



EXPOSITION

Monthly e-Bulletin from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary



From My Window

I recently read the memoir of a student at Dallas Seminary in 1952 who was in a lecture given by the wheelchair-bound founder of DTS, Lewis S. Chafer. Unknown at the time, this beloved theologian would be in the presence of the Lord 90 days later. When the 81-year old professor finished his lecture on the grace of God the class remained silent in their seats. Chafer rolled his chair to the back, turned the light switch off, and the entire class broke into applause. At this show of affection Chafer said, "Gentlemen, over half my life I have been studying this truth . . . and I am just beginning to discover what the grace of God is all about." My prayer is that we too will know more of the amazing grace of God: *"I once was lost but now am found; blind but now I see!"*



The spiritual journey of Carl Miller (*M.B.S.*, 2005) is filled with God's grace and blessing. Carl met his wife, Alyson, while training to be a Russian Linguist in the Air Force. They were married and within two weeks were living in England. Though they attended church, neither trusted Christ as Savior until several years into their marriage. Their conversions gave them an appetite to know God and His Word and led to their life-changing decision to attend Northland Baptist Bible College. They graduated in December 2000, packed up their young family, and moved to Virginia Beach to begin further ministry preparation at VBTS. After seminary, Carl served in full-time positions as youth pastor and pastor, and these ministry roles have prepared he and Alyson to return to England as missionaries under Biblical Ministries Worldwide. Their plan is to minister to the American military and international community in the United Kingdom. Carl's burden to share Christ with the nations gives him the desire to encourage "unity beyond culture" in Christ's Body. We pray that God will speed them on their mission to minister in England!



God, the Author of Our Story

Guest Author: Carl Miller

Proverbs 16:9 says, *"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."* I often reflect how our life is like a book being written. Each passing year, the pages are filled with many adventures, characters, joys, and sorrows. God, the Author of our story, is actively giving roles, writing the plot, and directing each scene. The Lord is fulfilling His plan for our good and His glory!

I think all believers should desire God to compose their story, but at times we are tempted to "take the pen" and construct our own future in accord with our expectations. Sometimes we may accurately see God's will, yet still prefer to write how and when our future will be accomplished. Like Abraham in Genesis 16, we try to "help" God with His purpose for our lives, and sin in the process by following our own will. Our goal becomes an idol, replacing true worship. I am continually learning to resist the temptation of measuring God's faithfulness and goodness by my expectations.

The examples of faith in Hebrews 11 instruct me not to tightly direct my life experiences. My call is to respond to God in obedience to His will; yet this does not guarantee a life free from trials, suffering, or even physical death. While we may fail to understand what God may be doing, we are to live a life of faith—trusting and obeying Him in every circumstance and through every experience.

When you enlist in the military, you are agreeing to be sent anywhere in the world to fulfill the mission of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States. When you surrender to Christ, the mission of glorifying God is your priority. We do this by fulfilling the Great Commission, through evangelizing the lost and edifying believers. Every believer is enlisted in this work. Some will do this in their neighborhood and workplace, while others will be sent overseas. Wherever or however God directs, we must recognize our lives are not to be lived for ourselves but for the One who created and saved us. Our goal as a family is simply this: In both the comforts and challenges of life, John 3:30 is the theme of our story—*"He must increase; I must decrease."*

Would you pray for us as God begins a new chapter in our story? After serving 12 years in pastoral ministry, God began to burden us to have a greater role in discipling military personnel and families. (Even while I was at VBTS, I remained in the Air National Guard and was able to assist missionaries to the military.) Learning about an exciting opportunity in England, we took a survey trip, and prayed to God for wisdom. We have accepted His call to England and are on deputation to minister to the 28,000 military personnel and families stationed at RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall. In addition, the local international community hungers to learn and speak English, which allows for immediate ministry to the nations upon our arrival. God, in His sovereign grace, has given us unique experiences to enable us to effectively minister to those living there. Whether it be our military and ministry experiences, language training, or the current part-time job teaching ESL to Chinese students, God is shaping us for this moment to serve Him.

*If you want to follow the Millers and the Lord's work in England,
visit ukmillers.com and subscribe to their email list.*