

VOL. LV NO. 1 WINTER 2020

The
TORCH

A PUBLICATION OF HOBE SOUND BIBLE COLLEGE & HOBE SOUND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY





...in the light of eternity

Paul Stetler | Editor

Three weeks ago (at the time of this writing), my world was turned upside down. After fifteen months of heaven on earth with my beautiful bride, all the hopes and dreams we had shared came crashing down when a terrible car accident took her life. I could write a book about what has happened since then—the cruel attacks of Satan, the waves of sadness, the incredible love and loyalty of family (hers and mine), the overwhelming love and prayers of God’s people, and most of all, how Jesus Himself has stood by me in the midst of it all. I saw the power and providence of God on display as He has drawn so many to Him through this seeming tragedy. I have nothing but love, praise and thanks for the God in whose everlasting arms I landed when all the props were knocked out from under me. I’m different. I have more faith, I have a much greater appreciation for family,

friends and the family of God, and I have a whole new perspective on life.

When I went to the airport to fly with my sweet Jacinda’s body to Indiana for her burial, I saw people—not lines, not restaurants, not inconvenient concourses or annoying security procedures—PEOPLE. I saw them through a completely different lens. I saw a couple arguing...I wanted to rush over, put my arms around them both and say, “STOP! You never know how much time you have with one another! Savor every moment you have to live, laugh and love together.” I saw a teenager and parent in conflict...I wanted to plead with them to understand that life is short and that our loved ones are the most

Continued on page 18

Paul Stetler is editor of The Torch and the Director of Institutional Advancement for Hobe Sound Bible College.

The TORCH

VOL. LV NO. 1 WINTER 2020

Dr. P. Daniel Stetler
PRESIDENT

Paul Stetler
EDITOR

Faith Tofte
COPY EDITOR

Brandon Hilligoss
GRAPHIC DESIGN

Country Pines, Inc.
PRINTING

Published by Hobe Sound Bible College in Hobe Sound, Florida, *The Torch* is devoted to the promotion of Christian education. There is no subscription price, but donations are appreciated and are tax deductible.

Address correspondence to :
The Torch Editor
PO Box 1065
Hobe Sound, FL 33475-1065
www.hsbc.edu
(772) 546-5534

The Torch is happy to publish announcements of births, weddings, and memorials of alumni. Please submit them to faithtofte@hsbc.edu. We also announce books and media authored by alumni as a news service to our alumni. This is not intended as an endorsement of the materials. We reserve the right not to publish anything contrary to the values upheld by HSBC.

Hobe Sound Bible College
is accredited by:



MILESTONES & MONUMENTS

Dr. P. Daniel Stetler | President



Have you passed any “milestones” lately? Why of course you have. They are located 5,280 feet (one mile) apart along every interstate highway in the United States! No, we do not call them “milestones”—we call them “mile-markers,” but they serve the same purpose.

According to the dictionary, the word *milestone* has two major meanings. First, a milestone is a literal marker which indicates a specific distance to or from some place or thing. Second, the word milestone is used to describe a significant event or accomplishment in life or history.

This year Hobe Sound Bible College is passing a significant milestone in its history—its 60th Anniversary. As I pause at this important milestone, I inevitably look back over the last sixty years. I must say I am impressed at the vision which brought HSBC into existence. Rev. H. Robb French recognized that he could not justify building and maintaining a large tabernacle, a dining hall, and dormitories for just a few days out of the year in the month of February.

On the other hand Dr. S. D. Herron was starting a school from “scratch!” The staggering cost

of erecting all the facilities necessary to operate a school, house and feed a student body, and cover operational expenses seemed absolutely prohibitive. This was especially true when he had no backing from any sponsoring organizations or wealthy patrons.

So the two of them came up with a creative way to maximize the use of “God’s money.” They raised funds at Sea Breeze Camp Meeting to build buildings that could meet the needs of a rapidly growing camp meeting. But those buildings could also be utilized throughout the remainder of the year by Hobe Sound Bible College and Academy. When people gave in those offerings, they were helping two important organizations—Sea Breeze Camp and HSBC/A. The money was raised! The buildings were built! And to this very day, both organizations continue to use those buildings to impact lives around the world.

As I pause at this 60th Anniversary milestone, I not only look at the past, I also look at the present. I am amazed at the faithfulness of God across the years! The joint use of facilities made it possible to HSBC/A to get started, but the ongoing operational costs of this venture are absolutely stagger-

ing. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that there is not and never has been a sponsoring organization to provide consistent financial support.

I remember when I arrived at HSBC in August of 1995. The annual audit was just being completed. The auditor—a lady from a thoroughly secular company who understood nothing about faith-based ministries—said she needed to talk to me about some serious financial concerns.

I will never forget her looking at me very skeptically and saying, “Mr. Stetler, I have serious questions about whether or not your school will EVER be able to operate in a fiscally solvent manner!” She explained that we were extraordinarily dependent on gift income for our operational support and that such support was erratic, unstable, and often fluctuated wildly. Her conclusion was that unless we could lower our dependency on gift income, our future prospects were very bleak.

Continued on page 19

Dr. P. Daniel Stetler is president of Hobe Sound Bible College & Academy.

HALL of SERVANT-LEADERS

by Paul Stetler



H. Robb French

In the mid-1930s H. Robb French held a revival in a suburb of Birmingham, Alabama, for a nineteen-year-old bachelor pastor named Steve Herron. Rev. French went on a decade later to establish the Florida Evangelistic Association in Hobe Sound, Florida. In the 1950s he again held a revival at a church pastored by Rev. Herron. The founding charter of FEA designated its campus as a center for Christian education. Rev. Herron and Rev. French discussed the possibility of beginning a conservative holiness Bible institute using the camp facilities for housing and classrooms. That dream became a reality in 1960.

Rev. French served on the board of the college and taught a class on evangelism. Many students profited from his anointed preaching in church services and camps. FEA and the college shared classrooms, tabernacles and cafeterias—and during camp time housing. Both organizations benefitted from the collaboration. Rev. French was a stalwart supporter of the school all through his life. His sacrifice, devotion and passion for the gospel created the atmosphere in which HSBC was begun.

Edward Palm

Dr. Edward Palm grew up in the state of New York. He found the Lord when he was twenty and soon went to God's Bible School. He married Connie King in 1962. He pastored several churches and continued his schooling. He held a BA and MA in theology and a doctorate of education.

In 1970 the Palms came to Hobe Sound. Dr. Palm taught Greek, theology, and history. He was appointed academic dean in 1972 and then vice-president as well as academic dean in 1986, serving with President Whitaker.

The Palms felt a call to missions and moved to Taiwan in 1991 where he preached and taught, and she led women's meetings and children's services. Mrs. Palm said, "My husband was a good preacher, good teacher, good administrator, and pastor, and later a good missionary. In all these roles, he had the unusual gift of being very good at one-to-one counseling. I have had many, many people tell me, 'It was your husband who gave me guidance and help at the very time in my life when I really needed it.'"

Dr. Palm underwent emergency heart surgery and then passed away in 1997. But he made a lasting impact on hundreds of coworkers and students. His wife concluded, "One of his major contributions to the school is one that perhaps only I know about. He was a man of prayer and every morning at five o'clock, he was in that place of prayer. Over the years he prayed for the school and carried its burdens on his heart, took them to the Lord in prayer, and continued this even after we went to Taiwan."



Connie Palm

Connie K. Palm came from a large family in Indiana. At the age of eight, she made the decision to accept Christ as her Savior. Her beloved uncle O. L. King saw that Connie had a good mind and made it possible for her to enroll at God's Bible School High School. There she met the love of her life, Edward Palm.

After their marriage, the Palms served together in many types of ministry. Mrs. Palm taught in several different states and was licensed in five. She held two bachelor's degrees, four masters, an education specialist certification and a doctorate. They pastored several churches with the Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York. In 1970 they moved to Hobe Sound. During the following twenty-two years, Mrs. Palm filled several capacities including academy principal and chair of the college education department.

In 1991 the Palms went as missionaries to Taiwan with Hope International Missions. After Mr. Palm passed away, Mrs. Palm returned to Taiwan for four additional years. Mrs. Palm loved the Taiwanese people and demonstrated that love daily.

In her later life Mrs. Palm had an incredible ministry called "One Small Candle" which created crafts for missionaries to use in their ministry. Linda Pang wrote, "Connie demands the highest professional quality. There is no compromise. On one occasion, Connie didn't find the mistake in a Scripture source until the order was almost complete. She redid the order from scratch. 'This is God's work!' Connie said firmly. 'The quality of every handmade piece reflects the Christian witness and also reflects the name of God.'" At the time of her passing over 197,000 pieces of her crafts had reached other countries.

Mrs. Palm lived her life for others. The hundreds of students who were privileged to sit under her teaching knew she had a personal interest in each one of them. Every academy teacher who served under her gave her the highest praise and honor.

Mrs. Palm passed way in 2015 and entered heaven to join her beloved husband and her Savior.

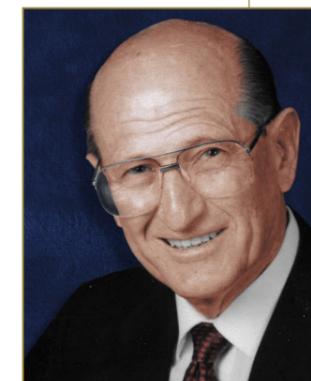
G. R. French

G. R. French was born in California. His family soon moved to Alabama and later South Carolina. He earned a BA in religion, a master of divinity and a master of Christian education. He also lived in a kibbutz in Israel for six months studying Hebrew and archaeology. He served as assistant pastor for two years to Rev. Herron, pastored two churches and held several leadership positions in his conference.

G. R. and his wife Ann French came to Hobe Sound in 1969 to lead the HSBC Ministerial Department and to serve as business manager for Florida Evangelistic Association. He taught numerous classes.

Rev. French went on to officially organize Hobe Sound Bible Church and pastor there for eight years. He served as president of FEA for twenty-one years. He also served on the board of HSBC for ?? years. During times of turbulent transition, his firm commitment to the values upon which the college had been founded helped chart the course for the future. When he retired from FEA in 1999, he was designated a lifetime member of the HSBC Board of Directors.

Rev. French and his wife have three children and six grandchildren. He passed away in 2014. The administration building for FEA Ministries is now the G. R. French Administrative Offices.





Archie Coons

Archie Coons was a native of Kentucky. He graduated from the University of Louisville with training in voice, string music and music education. He also took advanced piano studies under the renowned Dr. Hinson.

Bro. Herron held a revival at Atwood Wesleyan Church in Louisville. Mr. Coons said, "I was immediately captivated by his mannerisms, the way he handled the Word, and his patience with some of us who were slow to grasp. He was a teaching preacher." Bro. Herron asked Mr. Coons to let him know if he had any interest in working in the Bible institute that was soon to begin.

Mr. Coons had a friend who had begun a skid-row mission. "That's where Bro. Whitaker and I met. It was an open-air market with a variety of cultures. They got me to come to play the accordion for a street meeting." Mr. Whitaker and his wife Joe Ann moved to Hobe Sound in 1960, and Mr. Coons and his wife JoAnn followed in 1961.

Mr. Coons established the music program for the college. "First time we tried to do the Messiah, many people didn't understand it. They thought I was trying to teach grand opera. And I went to Sis. French and said, 'I don't think that we ought to be trying that.'

"Oh, no, Bro. Coons. We need some culture around here."

During Sea Breeze Camp Rev. Richard Addison heard the college choir. He went to Mr. Coons and said, "You need to get that choir out on the road. I want to be the first church you come to." The school chartered a Greyhound bus and began to tour. Mr. Coons led the choirs and public relations groups in putting Hobe Sound Bible College "on the map."

Archie Coons served at HSBC until 1980. In 2010 the music building was remodeled and renamed the Archie Coons Fine Arts Center. Mr. Coons and his wife had three children. He went home to heaven in 2016.

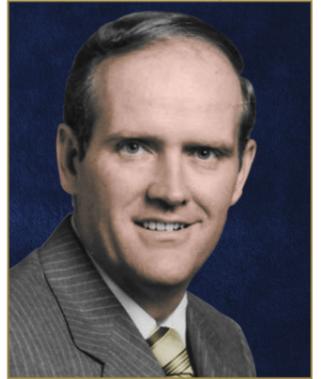
James Olsen

James Olsen was working as a financial analyst for IBM in New York when in 1976 he asked for a leave of absence. He and his family came to Hobe Sound Bible College where Mr. Olsen set up an accounting system for the school. He enjoyed college work and decided to stay in Hobe Sound. From 1972 through 1994 he served as director of finances, director of development and director of student aid except for a two-year stint where he worked for an accounting firm to complete requirements for his CPA.

As director of finances Mr. Olsen balanced the budget sixteen out of twenty years. He set up the business office, student financial aid office and development office. During his tenure he supervised four major building projects totaling close to two million dollars and raised funds for them. He also assisted in the process of the college reaching full accreditation.

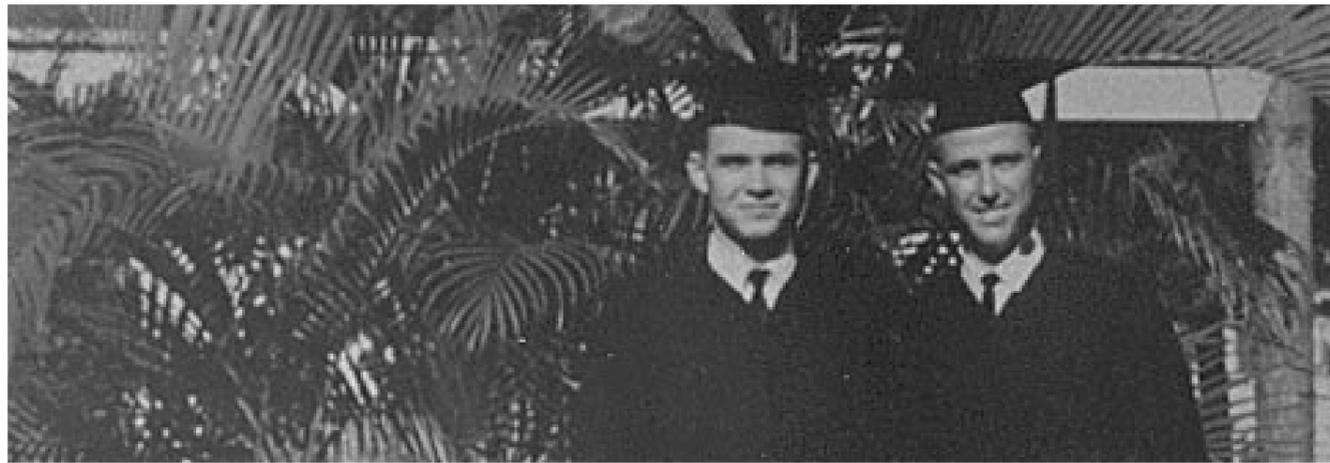
After retiring from HSBC Mr. Olsen was appointed the first executive director of the Association of Business Administrators of Christian Colleges. He set up the first office and increased membership from 133 to 205 colleges and organizations. He then helped establish a private care referral service, Friends of the Family, and served as the treasurer for six years.

Mr. Olsen is married to Joyce and has three adult children and eight grandchildren. He holds a BS in business education from State University of New York, an MS in accounting from State University of New York, and is a certified public accountant. The Olsens continue to live in Hobe Sound where he operates Jim Olsen, CPA, with an emphasis on pastors and missionaries and gives seminars at churches on Practical Financial Principles. He has written manuals on financial principles of special interest to singles and young married couples and on IRS regulations for ministers and church treasurers.



Hall of Servant-Leaders

You may view the Hall of Servant-Leaders on permanent installation in the Heron Center on the campus of Hobe Sound Bible College.



PERSPECTIVE RAYMOND SHREVE

On May 11, 1964, Raymond Shreve and Robert Whitaker received their bachelor of arts diplomas from Hobe Sound Bible Institute, the first two students to do so. Rev. Shreve says thinking back on those days releases a flood of memories. He remembers many of his classes. “Gospels with Brother Herron—the study of the passion of Christ—was deeply soul stirring. Several class periods were spent on our knees. Pentateuch taught by Sister Amy Jefferies Zike—every fabric, material, color and measurement pointed to Christ.”

When Rev. Shreve was a high school senior at God’s Bible School, he heard Rev. Herron speak in a revival. “His powerful, anointed, logical preaching riveted my attention. I encountered Brother Herron on the campus, and he invited me to the lunchroom to talk. He told me that he

and H. Robb French were planning to start a Bible training institute on the grounds of Sea Breeze Camp at Hobe Sound, Florida, and asked whether I would be interested in enrolling. It was to be a veritable spiritual Parris Island with none of the extra activities for which colleges were famous.

There were to be six months of classes and six months of field work. I liked the challenge. I also liked the fact that it was to be at Hobe Sound, Florida, as my family was living in Cuba at the time, and Sea Breeze Camp was the site of our annual spiritual pilgrimage. On a more down-to-earth side, I was tired of the winters in the Queen City!

Rev. Shreve told Bro. Herron, “When you start the school, count me in.”

The Shreve family had traveled to Hobe Sound several times from their home in Cuba. When the Castro communist regime took over the island, Rev. Shreve was sent to the States. He finished high school at GBS and then traveled south. “I got off the Greyhound bus about midnight at US 1 and Bridge Road, stashed my suitcases behind Bill’s Citgo station and walked to the campground. I found an open door in an empty cottage and went to sleep. The next morning I went to the storage shed, got Brother French’s old Jeep running, drove up to Saint Onge’s lunch counter for breakfast, retrieved my suitcases from Bill’s, drove back to camp and made my arrival known to President Herron. At that time Rev. James and Ella Zuch were the only year-around residents on the campground.”

The Herrons, Zuchs and others were busy setting up a school from scratch. Rev. Shreve remembers, “The dormitory rooms were not finished. Most had Sheetrock on only one side. Someone had found a stash of military-style metal cots, but there were not enough mattresses.

Since I was familiar with the area, I was given the job of driving for Brother Herron as we scoured around for used furniture and other necessities.”

“Billy Smith, an ex-army cook, was setting up the kitchen with mostly military surplus utensils and equipment. The breakfast menu was cereal (commodity powdered milk), tadpole gravy (hamburger and flour), and toast (day-old bread from the Merita breadman). Once or twice a week we had flapjacks (Army for pancakes). We used the least

expensive oleo margarine which came uncolored in two-pound plastic bags. Included was a large capsule of food coloring which when mixed in made it yellow. Syrup was five pounds of white sugar in a gallon of water with one-fourth cup of maple flavoring.”

“Brother Herron had made contact with the manager of the Pahokee Farmers Market which shipped produce all over the eastern seaboard. They would call and advise of culls and surplus we could have free. I would take Philip Newton’s pickup and bring back a load of whatever was available. Billy Smith, being the topnotch Southerner that he was, made the most of whatever was available. Memorable are the five bushels of okra! Boiled okra with tomatoes and onions and fried okra.”

Once school began, he enjoyed the classes. He also grew through chapel services. “Chapel was a wonderful time with Brother Herron sharing from his devotions. Brother C. E. Zike (retired Wesleyan Methodist evangelist), Brother H. Robb French, Sister Geraldine French and Sister Ella Zuch shared from their long and deep experiences.”

The things Rev. Shreve heard at Hobe Sound Bible Institute prepared him for future ministry. He says, “One thing stands out—again from Brother Herron: ‘Students, you will not learn everything you need to know here, but if you learn where to look, how to study, how to organize what you have and how to present it to your listeners, you will have had an education.’

“I learned methods of Bible study—applying the original language usage to current reality, (and the) use of resources and priorities to give them. Some truisms I recall Brother Herron using repeatedly: ‘Get up, speak up, shut up.’ ‘If you repeat for emphases, fine; but if you are repeating because of emptiness, sit down.’ ‘Start low, go slow, rise higher, strike fire!’”

Even in a rich spiritual atmosphere, some things were difficult like “the challenge of believing God for ‘our daily bread.’” And nature sometimes got in the way. “Then there were the sand flies. The jeep was rigged with a fogger. The county supplied the chemical, and each evening we would drive around the camp fumigating. I think the chemical we used has been banned. But it made the outdoors tolerable back then! The more some things change, the more they remain the same!”

And there were good times, too. Rev. Shreve says, “Brother Herron didn’t care for Southern gospel/country music as sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford, Elvis and the Jordanaires. Brother C. J. Goodspeed, who was dean of men, did like it. Someone had given me a collection of LP records. Brother Goodspeed liked to come to my room and listen to the music. One day he was in my room listening to them (I was in class.) when Brother Herron came knocking on the door. When Brother Goodspeed opened



Raymond Shreve with his wife Alice

the door, the look on Brother Herron’s face was priceless!

“Then there was the time four of us picked up Phil Newton’s VW bug and set it bumper to bumper between two coconut palms. Brother Herron let Phil stew for a while, then said softly, ‘Alright boys, you’ve had your fun. Don’t ruin Philip’s day.’ Phil got even that evening, but that too is another long story.”

The people of Hobe Sound changed Rev. Shreve. “Without a doubt Brother Herron had the greatest impact on my life and ministry. His keen intellect, powerful reasoning and expository ability were extraordinary. In an era of narrative preaching he set a high benchmark of, ‘What saith the scriptures?’ Brother and Sister French with their deep prayer life and anointed living created a hunger in me for more of God on a profound level.”

Sixty years have passed since those opening days of school, but some characteristics remain unchanged. Rev. Shreve says, “The issue that stands out most to me is the commitment to holy living. Brother Herron had it, Robert Whitaker had it, Daniel Stetler has it. Perhaps it is best summed up in another of Brother Herron’s sayings, ‘It is never right to do wrong, not even to get a chance to do right.’ Our theme song says it best, ‘I want a principle within of jealous godly fear.’” Today Hobe Sound Bible College and Christian Academy is still committed to teaching holiness and godliness.

Raymond Shreve was one of Hobe Sound Bible Institute’s (College) first graduates and was a featured speaker at Hobe Sound Bible College’s Partnership Banquet .

60

A Celebration

FEBRUARY 7, 2020

7:00PM | CELEBRATION SERVICE

H. Robb French Memorial Tabernacle

Join us for a celebration of 60 years of ministry! The evening will include current PR groups and the Chapel Choir, an address from President Dan Stetler, and the unveiling of our first inductees into the Hall of Servant-Leaders.

9:00PM | ALUMNI RECEPTION

Schmul Center

Catch up with alum and friends of the "old days." Light refreshment will follow the Celebration service.

FEBRUARY 8, 2020

10:30AM | ALUMNI SERVICE

Carroll Auditorium

Music and memories will fill this morning service as we take a look back and celebrate our alumni. The service will include the 1971 Trio, Mass Choir, and a reunion of the music group Vision.

12:00PM | ALUMNI DINNER

Olsen Field

Enjoy the beautiful south Florida sunshine, grab some food off the grill, and enjoy time with other friends.

1:30PM | STARS & STIFFS SOFTBALL GAME

Olsen Field

Accommodations may be reserved through FEA Ministries Camp Office. Call (772) 545-1400, Ext. 2255. Relive your college days and stay in the dorm again!



WELCOME BACK

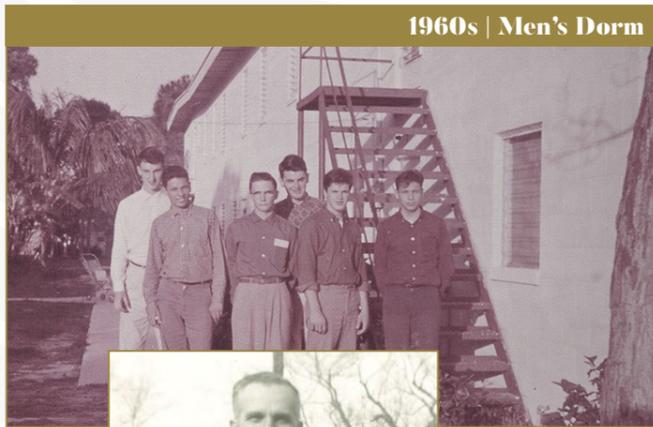
It is our pleasure to welcome you back to the campus of Hobe Sound Bible College and Academy. As we celebrate sixty years, we look back with grateful hearts to God for His faithfulness and leadership. Our theme, "**Knowing Christ and Making Him Known**," is woven throughout our history...from the classroom setting to the alumni serving in "this present age." Whether you were a student in high school or are presently working on a master's degree, whether you studied music or pastoral ministry or are presently enrolled in the counseling program...you are a part of the canvas on which God is working His plan to further His Kingdom. The heart cry of those students, faculty, and staff who have been desirous of God's leadership and blessing has been our theme song, "I Want a Principle Within."

On behalf of the executive committee of the Alumni Association of Hobe Sound Bible College and Academy, I would like to invite you to join us in celebrating and reminiscing during Homecoming, February 2020. We trust this weekend is encouraging as you fellowship with classmates, faculty, and staff and as you see that Hobe Sound Bible College and Academy is still endeavoring to carry out our motto and purpose.

Welcome back!
We are so pleased YOU are here!

Rebecca Patterson Hoard
HSBC/A Alumni President

60 years



1960s | Men's Dorm

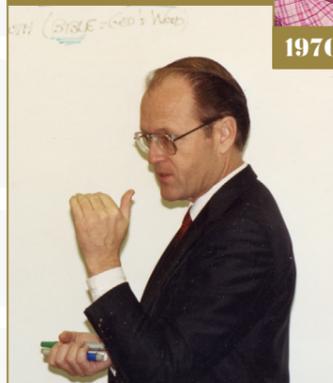


1953 | Steve Heron

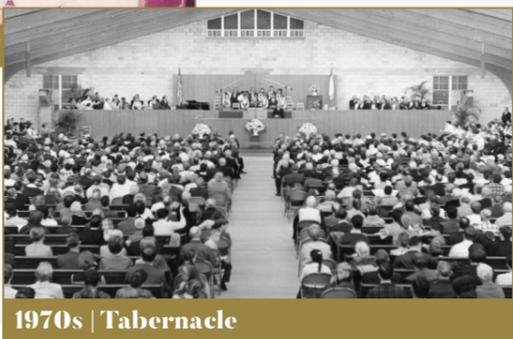
1964 | Graduation



1984 | Dr. Brown



1970s | Library



1970s | Tabernacle



2019 | President in PNG



2010s | Campus



2000s | IIS Choir



1990s | Camp Meeting



1990s | Campus

1990s | Vision





the story of HOBE SOUND BIBLE COLLEGE & ACADEMY

1940s

1946

September 30—**Florida Evangelistic Association chartered** with five members: H. Robb French, Geraldine French, James C. Zuch, Ella Zuch, and Frances French

1947

March 28—Rev. French and Rev. Zuch purchase twenty-eight acres in Hobe Sound for less than \$200 per acre. Rev. French establishes Florida Evangelistic Association.

1948

February 5-15—**First Sea Breeze Camp Meeting held**

1950s

1950s

Second tabernacle is built (now the Schmul Center cafeteria)

1959

August—Rev. Stephen Herron, his wife Dorothy and daughter Jane move to Hobe Sound

1960s

1960

February—Stephen D. Herron presents his vision of a Bible school at the Sea Breeze Camp Meeting. Pledges totaling \$6000 are made for the school.

Friday, September 30—**Hobe Sound Bible Institute begins** with the registration of eighteen students from twelve states. Teachers were Rev. Stephen Herron and Mrs. Zike. A two-story school building (later the men's dorm) was nearly completed. Room, board and tuition total \$310 per semester.

November—Elementary classes begin

1961

Spring—Faculty and students hold a special evangelistic outreach at Holmes Rock near Freeport, Grand Bahama. The trips continue each spring for several years.

Rev. French, Rev. Herron, and Rev. C. J. Goodspeed open mission on Grand Bahama Island. Nearly all the college faculty and student body attend the dedication. William Rigdon, Troy Allred, Grady Dye, and others help build the chapel and three-room parsonage at Holmes Rock. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rowin and the Phil Newton family are the first missionaries.

1961-1962

First tabernacle (later Fletcher Hall, then Reiff Center) remodeled to house studios and offices for the music department and classrooms

1962

Fall—**Hobe Sound Bible Academy begins** high school classes

1963

Student enrollment increases to over 100

Three acres across Gomez Avenue purchased from Wilson Palm Gardens for new girls' dormitory and classroom space

1964

May 11—**First college commencement with graduates Raymond Shreve & Robert Whitaker.** Academy high school has six graduates: Julia Burdette, Charles Fairchild, Faye Human, Ralph Taylor, Roberta Thompson, Marilyn Treese.

1965

Frances French Hall (girl's dormitory) completed

1966

A classroom/library complex (now academy classrooms) is completed at the southeast end of Frances French Hall.

1968

A college library/high school classroom complex is completed at the northeast end of Frances French Hall

1969

James McLaren becomes first academic dean of Hobe Sound Bible College.

1970s

1970s

Thirty acres purchased north of the campground for \$75,000

Ponder Frederick organizes a summer church and serves as summer pastor for several years. During the school year various ministers preach.

1971

Construction begins on third tabernacle (now Carroll Education Center) on recently purchased 30-acre tract. Second tabernacle is remodeled into cafeteria.

Robert Whitaker becomes first vice-president and first dean of students of Hobe Sound Bible College

Edward Palm becomes second academic dean of Hobe Sound Bible College

1976

May—Griffith Hall (music hall) finished and named for evangelist Glenn Griffith

1977

Dr. Connie Palm becomes principal of Hobe Sound Christian Academy

1979

Fourteen acres purchased by college on the west side of Gomez Avenue across from the Carroll Education Center

1980s

1980

October 1—Ground broken for fourth tabernacle (H. Robb French Memorial Tabernacle)

Commissary built (later became the snack shop, then the student center)

HSCA earns FACCS accreditation

1984

February 5—H. Robb French Memorial Tabernacle dedicated

November 28—Third tabernacle remodeled to include a multi-purpose auditorium and classrooms. The auditorium is dedicated as the Carroll Education Center.

Hobe Sound Bible Church officially organized—Rev. Robert Pelton first pastor. G. R. French writes by-laws and constitution.

1985

January 13—**United States Vice President George Bush visits a Sunday evening service at Hobe Sound Bible Church** and greets the congregation.

Robert Whitaker becomes second president of Hobe Sound Bible College. Edward Palm continues as academic dean and becomes vice-president.

Dr. Clifford Churchill becomes principal of Hobe Sound Christian Academy

1986

HSBC earns ABHE accreditation for their programs under Dr. Ed Palm

1990s

1990

TESOL Department established (now Languages and Linguistics Department)

1991

HSBC earns reaffirmation of the highest level of ABHE accreditation

1993

November 5—Herron Center (Administration Building) dedication

1994-1995

John Basham serves as interim president of HSBC

1994

February 25—Stephen Douglas Herron, Jr. passes away in Charlotte, North Carolina

1995

Daniel Stetler becomes third president of HSBC

Dr. Clifford Churchill becomes third academic dean of HSBC

William Marshall becomes principal of HSCA

1998

Cafeteria completely remodeled and refurbished and named the Schmul Center in memory of evangelist Harold Schmul

2000s

2000

Significant technological advancements including state of the art campus servers, campus-wide high-speed internet, state-of-the-art computer labs, smart boards in most classrooms in both College and Academy

2001

HSCA achieves regional accreditation

2004

September 5 and 25—Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne do extensive damage to campus. Most of the campus is without electricity for ten days.

2005

Increased ratio of ministry placement of graduates

October 24—Hurricane Wilma damages the roof of the Men's Dorm and several residences. Campus is without electricity for three days.

2007

Dr. Randall McElwain becomes principal of HSCA

2008

Launch of K-4 program

Carroll Education Center (CEC) Auditorium updated and remodeled

Online Adult Distributed Education Department launched that now offers eleven degrees

2010s

2010

Renovation of music hall and renaming to Archie Coons Fine Arts Center

2013

Brent Jones becomes principal of HSCA

Late-model Setra 53-seat coach purchased debt-free

Construction of Olsen Athletic Complex with lighted softball field, basketball, racquetball, volleyball and tennis courts, and a coach's building with restrooms and a snack shop

2014

Counseling degree added

2015

Renovation of residence halls including roof and window replacement and all-new restroom facilities

Addition of an Academic Assistance Program in the college to enhance student achievement

2016

Expansion of spiritual formation vehicles such as Bible study, prayer and accountability groups

Installation of a campus-wide security video surveillance system

2017

Snack shop completely remodeled and named the Addison Student Center

2018

Masters program established in online department

2019

Launch of K2-3 program

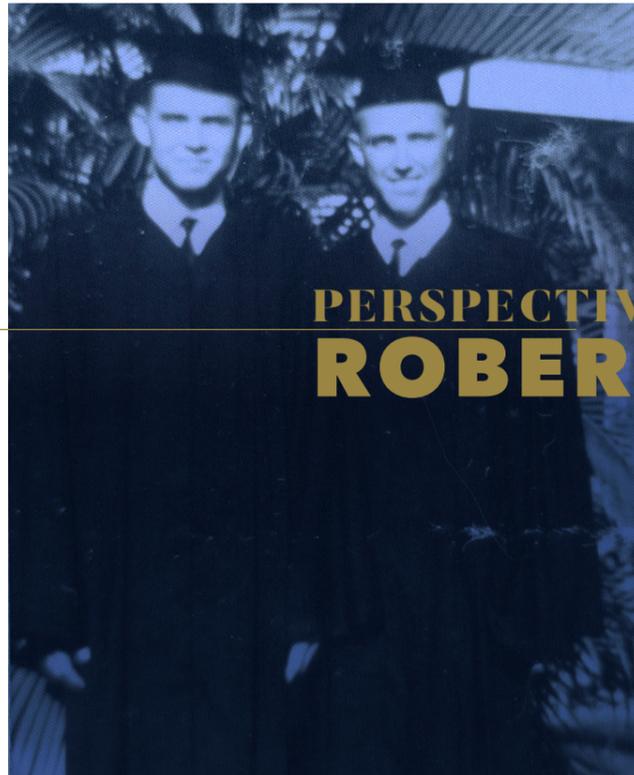
Robert Booth becomes principal of HSCA

Child Evangelism degree added

2020

One-third of faculty holds a doctorate

The Mission Continues...



PERSPECTIVE
ROBERT E. WHITAKER
 by Tom McCall

"I pray that you...may...grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:17-19 NIV

want to do your best and be all that God had made and called and redeemed you to be. Even though he was never my pastor, I knew him in something of a pastoral role: he joined me to Jenny in marriage (along with my wonderful father of blessed memory). He came to the hospital to welcome our children into the world; the tears in his eyes—and ours—were tears of joy as he held our babies in his arms and prayed for them. He drove for hours to be with me and mourn with me after my father passed away. I knew him as a friend and mentor; anytime I was traveling anywhere close to him, I would contact him to see if he had time to meet. He was never too busy and indeed would offer to drive considerable distances so we could be together. I valued his counsel and wisdom so very much.

I knew Robert E. Whitaker as a man of sterling character. He was truly humble—not in the veneer sense of someone who was always impressed with his limitations, but rather as someone who was not that impressed with himself at all. He was utterly devoted to his wonderful wife and appropriately proud of his children and grandchildren. He was bright and studious, and he modeled for us a devotion to study and learning. He was gracious and charitable—always quick to think the best of others and able to see potential in those who did not yet see it. He was bedrock in his commitment to truth and steadfast in his pursuit of holiness and godliness.

When facing difficult decision or tough circumstances, I often find myself wishing I could talk to Dr. Whitaker. I often ask myself, "What would he do?" or "What would he counsel me to do?" Often it is hard to know exactly what he would advise or do, but there is never a question about how he would do it: with utter integrity, with deep and quiet strength, and with grace.

Dr. Thomas McCall, PhD is a professor of biblical and systematic theology at Trinity International University's Evangelical Divinity School and an active alumnus of Hobe Sound Bible College.

My first encounter with Robert E. Whitaker was as a high school senior. It was, I suspect, not all that different from the first encounter many other people had with him: I heard him preach. I had heard a lot of sermons by that point in my life, and it would take a lot for one to be memorable. But I still remember this sermon. He preached from the third chapter of Paul's Ephesian letter, and I especially remember his focus on these words: "I pray that you...may...grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (vv. 17-19 NIV). I had heard many preachers, but this one was different. He was not as loud or as colorful or as forceful as some, but he preached with deep sincerity and integrity and power. I was impressed with the sermon, but mostly I was impressed with the God of whom Dr. Whitaker spoke. It was apparent to me that Dr. Whitaker knew the Bible well, but it was even more obvious that he knew the God of the Bible well. As he opened Scripture, I found myself with a hunger to know this God better. I also wanted to know more about this preacher who proclaimed such love so powerfully. I learned that he was the president of Hobe Sound Bible College.

Several months later I enrolled as a student there, and over the next several years I came to know him well. I knew him as the college president whose teaching would challenge and whose counsel would encourage. I knew him as a leader whose very presence made you

new album from **Hobe Sound Bible College**



Only \$15
 Order at www.hsbc.edu



FUN SHOOT

OK Corral Gun Club
 Okeechobee, FL

March 7, 2020

Register Today
Kara Gumbiner
 Phone: 772-545-1400 Ext. 1033
 Email: karagumbiner@hsbc.edu

All proceeds go to the
**Treasure Coast
 Scholarship Fund**

Registration deadline
March 2, 2020



...in the light of eternity

Continued from Page 2

priceless treasures we have on this earth. I saw little babies and wanted to tell those parents to hold them tightly and pour themselves into them rather than careers and the accumulation of “stuff.”

When I came home, I resumed my duties, mostly working from home. But I was a bit caught off guard when I saw students for the first time. I didn't see the struggles I know many of them have—academic, financial, social and/or spiritual. I saw people—people who are loved by people and who love people. I saw people who are loved by God more than the entire universe. I saw people who have the potential to reach other people and bring them to Jesus. Last Wednesday we were to have our weekly PR student prayer meeting, but it was scheduled as a Christmas party. I wasn't sure I was up to it, but I ultimately decided that Jacinda would want me to do it, so I did.

As I sat and looked into the tearful eyes of those students, I shared with them some lessons from this situation. I told them how important it is to be ready. Jacinda had no warning of what was coming, but she was ready! There is not a doubt in my mind. I told them how important it is to live in such a way that no one will have questions about our eternal destiny when we go. What a comfort and testimony it is to those who are left behind when they can know for sure. I told them how important it is to have a foundation upon which to land when life knocks you off the artificial perch of your earthly comfort zone. You need to know God's Word (You can only claim His promises if you

know them.), and you need to know God Himself. When I was standing beside the highway yelling the name of Jesus, I'm so glad I wasn't scrambling to try to “get right with God.” I wouldn't have even had the presence of mind in those excruciating moments. I knew His promises, I knew Him, and He stood by me! I told them that we must invest our lives in people. People are all that really matter in this world. People are what really matters to God.

Suddenly, it dawned upon me that I had begun to understand the vision that led an H. Robb and Geraldine French to move to the

“I knew His promises, I knew Him, and He stood by me! I told them that we must invest our lives in people. People are all that really matter in this world. People are what really matters to God.”

mosquito-infested wetlands of south Florida and carve out a campus that would become a place where people could meet God and draw closer to Him. Suddenly I realized that I better understood the passion of an S. D. and Dorothy Herron who left secure positions to come start a school from scratch with no organizational support. Suddenly I understood the drive behind the many people who sacrificed to come to Hobe Sound and try to scratch out a living while building a school that would prepare young people to go out into the whitened harvest field. I saw Hobe Sound Bible College in a

completely different light. I saw the brevity of life and the critical importance of being prepared for eternity. I saw the incredible significance of our mission—to “Know Christ and Make Him Known.” In the end that is all that really matters.

Sixty years have come and gone. Thousands of graduates have left these halls to go out and serve the Lord in a myriad of ways. Some have strayed from the course, but many have sown the precious seeds of the gospel that are now reaping an inestimable harvest only eternity will reveal. As we celebrate our sixtieth anniversary, we don't celebrate elaborate buildings, vast endowments, glittering resumes or academic acclaim. We celebrate people—the people who sacrificed blood, sweat and tears to build a Bible college from the ground up. We celebrate the people who came, prepared, and went out to effectively serve the Lord in their calling. We celebrate the people whose lives have been transformed by those efforts. We celebrate the people who will someday stand before God and hear the words “Well done, good and faithful servant” as a result of the many investments made across sixty years of service at Hobe Sound Bible College.

Yes, I'm different, and I'm thankful.

Memorial Contributions may be offered to Hobe Sound Bible College, www.hsbc.edu., PO Box 1065, Hobe Sound, Florida 33475.



HSBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Left to Right) Dennis Johnson, Rebecca Hoard, Pres. Daniel Stetler, Dr. Timothy Slavens, Larry Myers, Paul Kaufman, Matthew Ellison, Charles Baker, Dale Stratton, James Plank, Harold Martin, Leslie Crawford, Brant Luther, Wesley Knapp

The Board of Directors Welcomes You to Homecoming 2020!

HOBE SOUND BIBLE COLLEGE & ACADEMY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Dr. Daniel Stetler, *President* | Dr. Clifford Churchill, *Academic Dean* | Mr. John Jones, *Director of Student Affairs*
Dr. Brent Jones, *Director of Hobe Online* | Mr. Paul Stetler, *Director of Advancement* | Mr. Wesley Holden, *Director of Administrative Services*
Mr. Aaron Hamilton, *Business Office Manager* | Mr. Robert Booth, *Academy Principal*

MILESTONES & MONUMENTS

Continued from Page 3

From a strictly human perspective of course she was absolutely right! Across the years we have frequently experienced desperately difficult circumstances. But the fact of the matter is that twenty-five years after that conversation, we are still here, and God has miraculously provided for our needs over and over again. We have much to be thankful for!

As we pass this 60th Anniversary milestone, I also find myself looking at the future. Anyone who knows the field of education knows that seismic shifts are taking place in the way instruction is being delivered from teachers to students. The internet and online learning are powerful influences shaping the future of education. Bible colleges are not immune to these changes.

Thankfully, HSBC/A was one of the very first Bible colleges in our movement to enter the field of distance learning. We owe an enormous debt to Mr. Dalbert Walker and his son Jason for building our program from the ground up. Dalbert Walker recently retired, and a new leader has stepped forward to lead our continued growth and expansion in this important field. That new leader is Dr. Brent Jones, and he is not yet forty years old!

Thankfully, Dr. Jones is only one of several younger people God has sent to HSBC/A to labor alongside our excellent team of veteran faculty and staff members as we transition into the future. They are some of the finest young educators to be found anywhere in our movement! Three members of our eight-member administrative council that leads day-to-day operations of our school

are under forty years of age. All the members of our academy administrative team are of similar age. And a significant percentage of our teaching staff is made up of younger people who share the passion of those of us who are somewhat older for the historic vision for Christian education which began with Dr. S. D. Herron and continues with us to this very day.

None of us know what the future holds, but we can be assured of one thing. The God who has been so very faithful to Hobe Sound Bible College and Hobe Sound Christian Academy for the last sixty years is not going to fail us as we move into the future. It is the prayer of my heart that we will remain forever true to the purpose God has assigned to us until Jesus comes.



PO Box 1065
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SHOALS, IN
PERMIT NO. 18