

Elijah M. Brown

Assistant Professor of Missions
East Texas Baptist University

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EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh, New College
Doctor of Philosophy
Edinburgh, Scotland
2008

Thesis: "The Road to Peace: The Role of the Southern Sudanese Church in Communal Stabilisation and National Resolution"

Thesis Examiners: Kevin Ward, Senior Lecturer, African Religious Studies, University of Leeds; Sarah Dorman, Lecturer, Politics and International Relations, University of Edinburgh

Thesis examines the development of north-south Sudanese peace while highlighting issues related to the maturation of indigenous Christianity, missions and church growth, conflict resolution and reconciliation, and religion and politics

Field research was multi-site in 5 countries with over 150 individuals interviewed ranging from refugee camps to Presidential Palaces; Research was undertaken in Kenya, Sudan, Texas, Uganda, United Kingdom and Washington D.C.

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Bachelor of Arts
Double Major: Religion, History; 4.0 GPA
Belton, Texas
2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Missions
East Texas Baptist University
June 2009 – Present
Marshall, Texas

- Courses Taught: Christian Missions, Cross-Cultural Missions, Community Ministry, Comparative World Religions, Leading and Learning, Ministry Formations, Introduction to the Old Testament (Honors and General Sections), Introduction to the New Testament (Honors, Online and General sections), Internship in Religion, Principles and Methodologies of Church Planting, World Christianity (Masters course)

- Vice-Chair, Chair, Immediate Past Chair, Faculty Senate
East Texas Baptist University
- May 2010 – May 2013
Marshall, Texas
- Faculty in Residence
East Texas Baptist University, University Apartments
- August 2011 – Present
Marshall, Texas
- Teaching Assistant
History of Christianity as a World Religion
- School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh
Fall 2005

RESEARCH AND TEACHING SPECIALIZATIONS AND INTERESTS

Specializations:

- Introduction, History and Development of Global Christianity
- Missions
- Christian Theology in Africa; History of Christianity in Africa
- Religion and Politics in Africa, Asia and Latin America

Ongoing Research Interests:

- Sudanese Christianity; in particular the influence of Islam and Traditional African Religion, the development of civil religion and political interaction, and the effects of war and refugee displacement on theology and ecclesiology
- Emerging Non-Western Christianity
- Freedom of Religion
- Impact of Christianity on international relations, political engagement, and ethical concerns of justice, human rights and conflict resolution

CHURCH RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Pulpit Supply
Soda Lake Baptist Association
- June 2009 – Present
Texas
- Bible Study Teacher, Faith Class
First Baptist Church of Marshall
- May 2010 – Present
Marshall, Texas
- Chair, Pastor Search Committee
First Baptist Church of Marshall
- November 2011 – September 2012
Marshall, Texas
- Missional Coordinating Committee
First Baptist Church of Marshall
- April 2010 – April 2012
Marshall, Texas
- Business as Mission Conference Coordinator
- September – October 2008

Conference organized for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Mission to Unreached Peoples and First Baptist Church of Plano, Texas; Theme: How world class business can intersect profits, missions and community responsibility

Pulpit Supply
Baptist Union of Scotland

Scotland
2006 – 2007

Associate Pastor, Taylor's Valley Baptist Church, Temple, Texas

2002 – 2004

Led all discipleship and education activities for an average attendance of 200 with a volunteer leadership team of 50 individuals; Introduced new Sunday morning children's program as well as new young and middle adult divisions; Oversaw church outreach; Assisted in management, office administration and pulpit supply

GLOBAL BAPTIST INVOLVEMENT

Board of Consultants
Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas

2012 – Present

Commission on Theological Education and Leadership Formation
Baptist World Alliance

2012 – 2015

Commission on Religious Freedom, Baptist World Alliance

2010 – 2015

Duties include supporting the BWA and its member bodies in their advocacy for the protection of fundamental human rights for people of all faiths, especially for Baptists and other Christians who experience or face the threat of persecution

General Council Member, Baptist World Alliance
Representing the Baptist General Convention of Texas

2010 – 2015

Lead Facilitator
Baptist World Alliance Emerging Leaders Blog

December 2008 – 2010
<http://bwa-eln.blogspot.com>

Blog helped facilitate connection, interaction and dialogue between emerging global Baptists in their 20s – 40s with posts from Baptists in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Oceania and North America; In first six months the blog attracted 865 unique visitors from 85 different countries

Commission on Freedom and Justice, Baptist World Alliance

2005 – 2010

Duties include raising awareness and advocacy strategies for situations of conflict and injustice; contributing to knowledge and practices related to peace building, human rights and freedom of religion; advancing the BWA's program of Freedom and Justice

Developed and increased global awareness and advocacy for the Sudan Interior Church (SIC), a repressed minority Baptist denomination in Sudan of more than 40,000 members including assisting in a reconciliation process that resulted in an organizational merger and structural unification of two Sudanese Baptist denominations into one in

2008. In addition to the above I carried the first international Baptist greeting to the Executive Committee of the SIC-North and helped facilitate an introduction of the newly reunited SIC to the AABF

Helped craft official BWA resolutions on Refugees and Immigration (2008), Modern Day Slavery (2007) and Sudan (2007, 2006)

PUBLICATIONS

“The All of the Great Commission” <i>ETBU Centennial Devotional Guide</i>	October 2012
Quoted in “Moderate Baptists Face Generation Gap” <i>Associated Baptist Press</i>	September 12, 2012
Quoted in “ETBU Partners in Ethiopian Ministry” <i>Baptist Standard</i>	April 13, 2011
Quoted in “Southern Sudanese Vote, Baptist Scholars Note Challenges” EthicsDaily.com	January 11, 2011
“Statement on Sudan Referendum” An International Press Release for the Baptist World Alliance	January 5, 2011
Exchanging Culture through Music at the World Congress <i>Congress Daily, 20th Baptist World Congress</i>	July 31, 2010
Musicians help World Congress-Goers ‘Hear the Spirit’ <i>Congress Daily, 20th Baptist World Congress</i>	July 30, 2010
Sudan: Building Unity in the Midst of Conflict <i>Baptist World</i>	January/March 2009
Book Review: Just War, Lasting Peace: What Christian Traditions Can Teach Us <i>Studies in World Christianity</i>	Fall 2007
‘Disappointed but Victorious’: The Sudanese Church <i>Baptist Times</i>	December 7, 2006
Sudan’s Legacy of War <i>Baptist Times</i>	November 30, 2006

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

“A Central Periphery: Missional Reflections on Early and Contemporary African Church Growth.”
Master of Arts in Religion Graduate Conference, East Texas Baptist University, April 15, 2013.

“The Big Questions (BQ) Discussion Forum,” an online forum exploring questions critical for spiritual formation among contemporary university students. Co-hosted by Dr. Paul Cortis, immediate past president of the Council for Christian Colleges and University and Dr. David Dockery, president of Union University, February 2013.

“God’s Kingdom Plan: The Missio Dei.” Winter Break Speaker for FBC Hallsville Family Retreat, Lakeview Baptist Assembly and Conference Center, Lone Star, Texas, January 26, 2013

“On the Word with Elijah Brown.” Presented as a weekly Bible study on the East Texas Baptist University Radio, approximately twenty-five sessions, 2012-2013.

“Process and Values Pursued in Hiring a Pastor,” presented to the Marshall Rotary Club, Marshall, Texas, August 20, 2012.

“Mandate for the Nations,” presented at the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course, Houghton, Louisiana, September 24, 2012.

“Mandate for the Nations,” presented at the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course, Shreveport, Louisiana, September 25, 2012.

“Human Trafficking: A Christian Response.” Presented at the ETBU Encounter Culture Forum, March 2012.

Seminar on Academic Leadership in Baptist Universities, Participant, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, May 2011.

“Ephesians: A Book Study: Introduction and Overview of Ephesians, Ephesians 2:1-10, Ephesians 3:14-21, Ephesians 5:4-14 and Ephesians 6:10-24.” Presented as part of a Theological Conference at Bright Hope Theological College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 2011.

“The Keepers of Their Peace: An International Reflection on Standing for Justice.” Presented at the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, Southwest Region, Dallas, Texas, March 2011.

“Why Church?” Presented to the Theta Alpha Kappa Society of East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas, October 2010.

“A Critical Juncture: Insights into the Contemporary Pursuit of Religious Freedom.” Presented at the 20th Baptist World Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii, July 2010.

“Our Witness to the World: Reflections from 1 Peter.” Presented at Bright Hope Theological College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2010.

“Is the Muslim My Neighbor? Reflections from a Baptist Perspective.” Presented to the Theta Alpha Kappa Society of East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas, October 2009.

“Global Leadership: Leading in an Age of Globalization.” Presented to the Baptist World Alliance Emerging Leaders Network, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 2009.

“New Forces of Expansion: Nineteenth Century Missions.” Presented to The Story of Missions Class, Truett Seminary, Waco, Texas, March 2009.

Discussion Paper: “Navigating Reconciliation: The New Sudan Council of Churches in Ethnic Peace Mediation.” Presented to the Baptist World Alliance Emerging Network Discussion Group, January 2009.

“Reflections from the Book of Ruth.” Presented to the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Freedom and Justice, Prague, Czech Republic, July 2008.

“Update on Sudan.” Presented to the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Freedom and Justice, Prague, Czech Republic, July 2008.

“The Role of the Church in Kakuma Refugee Camp.” Presented to the New College Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non Western World Seminar, University of Edinburgh, November 2006.

A World for All? The Ethics of Global Civil Society, Conference Associate. School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin and Center for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh, September 2005.

“A Swinging Pendulum: The World Council of Churches Developing View of Mission and Evangelism Through the Influence of the Lausanne Movement in the 1970s and 1980s.” Presented to the Scottish Postgraduate Research Conference, University of St. Andrews, June 2005.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Temple Bible Church, Temple, Texas, Fall 2003.

Missions Emphasis Week, Co-Director, University of Mary-Hardin Baylor, November 2000.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Professional Memberships:

American Academy of Religion 2009 – Present

Ministry Credentials:

Ordination to the Ministry Taylor’s Valley Baptist Church
Temple, Texas July 2002

License to the Ministry
Bertram, Texas

First Baptist Church of Bertram
May 1999

Research, Mission Trips and Personal Travel:

Botswana, China, Czech Republic, Dubai, Ethiopia, Ghana, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy,
Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, South Africa, South Sudan,
Sudan, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe

AWARDS AND HONORS

East Texas Baptist University Annual Favorite Faculty and Staff Recipient Campus Wide Student Vote, East Texas Baptist University	2011 – 2012
East Texas Baptist University Annual Favorite Faculty and Staff Finalist Campus Wide Student Vote, East Texas Baptist University	2010 – 2011
Global Emerging Leader One of sixty worldwide for the Baptist World Alliance	2007 – 2010
Small Projects Grant University of Edinburgh Development Trust	2006
New College Travel Grant New College, University of Edinburgh	2006
Outstanding Scholar, Department of Religion University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	2002
Outstanding Scholar, Department of History University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	2002
Young Maston Scholar Texas Baptist Universities	2001
Presidential Leadership Scholarship, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	1999 – 2002

Synopsis of Ph.D. Thesis:

The Road to Peace: The Role of the Southern Sudanese Church in Communal Stabilisation and National Resolution

On January 9, 2005, amidst great fanfare and ceremony the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) formally signed a peace agreement with the Government of Sudan ending a twenty-two year civil war witnessing two million deaths, the internal displacement of three to four million individuals and the forced migration of over six hundred thousand Sudanese into the refugee camps of neighboring nations. Throughout this period of destabilization the Sudanese church moved from marginalized periphery to central axis and emerged as a principal mediator in the peace process. During this period Sudan was the site of the fastest growing church in Africa, and over the last eighteen years, Christianity has grown from approximately 10% to 70% of the southern Sudanese population.

Based on current theories of displacement, social identity and conflict resolution and with extensive field research that included consultation with more than one hundred fifty church and political leaders ranging from grassroots pastors to Sudanese Presidential Advisors and Cabinet Ministers, the thesis examines the part played by churches in the communal stabilization of three refugee settings and in the national resolution of the second Sudanese civil war.

The thesis commences with an examination of three grassroots communities in refuge, Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, the internally displaced of Hajj Yusuf, Khartoum and OIiji Refugee Camp in Uganda. In establishing the social impact and influence of the churches on the respective displaced community, each of the three local manifestations function as a case study detailing endeavors by Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Catholic and Pentecostal churches to respond to arisen needs, resolve political instabilities and reconcile ethnic tensions. Though the exact influence of the churches differs in each context, one overarching theme that emerges is greatly enhanced communal stabilization. The Sudanese churches function as empowerment-generating communities that rehabilitate disrupted social networks, produce symbols compatible with the refugee experience and provide a limited basis of social cohesion and stability parallel to patterns of traditional African religion.

Alongside the numerical growth and social impact of the churches at the local level, the ecumenical New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) employed a three-tiered strategy to facilitate national resolution of the second civil war as is delineated in the second half of the thesis. First, through the 'people-to-people peace process' the NSCC directly mediated grassroots reunification throughout southern Sudan by reconciling divided ethnicities and strengthening mechanisms of civil participation. Second, the NSCC functioned as the primary channel of SPLM/A criticism and utilized its growing clout to pressure the SPLM/A to adopt measures of good governance and pursue in good faith negotiated settlement with the Government of Sudan. Third, the NSCC stood behind a successful international campaign that lobbied and secured engagement from regional and European and American governments critical to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Finally, the thesis demonstrates how Sudanese Christianity interacted and developed alongside Islam and traditional African religion, rationales and propagation strategies behind the explosive Christian growth and some of the key theological and ecclesiological beliefs of the Sudanese church. The thesis further delineates several conflict mediatory keys, highlights the importance of religious freedom, demonstrates that human rights are relevant and critical in contemporary international relations and encourages the development of comprehensive approaches to the building of responsible governance that is inclusive of local, regional and international partners and realities.