are open to the struggles of those in need? Do we see ears that are able to hear the cries of pain, suffering, and loneliness of many around us? Do we see a mouth that is able to share words of grace and encouragement with those who need a good word? Are we responding to God’s call to help our brothers and sisters, or are we only busy taking care of ourselves?

Today we have the opportunity to use our gifts to invest in eternity - tomorrow may be too late. We are only promised this moment; how are we using it?

When we meet the Lord after our time on earth is finished, we all want to hear “Well done, good and faithful servant.” But what does that mean? How can we be good and faithful servants in this life?

**Prayer:** *Gracious Lord, we pray that You will guide our growth as we follow you, and that Your amazing love for others will shine through us. Show us the way to respond with your great grace and compassion to those in need among us. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

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**Micah Wright**  
Scholarship Recipient  
Student at Candler School of Theology

## “We Are Thirsty”

*Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves you, God. My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and see God’s face? -Psalm 42:1-2, CEB*

One of the first things I noticed about seminary, and have continued to be fascinated with, is that there is always someone standing at the water fountains filling up their water bottles. Everyone carries a water bottle, myself included, and we are constantly replenishing them. I found this to be a beautiful outward sign of an inward grace: seminarians are thirsty people. Thirsty for water, yes; but thirsty for God even more!

True, we are in seminary because it is the next step on our journey into vocational ministry, but it is also because we crave more of our Savior. We want to know and experience more of God so we can share more with everyone with whom we come into contact. Part of craving God this much means that we also crave for others to be thirsty for God with their whole being. And that is everything we are working toward through this seminary journey.

That being said, such a journey begins with those who already crave seeing God at work. They are our support and the reason we are even able to satiate our thirst in seminary. We see the craving for God so evident in the donors of the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation, and we are beyond grateful that it is spreading into our seminaries. Once tasted, the craving for God moves us all toward leading one another to the stream where God alone satisfies!

Just like a seminarian that thirsts for a full water bottle, so our whole being craves God. May our thirst for God spur us on toward greater service in Jesus’ name!

**Prayer:** *Our God, we are thirsty for more of you and we crave your presence in our lives. Grant us boldness and passion for showing others your fulfilling love. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

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**From the The Book of Common Prayer, USA**

20th Cent., Alt.

**"Doxology"**

*Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever. -Psalm 106:1, NIV*

Almighty and forgiving God,  
we your unworthy servants give you most humble thanks  
for all your goodness and lovingkindness,  
to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that our hearts may be thankful,  
and that we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service  
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer:**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God, the source of all our gifts!*

*Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!*

*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!*

*Amen.*



~ *Reflection* ~

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**Karl K. Stegall**  
Volunteer President  
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation

## **“This is Livingstone!”**

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you.*

-Matthew 6:33, KJV

David Livingstone inspired the hearts of millions of people all over the world. Shortly after he graduated in 1840 with a medical degree from the University of Glasgow, he left for the continent of Africa. He remained there for 33 years and when he died in 1873, they brought his body back to London to be given a royal burial at Westminster Abbey.

His biographer tells the story of how, on the day of Livingstone's funeral, thousands of people lined the streets of London to pay their respects to this remarkable man. Among them was an old high school classmate who was overheard saying, "When we were in high school, we thought Livingstone was a fool." But then he added, "Perhaps we put our emphasis on the wrong things!"

I have always loved the inscription on the marker which designates Livingstone's final resting place:

He needs no epitaph to guard a name which  
men shall prize while worthy work is done.  
He lived and died for good. Be that his fame.  
Let marble crumble. This is Livingstone.

As we make our pilgrimages through life, we may find it becomes increasingly difficult to establish our priorities and clarify our values. David Livingstone accomplished this task at an early age and recognized the truth of those words of old, "Soon this life will be past; only what is done for Christ will last."

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, help me to discern your priorities as I make my journey through life. Amen.*

~ *Reflection* ~

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~ *Reflection* ~

A series of 20 horizontal dashed lines for writing.