



*Good Tidings of
Great Joy!*

*Meet the 2016-2019
Pastoral Students*

Joel Barker



Hometown: Bloomington, IN

Spouse: Nancy

Children: Dalylah (3), Gigi (2), Norah (2), Noel (2 months)

Ministry at which you serve: Harvest Bible Chapel (Bloomington, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Worship Director and Pastoral Assistant

Two fun facts about you/your family: 1. We know every Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood song by heart. 2. One of our girls' favorite activities is watching basketball with Daddy.

Why did you choose FBS: My pastor, Josh Knipp, is a graduate from FBS. His influence on my life and his testimony of the impact FBS had on his life led me to FBS. I appreciated the design of the cohort. Being able to work at my church while still attending school gave me the flexibility to get my degree while still serving the congregation of which I'm a part.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I'm grateful to God for the diversity of thinking at FBS. It is a grace to be around men who are confident on the major doctrines of our faith; however, each classmate and professor have different gifts that enrich my thinking.

Long-term ministry goals: My post-graduation plans are not yet determined. I desire to love my church, wherever I am and in whichever role God places me.

How can supporters be praying for you: With four children and a wife it is easy for my family to become neglected. Please pray that I may honor God in my love and care for my family. Please pray for patience and wisdom in parenting, purity in thought and deed, and strength to work diligently in my various roles.

Drew Burtis



Hometown: Indianapolis, IN

Spouse: Brittany

Children: Adeline (3 months)

Ministry at which you serve: New Life Church (Indianapolis, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Youth Pastor

Two fun facts about you/your family: My wife

and I are from the East Coast. I am from Syracuse, New York, and she is from Windham, Connecticut.

Why did you choose FBS: When I felt God calling me to Youth Ministry, I knew that I would eventually need further education. As I prayed and asked God for direction concerning further education, I had a couple of people tell me about FBS. I looked into the program, talked with Dr. Aucoin, FBS President, and decided that this is where God wanted me for the next 3 years.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: God has used FBS to bless my own personal life, as well as my ministry at New Life Church even in such a short time. The content of the curriculum has helped me become more knowledgeable and I see the benefits of it already. It has also contributed to my growth as a man, husband, father and pastor.

Long-term ministry goals: I believe that God has called me to full-time ministry in the local church for seasons to come, not just the current season. My goal in ministry is to serve the local church for many years in whatever capacity the Lord leads.

How can supporters be praying for you: I have been out of school for a couple of years now, so getting back into the swing of schoolwork has been a bit of an adjustment for me. Pray that I may have the discipline to study diligently, all while fulfilling my responsibilities as a Youth Pastor, a husband, and a father. Not for my own glory, but for the glory of God alone.

Robbie Carter



Hometown: Avon, IN

Spouse: Julie

Ministry at which you serve: Harvest Bible Chapel Indy West (Indianapolis, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Pastor of Children's Ministry

Two fun facts about you/your family: 1. Julie and I both met at Harvest, but dated long

distance for close to two years. The first year I was in China, and the next year we switched spots and she went to China. Needless to say, we are happy to be in the same place again and newly married. 2. Julie and I both love traveling, exploring and adventuring. Especially when rock climbing is involved.

Why did you choose FBS: I chose FBS because of the incredible discipleship component found within their DNA of partnering alongside men and churches for the glory of God!

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: FBS has been an incredible blessing in offering such an excellent education by simultaneously bringing a practical theology into the experience. I know this because God has been working in my life towards a more robust understanding of His Word through FBS. I am taught by professors who are more concerned with my personal growth in the Lord than just a head knowledge about Him.

Long-term ministry goals: My long range goal is to faithfully handle God's Word, and carry out the Great Commission to the nations by serving faithfully as the Pastor of Children's Ministry.

How can supporters be praying for you: As a full-time pastor and full-time seminary student, learning this balance between class and ministry is challenging. There are many transitions happening at Harvest, and I would greatly appreciate prayer in seeking the Lord daily through it all. The balance of work and relationship is something Julie and I will continue to grow in before Him. Everything is new within this season of life, and we are delicately walking into it feeling tired. Please be in prayer that the Lord would revive our spirits to a state of joy and humility.

Andrew Castner



Hometown: Lafayette, IN

Spouse: Natalie

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Sunday Morning Worship Leader, Faith Group Leader, and occasionally a Community Event Coordinator

Two fun facts about you/your family: My wife and I both grew up on foreign soil as missionary kids to Chile and Mexico. We are proud owners of a Great Dane who thinks she's a small lap dog.

Why did you choose FBS: We chose FBS because of the model of training they offer. We saw the product of this model first-hand with our friends who were graduates from a couple of the last cohorts. FBS has done such a great job at equipping them for ministry that we felt called to submit ourselves to FBS' training as well.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: It has been a time of much growth already, and I'm realizing more and more that this preparation for ministry is so very beneficial for anyone who desires to be in full-time or even part-time ministry. It has already furthered my love of Scripture and has created in me a deeper desire to understand the knowledge of the Lord for the purpose of ministry.

Long-term ministry goals: My ministry desire post-seminary is for furthering my Biblical Counseling training as well as my education in one of the theologies. I would like to serve full-time in a church that values and uses these two areas of ministry in a counseling program and a training program for other men that desire to be trained for ministry.

How can supporters be praying for you: The way you could best pray for my wife and me this year is in the area of faithfulness in the ministry responsibilities that have been entrusted to us. We also desire wisdom in finding time to rest in God as the ministry is very fast-paced, and it's easy to burn yourself out and the people around you. We desire for God to make us faithful and wise in this time of life.

Jude De Souza



Hometown: São Paulo, SP – Brazil

Spouse: Breanna

Ministry at which you serve: East Side Baptist Church (Crawfordsville, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Youth group and worship leader

Two fun facts about you/your family: We are from Brazil; I have worked as a graphic designer and Bree is a photographer. I made it to the US the day before our wedding.

Why did you choose FBS: For a long time I have had the desire to serve Jesus and His church in full-time ministry, and I found Faith Bible Seminary to be the best place where I could be equipped and become prepared with knowledge and experience. A unique aspect about Faith that was decisive for my choice is the requirement of being engaged in practical ministry at a local church. As I grow in knowledge of God's Word in the classroom I have the opportunity to apply such knowledge and to grow in service at my church which will prepare me for ministry in ways that the classroom wouldn't.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: FBS is stretching me to work harder, become more productive, be more organized, improve my English, manage my time and grow in love towards the Word of God.

Long-term ministry goals: My goal is to go back to Brazil, plant a church and be a pastor to make disciples in my home country.

How can supporters be praying for you: For God's direction on our future. Our plan is to go back to Brazil and plant churches. If that's God's plan that we may go towards that, if God has another plan, that we may follow His lead.

Nick DeBenedetto



Hometown: Phoenix, AZ

Spouse: Cindi

Children: Benjamin (29), Derrick (28), Jacob (26), Joshua (25), Elijah (18), and Isaiah (18)

Ministry at which you serve: Grace Covenant Church (Phoenix, AZ)

Primary Responsibilities: Training up new counselors around the state and counseling those in our community

Two fun facts about you/your family: Everyone in the family was born and raised in the Phoenix metro area and still live in the area today. The four oldest sons were all married within 22 months of each other. Ben is married to Michelle, Derrick to Sarah, Jacob to Chrissy, and Josh to Brianna.

Why did you choose FBS: FBS has a heart for taking the gospel to the greater community by carefully listening to their needs and making that the starting point for gospel dialogue and Christ-like love. Finally, the fact that I can receive this training at a significantly reduced cost, due to the donations of others, without having to leave the community I love and serve was a major factor.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am cautiously optimistic about my ability to learn both Greek and Hebrew at the same time. When a concept is difficult, professors take additional time to figure out where we are not connecting and then help us to get back on track. I am thankful that I have this opportunity to be a part of this cohort of men who are being taught with excellence by men who are well trained and have a heart for advancing God's kingdom.

Long-term ministry goals: Lord willing, my long-term ministry goal is to plant a church in the north Phoenix area that has biblical soul care at its core.

How can supporters be praying for you: Please pray that I stay the course to grow in deepening knowledge and love for my God. Also, that God would continue to identify devoted followers of Christ that are like-minded in desiring to do the work of the ministry in planting a gospel-centered, God-glorifying church in north Phoenix.

David Douglas



Hometown: Fairview, MI

Spouse: Phyllis

Children: Daniel and Lydia

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: I work with Pastor Rob Green in the specific area of biblical counseling.

Two fun facts about you/your family: I've enjoyed cycling for many years and have done some mountain bike racing. Phyllis and I believe the Smoky Mountains are a great place to bike, hike, and rest. We have vacationed there annually for the past few years.

Why did you choose FBS: In 1988 I discovered Faith Church through the biblical counseling training when I participated in Monday sessions. I heard about the seminary program and appreciated that Faith Bible Seminary is an extension of Faith Church.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: Since starting classes in August, I have found the seminary to be very challenging academically. Wow, learning Greek and Hebrew at the same time! Sometimes after class, I can't even remember English. I believe the call to pastoral ministry is extremely significant, and the preparation should push the student to be as prepared as possible.

Long-term ministry goals: For the past few years, Phyllis and I have had increasing restless feelings causing us to ask if the Lord is leading us into pastoral ministry. Following graduation, we desire to find a congregation to pour our lives into. Phyllis and I desire to evangelize, equip and encourage the church body to do the work of ministry.

How can supporters be praying for you: Pray I'll be able to balance the time of study and ministry within Faith Church. Phyllis has her plate full both working a part-time job and also volunteering at the Faith Community Center. Pray she'll have the stamina to continue this busy pace. These three years of ministry preparation will be gone in a flash. Afterward, we would like to relocate closer to our parents. We ask you to pray for the Lord's leading to a church in southern Indiana or Ohio.

Jonathan Engle



Hometown: Ansonville, PA

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Pastoral Assistant, Teaching, Discipleship, Leadership, Hebrew T.A.

Two fun facts about you/your family: I am the only boy in my family and have 3 sisters. We once got stuck in traffic for 11 hours on our way home from vacation.

Why did you choose FBS: I chose to attend FBS for a few reasons. First, I believed that this model of seminary provided the best means to learn holistically. Second, God opened the door to attend FBS after praying about it for 4 years. Third, I believe that I need the type of education FBS provides in order to be an effective pastor and ministry leader.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am very thankful for the chance to get the hands-on ministry experience that I am getting at Faith Church as a part of my FBS experience. The opportunity to watch and learn first-hand in a ministry context from those who are teaching me is and will prove to be invaluable. It is one thing to be told how to do something; it is a far greater thing to be shown how as well.

Long-term ministry goals: God has given me a desire to pursue full-time vocational ministry. The greatest desire I have right now is to go and do ministry and eventually church planting in the unreached nation of Germany. If the Lord does not open that avenue of ministry, I would love to pursue pastoral ministry here in the US.

How can supporters be praying for you: There are several things I would ask for prayer in. First, I would ask that you would pray for the Lord to give me abundant physical and spiritual strength to fulfill my service here. Second, that I would learn as much as I can from my time in FBS and use what I learn to shepherd effectively and faithfully in the future. Third, that the Lord would give me wisdom in making decisions in my personal life and in leadership of the ministries I have been entrusted with. Finally, please pray that the Lord would provide in an amazing way financially as I still have a decent amount of debt to repay from my undergraduate studies.

Jeff Franklin



Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Purdue Bible Fellowship: organizing logistics, managing our student leaders and teaching through lessons, discipleship, and small group

Two fun facts about you/your family: In college, I went to Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France to perform handbells. Before going to Purdue I was a very serious saxophone player. I practiced several hours a day and thought I was going to be a Jazz Studies major, then at the last minute I switched to Math. I graduated with my undergraduate degree in Mathematics and now I'm studying to be a Pastor.

Why did you choose FBS: I knew going into it I was passionate about biblical counseling, so I wanted a seminary where I could learn the most about that while getting my degree. I thought FBS would allow me to integrate that very well into my studies thanks to its unique model, and Faith Church is very blessed to have many gifted counselors as a part of its ministry.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I'm thankful for how the model of teaching here at FBS is very ministry oriented. Most of my time is not spent studying Greek and Hebrew but instead teaching and ministering to college students. I appreciate that I have a safe space now where I have responsibility, but I can still fail (and I do often it seems!) knowing that Nick, my overseeing pastor, is there to help and provide correction.

Long-term ministry goals: I'm not really sure yet to be honest. Three years is a long time not to change my mind, especially as I get more and more experience in different areas of ministry. Whatever it is, I know I want to be doing biblical counseling. I think teaching other pastors how to do biblical counseling somewhere would be a great fit.

How can supporters be praying for you: Pray that God would use this time to humble me. Pray that I would remain submissive, even when I can't see the reason behind why I'm doing something, or when I disagree with a decision being made. Pray ultimately that if nothing else, God would change my heart to love Him more.

Esteban Garcia



Hometown: Bloomington, IN

Spouse: Meghan

Ministry at which you serve: Harvest Bible Chapel (Bloomington, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: I help oversee the college and children's ministries at our church.

Two fun facts about you/your family: I moved from Guatemala City to Indiana at the age of 13. My wife and I got married a little over a year ago (July 2015)!

Why did you choose FBS: I heard about FBS from my pastor, a graduate from FBS, Josh Knipp. He talked to me about the seminary and encouraged me to consider it. I knew I wanted to pursue full-time ministry, and I became convinced that a

solid education through FBS would better prepare me to be faithful in my future ministry as I preach God's Word.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful for FBS so far in the way that it has grown me. Already I have grown in my love for the Word of God. I am also thankful because I have been able to connect in a meaningful way with my fellow classmates as they challenge me to seek the Lord more.

Long-term ministry goals: My wife and I have had a strong desire to bring the Word of God to people in unreached areas of the world. We pray and long for the opportunity to do international church planting in our future ministry, as we plant churches that will bring worship to God in a place where there previously was none. However, we are open to God's direction and guidance as we seek to serve Him.

How can supporters be praying for you: I would appreciate prayer for growth in two areas: One is my own personal walk with God— that I would continually set my mind on the Lord and seek to lead a life that is pleasing to Him. Secondly, that my wife and I would continually find ways to grow together even in the midst of difficult or busy seasons. Finally, continually pray for God's provision and favor in the middle of doing ministry.

Nick Grossman



Hometown: Indianapolis, IN

Spouse: Hazel

Children: Samson (10), Xander (6), Jamsen (5), Addy (4)

Ministry at which you serve: College Park Church (Carmel, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: I do counseling as well as projects like writing Bible studies. I am also the trailer team leader for organizing all of the trailers and drivers for the Fishers church plant.

Two fun facts about you/your family: We love to travel and play sports.

Why did you choose FBS: I was looking for a seminary to go to that would not take away all the time I need for my family and would not leave us with an insurmountable amount of debt.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful to God so far for FBS because of how everything has a purpose that returns its focused to Christ and the spreading of His gospel. Learning Greek and Hebrew isn't just about learning the language, there is practical application every day. Going through Geography was like hearing sermon after sermon and you can truly understand passages better when you understand the lay of the land.

Long-term ministry goals: My long term goals include being a lead pastor. Most likely, this will come to pass in reviving a struggling church. With the help of the ministry model, I hope to soak up as much as possible now, redeeming the time. My goal as we walk through the next few years, it that the Holy Spirit will teach me beyond the classroom. I hope to see this through becoming a more resourceful problem solver so that long term I will more accurately allow the Holy Spirit to lead through decisions.

How can supporters be praying for you: The best way supporters can pray for us is by praying for diligence. This includes scheduling our family calendar and being able to fill in the gaps with study to cut out wasted time. The health of our family contributes to this as well.

Brian Hammon



Hometown: Rensselaer, IN

Spouse: Emily

Children: Mason (6), Josie (4), Titus (2)

Ministry at which you serve: Tri-County Bible Church (Rensselaer, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: I serve as an elder, lead our counseling ministry and men's ministry and also help lead our youth ministry.

Two fun facts about you/your family: As a family we love camping and spending time outdoors. We also love to go fishing in Canada with my family.

Why did you choose FBS: The primary reason is that I am confident in the desire of the seminary to faithfully teach Scripture. I had the opportunity to attend a seminary that is close to home and allows me to continue at my local church. The seminary model FBS uses is a great opportunity to receive a master's level education at very low cost.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful for the pastoral emphasis of the teaching. The ultimate goal is that God would be glorified as our lives are changed and molded by the teaching we receive. Finally, I have been very thankful for my fellow classmates that I have begun forming relationships with. I have really enjoyed getting to know them and I look forward to getting to know them more over the next three years.

Long-term ministry goals: At this point, I believe that God is calling me to vocational pastoral ministry. I also want to be heavily involved in a biblical counseling ministry in the future. Much could change in my heart over the course of the next three years but at this point these are my strongest desires and passions.

How can supporters be praying for you: Please pray for me as I balance my time between seminary studies, family, and my pastoral duties. Also pray that my main focus would be my own personal spiritual growth. Pray that my heart will be changed and that I will grow spiritually as I come to a deeper understanding of God and His Word.

Billy Hardy



Hometown: Dallas, TX

Spouse: Bethany

Children: Collin (13), Isabel (11)

Ministry at which you serve: Lafayette Community Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Associate Pastor-youth, connections, local outreach, facilities

Two fun facts about you/your family: I was a bull rider in my late teens. My wife is from Indiana and I am from Texas. We met in Puerto Rico while she was on a mission trip and I lived on the Island. We were married and our first son was born in P.R. This officially makes him Puerto Rican.

Why did you choose FBS: I began feeling like I should potentially go further and get a masters degree in something, but I was unsure what that should be. Later, I began to think about school again, but knew that I could not afford to take classes in the ministry. Ultimately, I chose FBS because of the internship program and the fact that FBS has opened this opportunity to other like-minded churches, meaning I could continue to serve where God placed while I learn.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: In addition to the excellent education, the staff genuinely cares about the students. I have spent some time working through some things in ministry as well as personally and Brent was able to take the time to speak truth into my life and show me the areas in which I need to grow.

Long-term ministry goals: When I began serving in volunteer ministry 15 years ago I felt as if I would be a youth pastor forever. However, over the last 2 years God has been pointing me to other ministries in the church. I believe God will lead me to be an executive pastor, or some other support pastor role, but that may change as God continues to expand my calling and passions.

How can supporters be praying for you: Please pray that I am able to continue to grow both in my relationship with God and my relationships with others. Also, school is not an easy task for me. Please pray that I can focus on studying and managing my time well.

John Heim



Hometown: Lafayette, IN

Spouse: Catie

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church
(Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Sunday Morning
Services

Two fun facts about you/your family: We love
animals!

Why did you choose FBS: I love studying the Scriptures. It is exciting, inspiring, and good work. I knew I wanted to expand my education by getting an MDiv. I also do well with physical classes rather than online study, so Faith was a natural choice for me. Also, being a pastor on staff at Faith, I knew that I agree with their stance on the authority and inspiration of Scripture and their philosophy of ministry.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: So far, I am thankful for the skill of the professors at FBS. They both teach with excellence and clarity. The workload has been manageable and the emphasis has been balanced to the glory of God, not the knowledge of man.

Long-term ministry goals: After graduation I plan on remaining steady in my current ministry position unless the Lord directs otherwise. I will continue learning and studying, as I believe my entire life will be spent as a student. My long term ministry goals are to grow the music ministry to be effective in our community and our church to the glory of God.

How can supporters be praying for you: Over the next year, I will be juggling school and a full time job. I could use prayer as I learn how to meticulously plan ahead and stick with the plan. In order to grow my ministry and give school the appropriate focus, I will need to continue growing in work efficiency. Pray that the Lord continues to bless the music ministry at Faith as He continues to equip me to equip others to serve with more excellence to the glory of God.

Joshua Hong



Hometown: Chicago, IL

Spouse: Grace

Children: Faith (21), Pauline (18), Joshua (16)

Ministry at which you serve: Hyde Park University Bible Fellowship (Chicago, IL)

Primary Responsibilities: preaching, teaching, mentoring and evangelism

Two fun facts about you/your family: We are crazy for Jesus. We are crazy for soccer.

Why did you choose FBS: A friend of mine, Samuel Lee, recommended me after he finished the last cohort at FBS. He talked about FBS's vision and shared with me the practical value of the MDiv program. Since I was looking for a chance to take the MDiv course, FBS's MDiv program was a rare opportunity for me.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: Though this is the beginning of a journey, I am so grateful for the language classes. I enjoy knowing the biblical languages and using them for morning devotions. Last year, one Moody student taught Biblical Greek at my church. But without taking the class, I was unable to progress. But now I am able to make much progress not only in Greek but also in Hebrew. Praise God.

Long-term ministry goals: I have been an evangelist and a disciple maker for more than 2 decades. As I have been serving Christ and his kingdom in my capacity, a thought of church planting has come into my heart. I pray and hope that God may equip me through FBS and raise me to be an effective church planter in the US and even other countries.

How can supporters be praying for you: My children are college students and a high school student. They need much care and prayer. My responsibility for my church cannot be undermined in any way. I need your prayer for me to manage my time that I may support my children as well as shepherd my church as a pastor.

Rod Hutton



Hometown: Shakopee, MN

Spouse: Kathy

Children: Chris (24), Tim (21), Malia (16), Grace (10), Josie (7)

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church West (West Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: I provide the oversight and teaching for the new singles ministry for the purpose of growing in a life devoted to

God during this stage of their lives through discipleship, serving and community with the body of Christ.

Two fun facts about you/your family: Over 28 years in the Navy, we have moved 18 times living in Minnesota, Hawaii, Naples Italy and many other places. As a Submarine Officer I have sailed in almost every ocean of the world including going to the North Pole.

Why did you choose FBS: Having completed a Ministerial Study Program, I was still seeking a more formal ministry education. The opportunity here at Faith Bible Seminary has been exactly what I was looking for and what I need to continue my education and ministry while preparing for my transition out of the Navy.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful for the intentional and purposeful nature of the education we are receiving at FBS. The challenge is real and the depth of the study is great. Yet alongside us we find a cohort that is able to work together and grow in both academic and practical skills to serve and glorify God today.

Long-term ministry goals: God has been equipping me, through my first career, with a foundation for the work I am doing now. I am called to lead, follow where I am called to follow and to share the gifts and experiences that He has blessed our family with through the years.

How can supporters be praying for you: I would ask that you pray that I may see the opportunities to use the teaching and experience of FBS not only in the Sojourners ministry but also in loving my family while I am a student and caring for my team at work as I balance a full-time career winding down with being a full-time student preparing for the future.

Aaron Keller



Hometown: Waldoboro, ME

Spouse: Sara

Ministry at which you serve: First Baptist Church of Waldoboro (Waldoboro, ME)

Primary Responsibilities: Teaching AWANA for Sparks (K-2), Sunday morning announcements, helping with the youth band

Two fun facts about you/your family: Sara and I are addicted to ice cream and we both share a heart for worship.

Why did you choose FBS: When we started toying around with the idea of seminary one of the biggest factors was finance. Indebtedness and ministry simply don't mesh in my mind and so Sara and I started to look for other options. FBS was that other option. It was definitely an answer to prayer. The other factor was the internship program.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: FBS is a blessing. The staff are gracious, obviously willing to work with you, and care more about if we are learning the material instead of purely on grades. I also enjoy how the professors will occasionally take time to connect what we are learning about to our spiritual growth. From viewing study as mental stewardship or using the tiny pieces of the original languages to form a mosaic where Christ is the outcome, their extra time and effort to pastor us as well as teach us is a great help.

Long-term ministry goals: I would love to preach the word and join in worship with any body of believers who share the view that Christ is central to all. But God has taught me in the past that the path I would choose for myself is not always the one He has planned for me.

How can supporters be praying for you: My prayer for the next year would be that God molds me into the image of His Son. That I would be open hearted to learn not only the subject material but the life lessons as well. I want to be useful for the Kingdom. I want God to tear down what needs to be torn down and build up that which needs building so that I might not be about me but about Him.

Kurtis Kolb



Hometown: Saint Charles, MO

Spouse: Leah

Children: Jacob (9), Joseph (6), Norah (2)

Ministry at which you serve: Grace Baptist Church (St. Charles, MO)

Primary Responsibilities: Student Ministries Pastor (Middle School, High School, College), Worship Pastor

Two fun facts about you/your family: We are Liverpool FC fans, YNWA. I serve at a church where my brother is the head pastor.

Why did you choose FBS: FBS allowed me to stay at my church and continue to serve in the ministries to which God had called me without moving my family. I am also blessed to attend FBS alongside Andrew Lafferty. The opportunity to complete my MDiv alongside him was a factor. Finally, I greatly appreciate the model of FBS especially that it is a direct offshoot of a local church.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: Pastor Brent and Pastor Rob are pastors before they are professors, and they are continually reminding me of the goal of learning Greek and Hebrew and the practicality of using these new language skills in my ministry of pointing people to Christ and loving God more deeply in my personal life.

Long-term ministry goals: After graduation I do not have any definite plans other than to continue to love, lead, and shepherd the people of God as the faithful pastor that God has called me to be.

How can supporters be praying for you: First, pray that I would be a diligent student. Second, pray for my marriage and my family, that I would not allow the busyness of study keep me from my primary Biblical responsibilities. Third, pray that I would continue to love and serve my church. Finally, please pray that my love and obedience for God would only grow deeper and deeper throughout these next 3 years.

Andrew Lafferty



Hometown: Saint Charles, MO

Spouse: Sarah

Ministry at which you serve: Grace Baptist Church (St. Charles, MO)

Primary Responsibilities: Teaching a Hermeneutics class, developing our technology and social media, developing and maintaining a church membership database, event planning and execution

Two fun facts about you/your family: I am currently serving in the church that I grew up in, a fact which many of our older members frequently remind me of. My wife and I have furnished our entire home through garage sales and auctions.

Why did you choose FBS: The driving reason that brought me to choose FBS was the inclusion of an internship program. When I entered the program I had already graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry, yet I still did not feel prepared to lead God's people. The practical, day to day part of ministry is what I was lacking and the Internship/Cohort model meets that need perfectly.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: Kurtis Kolb and I take classes together and struggling, fighting, and at times repenting our way through Greek and Hebrew has really helped us to develop a deeper fellowship with each other. The thing I love about FBS, however, is that I am starting to feel the same way about the other people in my class who are states (if not continents) away!

Long-term ministry goals: One ministry that I feel would greatly benefit my local area would be church re-planting. There are local churches that are closing their doors weekly in my city. I would love to be involved in a ministry that goes into these small, established churches and begins to help them maintain and grow their gospel witness in their communities.

How can supporters be praying for you: Perhaps my biggest prayer need is that I would learn to properly balance my life and its responsibilities. Thankfully, God has graciously allowed me to begin growing in this area already, but the experience of school has shown me the same problem in other areas of my life. Please pray that I find a way to honor God in how I use my time.

Joseph Lee



Hometown: Highland Park, NJ (Seoul, Korea)

Spouse: Jihyun (Mary)

Children: Rosemary (20 mo)

Ministry at which you serve: University Bible Fellowship (New Brunswick, NJ)

Primary Responsibilities: Music Ministry, Youth Ministry, College Ministry at Rutgers University.

Two fun facts about you/your family: My mother invited my wife to her church when my wife was a freshman in college in Korea. My wife is 1 year older than I am. However, nobody sees it that way.

Why did you choose FBS: Studying in the Master of Divinity program has been my prayer topic since in my early 20's as

I was convicted to follow my father's path as a pastor. My wife and I have been praying to get into a seminary program possibly a little later in our marriage. However, God made it very visible to us as He opened one door after another through FBS. Then we finally made a decision before God to devote the next 3 years of our life and marriage, and rely on God through it all.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: This program indeed sets the ideal seminary model, through which opens the door for those who are in the pastoral program or laymen in the church but cannot afford to attend a seminary school while controlling the time and financial challenges.

Long-term ministry goals: My long term ministry goal after graduation is doing what I am doing currently with a deeper understanding of the word of God. I hope to continue to serve in our music ministry. Our church's main focus is raising one disciple of Jesus at a time out of college students. I hope to continue impacting college students.

How can supporters be praying for you: Pray that I can study hard for the glory of God as the materials have humbled me greatly. Our first daughter Rosemary to be healthy and a new one to be healthy as well (Coming soon in March 2017). Pray that all the cohort can be strengthened by the words of God to struggle and give God the glory together with our study and ministry.

Isaac Madison



Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: I help with managing the Wednesday night Faith Community Institute classes as well as teach one of them. I also help, plan, and occasionally teach, in the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Fellowship Classes. Finally, I make tools to help the pastors effectively assimilate visitors.

Two fun facts about you/your family: I have always been fascinated by space and originally went to college so that I could study space. I also thoroughly enjoy the Foundation Trilogy by Isaac Asimov and would recommend it to anyone.

Why did you choose FBS: I chose to go to FBS because when I had started my freshman year at Purdue I began to be discipled by a member of one of the previous seminary cohorts. God continued to grow this desire in me throughout the rest of my college career.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: The model of this seminary, training us with practical experience to be pastors rather than just getting an advanced degree and doing it at an affordable cost, came from the desire of the Faith Church body to do something like that. Because of the people who give of their time and finances we get the opportunity to practically apply what I am studying in class and be discipled by one of the pastors on staff.

Long-term ministry goals: After graduating I am considering two possibilities. I have thoroughly enjoyed studying both Greek and Hebrew while in college and seminary and therefore am considering studying them further in order that I might effectively teach others these languages. The other possibility that I am considering is using this education to serve a church as a pastor.

How can supporters be praying for you: Because of the ministry that I help with I have many opportunities to be teaching. Therefore, I would ask for prayer for humility as well as wisdom as I teach. There is also frequently a lot to seek to manage in a God glorifying way. Therefore, I would ask for prayer regarding seeking to use my time wisely in order that I may serve well and effectively.

David Martindale



Hometown: Shavertown, PA

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Building relationships with and discipling skate park users and maintaining the skate park, Youth pastoral Intern

Two fun facts about you/your family: I enjoy hiking, building with my hands, and Hershey's chocolate.

Why did you choose FBS: The excellent model that Faith Church has built here for their seminary program and the counseling program drew me here. After coming to the BCTC for the first time, I knew this ministry was something I wanted to be part of.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am so very blessed by the community at Faith Church. Even looking back three months I can see the ways in which I have grown spiritually. Also, seminary is very challenging. In the midst of that growing challenge God has placed me in the community that is encouraging, supportive and with people who care about me and my ministry, spiritual walk and life in general.

Long-term ministry goals: After graduation, I would love to go into full-time youth pastoral ministry. Seeing the life change that happens when God uses youth leaders in the lives of teens is awe inspiring, and I want to be part of that. I do not have set boundaries to the extent that I will only do youth ministry. If a door opens to be a youth pastor, I will jump at the opportunity. However, I am open to doing missionary work or even another pastoral role.

How can supporters be praying for you: I ask for prayer for growth in my ministries. Particularly, the skate park. Many young men are at the skate park at Faith East very regularly. I have had the opportunity to share the gospel with a few of them. However, I feel like I am just starting to scratch the surface with this ministry. That's an amazing feeling, but also a sense of urgency and awe that God has entrusted me to bring the gospel to these young men. Lastly, I have recently entered into a relationship with a young woman. She wants to serve God with all that she is and I want that too. So we're on the right track. If you could be praying for wisdom, that as we navigate through the conversations, and interactions and the decisions ahead, we would do so in such a way as to bring glory and honor to God.

Phil Nicewonger



Hometown: New Baltimore, NY

Spouse: Faith

Children: Dorie (19), Matthew (17), Elijah (13)

Ministry at which you serve: First Baptist Church of Waldoboro (Waldoboro, ME)

Primary Responsibilities: Jr. & Sr. High Youth Ministry, Church Administration, Discipleship/Counseling

Two fun facts about you/your family: We live on a small farm that includes 2 cows, 14 chickens and 9 ducks. If you stacked us up head-to-toe we would be 30.5 feet tall.

Why did you choose FBS: The strong emphasis that FBS places on discipleship / counseling and the practical outworking of theology, is extremely valuable. There were other online options, but with the technology FBS uses, this is as close as a distance-learning student can get to being in the classroom without physically being in the classroom.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful for the opportunity to learn from men who are currently active or have been active in church ministry. The men are genuinely concerned for my spiritual growth as well. The practical hands-on experience of the instructors gets applied in the classroom which helps keep the focus not just on the education (obtaining knowledge), but the application of that knowledge in ministry.

Long-term ministry goals: I am in a season of transition as I start the second half of my seminary education. My immediate plans are to continue to serve in FBC Waldoboro as the Pastor of Youth & Discipleship. However, God has called me (and my family) to plant a church in the nearby town of Damariscotta. It is our desire and by God's grace a church will be planted in this town by the fall of 2017.

How can supporters be praying for you: I would humbly ask that you please pray that by God's grace I maintain the proper balance with my priorities and responsibilities as a husband, father, pastor, and student. I would also ask that you please pray for this season of transition in my family's life — as we leave what is comfortable and familiar to that which is less comfortable and less familiar — that we would rest in the faithfulness of our God and the power of His gospel.

Greg Palys



Hometown: Crystal Lake, IL

Spouse: Sarah

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Helping operate neighborhood community center and launch Faith's next campus, Running after-school activities for kids living in neighborhood, Actively investing in relationships with neighborhood residents

Two fun facts about you/your family: I spent the last two years working with a church in Las Vegas. I spent time as a radio host, exterminator, and pizza delivery driver before entering full-time ministry.

Why did you choose FBS: We chose FBS because we wanted a seminary education, but didn't originally see how we could pull it off. We didn't see how I could take on school, pay for it, and work out what I was learning without significant sacrifices made in God-given responsibilities I already had. That being said, the admonition to teachers in James 3:1 was convicting enough to seek other options. When we found out about FBS, it checked all the boxes, and we moved across the country without hesitation.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful to be a part of a church that highly values the Word. It has already been great to be surrounded by good teaching and solid men that regularly convict me of my need and His worth. I am also thankful that this has been exactly what I hoped it would be: a solid education, immersion in ministry, and time for my family.

Long-term ministry goals: My main goal in seminary is to leave better equipped to faithfully preach the Word. We love the local church and I desire to serve her through the preaching of the Word in a full-time capacity. We are open to considering all options for how that might take place.

How can supporters be praying for you: My biggest prayer request is that I would be able to manage my responsibilities in work and life in a selfless manner, without forgetting people in the midst of tasks. Also, pray that my wife would flourish during this season as well.

Randy Richner



Hometown: Ivoti, RS, Brazil

Spouse: Cynthia

Children: Ariana (21), Joel (19), Jason (9)

Ministry at which you serve: Igreja Ministerio Biblico (Ivoti, Brazil)

Primary Responsibilities: Church planting in the Greater Porto Alegre area, Missionary with ABWE, Speaker and leader in the Brazilian Association of Biblical Counselors, President

of The Center of Biblical Training of the Vale do Sinos

Two fun facts about you/your family: One of our favorite toppings on pizza is chicken hearts; our son Joel is preparing to be a fourth generation missionary.

Why did you choose FBS: By God's grace, I have been a part of a growing biblical counseling movement that is rapidly multiplying throughout Brazil. I realized my need of further training so I completed my MABC at Faith Bible Seminary. I now realize that I need to deepen my understanding of the Scriptures through the study of the original languages.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: The model of training at FBS fits perfectly into my remote location, my tight financial budget and my busy schedule. Financially, God has provided my education through FBS, without having to go into debt. I am in the midst of church planting, leadership development, and speaking engagements. I am able to set aside each Thursday to attend classes and continue the important work that God has for me here in Brazil.

Long-term ministry goals: The Brazilian Biblical Counseling movement has experienced rapid growth and my wife Cindy and I are involved in speaking at several counseling conferences each year. I believe that I will have an important role in the development of this movement here in Brazil and possibly reach into Portugal, Uruguay, and Africa.

How can supporters be praying for you: Please pray that God will give us wisdom as we begin construction of a new facility. Our family will return for furlough in May of 2017, so please pray that God will bless as we prepare the church for our transition to the US for one year. Pray for my studies, that I will be able to grasp the original languages in the midst of a busy schedule.

Gustavo Santos



Hometown: São José dos Campos, São Paulo, Brazil

Ministry at which you serve: Maranatha Baptist Church (São Paulo, Brazil)

Primary Responsibilities: Youth/College Ministry

Two fun facts about you/your family: Two of the funniest facts that happened to me were on a missionary trip to Uruguay at the beginning of 2015. I had to eat what they call Riñones, that is the kidney of a cow cooked. It is part of their culture, so I had to eat, while all the Uruguayans were laughing at my face. In the other day, we organized the anniversary of our missionary's daughter. The problem was that I do not know Spanish, so I had a hard time serving those people since I did not understand what they were saying, especially when they spoke fast.

Why did you choose FBS: There were two main reasons for me to choose for FBS. The first one was the format of the course, that emphasizes the importance of the service in the local church, giving me the opportunity to apply the concepts that I am learning. The second one was the doctrinal alignment with my church, especially regarding the sufficiency of the Scriptures and the importance of counseling in ministry.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am extremely thankful for the opportunity that God is giving me to study at FBS, and also to my church that is enabling this course to happen. The contact with the professors and students is important for me too, allowing me to see the work of God in their lives and through their ministries, helping me to prepare in the best possible way to the ministry that God has for me.

Long-term ministry goals: My goal after graduation is to become a pastor at my church and continue the ministries that I am already doing. I also plan to work with counseling inside the community, because I think that counseling is a powerful way to lead people to Christ, and I know that is a ministry that can restore people's lives and relationships.

How can supporters be praying for you: I know that will be a long journey, so I pray that God will give me strength and courage to continue the work that He has planned for me. I also pray that I might enjoy and learn as much as I can during the course. And finally that God keeps showing me His plans for my life and that He continues raising funds for me to accomplish these goals.

Mike Schoenrock



Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Ministry at which you serve: Noblesville Baptist Church (Noblesville, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Youth and Children's Ministries

Two fun facts about you/your family: My biggest hobby is playing fantasy sports like football and baseball. Also, I'm a twin!

Why did you choose FBS: I did not know anything about FBS before getting an invitation to join and work with the staff at Noblesville Baptist Church. The pastoral staff spoke very highly about the seminary and after looking it up online, I was interested in taking classes. Seth Leeman, senior pastor at Noblesville, just finished his degree at FBS and highly recommended the education he received there and that testimony pretty much sealed the deal for me.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I never thought I was going to pursue a Masters of Divinity, and I'm very thankful to God for opening a door that I never imagined would open. The few classes I've taken so far this semester have been a blessing to me. From hermeneutics to Bible geography, I've taken away not just more knowledge concerning Scriptures but also personal applications for my own spiritual life. I thank God for a seminary where I have the opportunity to do both.

Long-term ministry goals: I plan on working full-time at a church on a pastoral staff. I don't know yet if it's through a senior pastorate or as an associate pastor, but I do know that I want to work at a church that will grow in its outreach to its community and grow in its love to make disciples.

How can supporters be praying for you: A great way for supporters to pray for me is that I would adjust well to my new setting and grow in my ministry at Noblesville Baptist Church. I, of course, need prayer in doing well at school, but I'm at a new place with new people and I'm called to serve them thus my need for prayer to be a good steward of what God has given me.

Jonathan Sorensen



Hometown: Rochester, MN

Spouse: Trisha

Ministry at which you serve: Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church (Rochester, MN)

Primary Responsibilities: Praying in front of the congregation, reading scripture, preaching, and doing a couple of children's sermons. I will eventually be teaching the adult Sunday school class on Sunday mornings before the Worship Service.

Two fun facts about you/your family: My dad is a pastor, so growing up I wanted to be like him. I had originally gone to college to become a Pro-golfer or at least a local course Pro to teach others how to golf, but God directed my steps to pastoral ministry.

Why did you choose FBS: FBS offered a unique and low cost way for me to attain a Master's level education while earning experience in my field. It was the cheapest option for me, but also I believe FBS to be the best option for learning and growing spiritually.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I had not planned on pursuing a Masters, but God opened doors. So far my education at FBS has been some review of what I learned at Bible College, but it is always good to review and build a foundation. I am thankful that God has placed me in this program because I know that along with the education I am receiving I can also gain experience in the work field.

Long-term ministry goals: My long term goal is to become a senior pastor at a church. My dad is the senior pastor of the church I grew up in and he has been blessed to be there for 19 years. I long to find a local church that would allow me the same opportunity. I also would enjoy being an associate pastor.

How can supporters be praying for you: One way supporters can be praying for me is that I would be diligent in my school work. Pray that I would not just be gaining knowledge, but that I would put that knowledge into action. For the first semester my wife, Trisha, has been 3.5 hours away from me finishing up her bachelor's degree at Bible College. Pray that our relationship would still continue to grow upon the foundation of Christ.

Micah Stockdale



Hometown: Union Dale, PA

Spouse: Liz

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Wednesday Night Kids of Faith Director, Sunday morning teacher and manager, children's event(s) coordinator

Two fun facts about you/your family: The perfect vacation consists of plains of Africa, mountains of Denver/Utah, hills of Montana, and beaches of California: My wife and I prefer to read books out loud to each other no matter where we are and have been known to frustrate surrounding audiences. I love to snowboard

Why did you choose FBS: The most attractive thing about FBS to us was the renowned counseling ministry that Faith is known for. God has grown a desire for counseling in my life, and my propensity for counseling is something I've seen God bringing to the forefront of my ministry experience.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: It became evident to me early on that Faith was filled with men and women who knew God's Word richly and cherished it deeply. Because I came in almost immediately before classes began, left weeks later to get married, and became acquainted with all the responsibilities of running a community center and adjusting to a new place, church and ministry, many people, especially my professors and pastors, had abundant opportunity to show me grace and they gave it lavishly.

Long-term ministry goals: I hope to be involved in a growing, God-glorifying, Christ-centric, culturally relevant, community-based ministry where I can use my gifts, my knowledge, and my experience in equipping Christ's church and pursuing the mission which Jesus Christ commissioned us with.

How can supporters be praying for you: My deepest prayer is that Christ would use my weakness and insufficiency as a means of pouring grace forth into all those I come across over these next three years. Practically, I ask that God gives me the ability to prioritize that which is most important and that He would make me efficient and effective for the ministry He has chosen me for, the marriage He has blessed me with, and the educational training God has brought me into.

Stephen Thomas



Hometown: Lafayette, IN

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Faith Church Children's Ministry

Two fun facts about you/your family: I took a crash course in furniture making this summer. I've read more books this year than the last 4 combined.

Why did you choose FBS: I chose FBS because I had a strong desire to be further equipped to be a servant leader in local church ministry. I have continued on into FBS as the next step in my discipleship that I might know God better in order to better make Him known. I consider myself abundantly blessed to attend seminary in the context of my home church. God used the first seminary interns here at Faith to plant the idea and desire for church ministry in my heart.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful that I get to be trained by pastors that I respect greatly in the church. I am encouraged that I can be equipped with the academic tools in the context of my home church. It is such a privilege to be taught by professors that are pastors, because they have a refined fortitude of applying God's word to everyday situations. I am very thankful that I have a loving support system here that I can rely on as I am challenged.

Long-term ministry goals: My long term goal would be to serve and love the church more and more. I would hope to accomplish this goal by equipping a team within a growing, established local church to plant a new church in order to further God's kingdom. My background in Mechanical Engineering opens many doors to ministry in 1st and 2nd world countries. I would love to help build the community as I work to build His church.

How can supporters be praying for you: I would ask for prayers that I would have a humble, learning spirit. I don't want to waste this time that I am surrounded by wiser and older men, because I was too proud to listen. Please pray that I would have the discipline to pursue my convictions and that I wouldn't settle for less than Jesus would expect from me. Pray that I would keep my relationship with Him fresh and vibrant.

Foster Toft



Hometown: Thorntown, IN

Spouse: Emily Harden (fiancé)

Ministry at which you serve: Faith Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: Community Service, Sport Leagues at Faith West, Research assistant for Pastor Greiner, Sunday morning greeting team, and Writing Faith Group Bible Studies

Two fun facts about you/your family: I graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Communications. I love every sports team from Cleveland.

Why I chose FBS: I chose FBS because it allows me to get a firm understanding of God's word through thorough academic studies and practical experience. I was very attracted to this seminary format because it does not just focus on one or the other, rather a hybrid of pastoral ministry with theological studies. FBS is charging its students far less than any other seminary, but offering the FBS student a more diverse ministry experience that I could not turn away from.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful for FBS because of how much not only the pastors, but the church; invests in its students. Words can't describe how much I love being a part of a family oriented seminary. The men and women that make FBS possible truly understand the vision of advancing God's kingdom because of how much they value not only the education of FBS students, but also the heart of reaching lost souls through love and care of the individual.

Long-term ministry goals: After graduation I would like to pursue full time ministry. I would like to further my education after seminary by pursuing a PhD in nonverbal communication through the Scriptures and how it effected situations, translations, and God's overall redemptive plan.

How can supporters be praying for you: How supporters, church members, and friends could be praying for me is how I compare myself to others in ministry. I get discouraged sometimes when I don't understand material as much as my peers, or when my dyslexia effects my reading ability which takes more time. Balancing family, work, ministry, and school is a hard task, and I would love to have your prayer on how to be a godly man.

Tiago Wagner



Hometown: Novo Hamburgo – Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil)

Spouse: Ariane

Children: Marina (3)

Ministry at which you serve: Igreja Bíblica Unidos no Senhor (Brazil)

Primary Responsibilities: Preaching, teaching, counseling, Leading Youth and Teens groups

Two fun facts about you/your family: We love missionary work and we serve as “local missionaries.” We had previous missionary experience in the Amazon jungles, but we decided to be missionaries “back home” because it is considered the least evangelized region of our country.

Why I chose FBS: I first heard about FBS in a Biblical Counseling Conference here in Brazil, in 2011. Based on the content that was offered in the conference, I started dreaming about studying in FBS. God’s arrangements were decisive on opening doors for this tremendous opportunity.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I’m thankful for what I learned so far; my church already noticed that in preaching/teaching. I’m pretty sure it will make a huge difference after the next three years.

Long-term ministry goals: I have intentions to serve locally, as a “local missionary” and as a professor at the local seminary we’re planning to initiate the following years. (There is no Biblical Seminary in a 300 miles radius.

How can supporters be praying for you: English is not my first language and I’m already struggling with learning (particularly writing) in English. I know FBS has exceptional price, but paying for it in Brazilian currency is going to be a real challenge. Books fit the same category. I have plans to take the second and the third year living in the US. It is virtually impossible but pray along with me to the God of the impossible.

Stephen Weinkauff



Hometown: West Lafayette, IN

Ministry at which you serve: Kossuth Street Baptist Church (Lafayette, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: My primary responsibility is the Director of College Ministry.

Two fun facts about you/your family: My undergraduate at Purdue was in Film & Video Studies. I keep silly putty in my desk drawer because fiddling with it helps me study.

Why I chose FBS: I chose FBS for a few reasons. I appreciate their model of bringing up future pastors in the context of the local church and giving them an opportunity to obtain practical ministry experience in a church internship during their time of study. I also appreciate their value of keeping costs minimal and wanting their students to graduate with as little debt as possible. I had also heard from past students that the program is rigorous and that I would learn a lot and be well equipped for pastoral ministry.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I thank God that the professors strive for an environment of care. They care about our spiritual growth, which is usually included in the syllabus for a class. They also encourage us to show care for our fellow students. I thank God for that environment, a cold environment is not conducive to being equipped well for ministry.

Long-term ministry goals: After graduation, I will pursue pastoral ministry at a local church in the states. My current interests would be to help the church grow in how the church discipled others; helping equip the congregation to be able to disciple others well.

How can supporters be praying for you: Please be praying for my studies, they are good, but very difficult. Pray that I would continue to grow in my time management skills. Pray for my growth as a disciple-maker and a leader as I disciple students at Kossuth and equip them to disciple others. Pray for outreach opportunities, as that has taken the biggest nose-dive in this season of busyness.

Chris Weisheim



Hometown: Brownsburg, IN

Spouse: Jennifer

Children: Emma (9), Kate (4), and Cora (3 mo)

Ministry at which you serve: Harvest Bible Chapel Indy West (Avon, IN)

Primary Responsibilities: I serve as the Pastor of Soul Care, which involves seeing our people grow in their conviction, character, and competence in Christ.

Two fun facts about you/your family: While on a mission trip to Belize, I was able to feed a jaguar with my bare hands. I once worked for the ESPN Game Day crew.

Why did you choose FBS: I chose FBS because I am thrilled with the vision and mission it has for raising up and equipping future pastors by providing a quality MDiv program that enables me to continue in my existing pastoral ministry at an affordable cost. Additionally, our church has already partnered with FBS, as FBS just graduated two other pastors from our church in the previous cohort, so I'm excited that we get to continue the relationship going forward.

What are you thankful for thus far in seminary: I am thankful to God for FBS because even in an academic environment, they very clearly cares about seeing me grow in Christlikeness. I am also very thankful to live in relatively close proximity to the seminary, which further affords me the opportunity to be physically in class and establish personal relationships.

Long-term ministry goals: My ultimate goal from my time in seminary is to become better equipped at handling God's Word which will enable more effective pastoral care and discipleship at Harvest Bible Chapel Indy West.

How can supporters be praying for you: I am a full time pastor, taking a full load in seminary, and also raising a young family of girls, one of which was just born during this semester. I would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as I seek to faithfully obey the Lord in each of these areas of responsibilities, and to know what a proper balance of ministry-seminary-family looks like over the course of the next three years.