

## **J. LANIER BURNS**

Research Professor, Theological Studies  
Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology  
Dallas Theological Seminary  
Dallas, Texas

### **EDUCATION**

A.B., Davidson College (1965)  
Th.M. (1972, Biblical Languages), Dallas Theological Seminary  
Th.D. (1979, Ancient Near Eastern Religions), Dallas Theological Seminary  
Ph.D. (1993, Humanities, History of Ideas), University of Texas, Dallas  
Post-doctoral research, Harvard University, Fall 2001  
Oxford University (England) Round Table, Spring 2007, Summer 2009, Summer 2010,  
Summer 2011, Summer 2013  
Seminar on the "Ethics of War: Viet Nam as a Case Study," The Naval Training Center, Norfolk,  
VA, 1995

### **MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

Youth director,  
Davidson Presbyterian Church, NC (1962–65);  
Grace Bible Church, San Antonio, TX (1966–67); and  
Believer's Chapel, Dallas, Texas (1968–72).  
Evangelism and Discipleship Coordinator  
The Navigators, San Antonio, TX (1966–68);  
South Dallas Christian Academy, Dallas, TX (1969–73); and  
Steve Wingfield Ministries School of Evangelism and Pastoral Leadership, Associate  
Evangelist and Discipleship Coordinator, Harrisonburg, VA (1991–98).  
Conference Speaker  
Mount Hermon (1983), Keswick (1984), Sandy Cove (1989), Pine Cove (1992–94)  
Home Bible Study and Sunday School teacher in San Antonio, Irving, Dallas, and Plano,  
TX ;  
Jiles Brooks Memorial Lectures, Calvary Baptist Church, New York, NY (1997);  
John Memorial Lectures, Asian Christian Academy, Bangalore, India (2001, 2005, 2013,  
2015);  
Plenary Speaker, "Science and Religion," Oxford University (England), Spring 2007.  
Pastoral Leadership (Preaching, Teaching, Administration)  
Plano Bible Chapel (1974–82), Elder (1974–82);  
Northwest Bible Church, Dallas, TX (1986–91),  
Teacher, the Hesus Class; Board of Elders, 1999– ; Chairman, 1999–2000, 2000-  
01).

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

President, The American Council of the Asian Christian Academy (Evangelical, Theological  
Seminary and Asian Christian High School, orphanage, and the Agape Hospital),  
Bangalore, India (1973–). Honored by having the "Library and Research Centre" named  
in my honor.  
Board of Advisors, The Providence School, Dallas, TX (1991–)  
Board of Advisors, The Cambridge School, Dallas TX (2002–)  
Board of Advisors, The West Dallas Community School, Dallas, TX (1990–2000)  
Board of Directors, Africa Discipleship and Leadership Crusade (ADLC), Inc., (1999–2001)  
Consultant, The Damaris Project, Dallas, TX (1998–2000)  
Committee on Academic Excellence, Highland Park Independent School District, Dallas TX  
(1989–90)  
Board of Directors, K-Life Ministries, Dallas, TX (1991–98)  
Chairman of the Board (1998-1999);  
Board of Directors, Pine Cove Ministries, Tyler, TX (1993–99)

Secretary of the Board (1993–96)  
 Chairman of the Board (1997)  
 Board of Advisors, Pine Cove Ministries, Tyler, TX (1998–)  
 Board of Advisors, The Hope Center (2017 --)  
 Editorial Consultant, Academic Books Division, Zondervan  
 Publishing House (1988–)  
 Ethics Oversight Committee, Dallas 2012 Olympics, 1999–2001  
 “Friends’ Circle” of the Center for Brain Health, Dallas, TX, 2002 –  
 “Friend” of the Livada Orphan Care in Romania, 2001 --  
 Religion Consultant, *The Los Angeles Times* (1998–2001)

## MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (1982–)  
 Steering Committee, “People, Culture, and Religion Seminar” (1998–2000)  
 Planning Committee, “New Religious Movements Seminar” (1998–2000)  
 American Philological Association (1982–89)  
 Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity (2002–)  
 Evangelical Theological Society (1979–)  
 Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, Inc., 2003–  
 The Renaissance Society of America (1988–94)  
 Society of Biblical Literature (1982–)  
 Society of Christian Philosophers (1979–94)  
 Society for Neuroscience (2007 --)  
 Society for Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR, 2201 --)

*Who’s Who in America* (1985)  
*Who’s Who in Religion* (1985)  
*Distinguished Leadership Society* (1986)  
*Who’s Who in Science and Theology* (1995)  
*Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers: The Best Teachers in America Selected by the Best Students* (1996, 2002, 2003)  
*Remarkable Professors of Theology* (2014 --)  
*Covington’s Who’s Who of Professionals*, 2015

Senior Class Award for Faculty Excellence (1986, 1999, 2012)  
 The Edwards Award for Faculty Excellence (2002)  
 Distinguished Alumni Award, The McCallie School, 2011

## FAMILY

Wife, Kathy, Director of Volunteers and Library, West Dallas Community School (1995), Women’s Ministries, Northwest Bible Church (1980–), Partners Ministry, Dallas Theological Seminary (1982–), Coordinator of Luke’s Closet (2000 --). Kathy has been active in Bible Study Fellowship.

Children:

John (born 1969), B.A., Vanderbilt, 1992; M.D. University of Texas, Galveston, 1998. Presently surgeon at Dallas Plastic Surgery Institute.. Married to Ann, intellectual properties attorney, Fulbright and Jaworski. Their three children are John Lanier III (2004), David William (2006), and Lucy Caroline (2009).

Laura Ferguson (born 1971), B.A. Duke, 1993; M.S., Texas Womens University, 1997. Post-operative Physical Therapist at Baylor Medical Center, Dallas, TX. (1997–99). Laura is married to Malcolm (computer engineer with Hewlett Packard) and is a homemaker with daughters, Lauren Elizabeth (2001) and Kendall Katherine (2003).

Katherine Diehl (born 1974), B.S. Baylor University, 1966. Child Life Therapist for Terminal Children at Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston, TX. (1996–98) and personnel recruiter in Houston TX (1999–2000). Presently, Administrative Assistant at Leap Foundation, Dallas, TX,

(2001–). Married to Billy, investment counselor with UBS. Their daughters are Brantley (2004), and Mary Katherine (2007), and Caroline Ashley (2009).

Mary Houston (born 1978). B.F.A., University of Texas at Arlington, 2003. Married to Ryan Houston, Rancher and Construction Supervisor and Developer. Mary and Ryan have fraternal twins, Burns Ryan and Katherine Elizabeth (2008) and Bryn Laura (1 month)..

### WRITINGS

**1984**

“Our Father in Heaven,” Kindred Spirit (1984)

**1985**

“Living God’s Truth by Practicing Biblical Theology,” Dallas Seminary Literature Ministries, 1985.

**1992**

“The Future of Ethnic Israel in Romans 9-11.” *Dispensationalism, Israel and the Church: The Search for Definition* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992). Edited by Craig Blaising and Darrell Bock.

**1995**

“The Meaning of Apocalypse,” expert commentator for a documentary film by the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, CA.

**1996**

“Hermeneutical Issues and Principles in Hebrews as Exemplified in the Second Chapter,” Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, 39/4 (December 1996), 587-607.

**1997**

“Cultural Lies the Church Believes: Our Value Is Vested in the Role We Play,” Moody Monthly (Winter, 1997)

**1998**

Numerous articles Inter-Varsity’s Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, eds. Leland Ryken, James Wilhoit and Tremper Longman III (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1998)

**1999**

“Our Value As People Is Not Defined by Our Role in Church and Society,” Moody Monthly (Fall 1999)

“Israel and the Church in Progressive Dispensationalist (with response to the traditional position),” in Three Central Issues in Contemporary Dispensationalism, ed. by Herbert W. Bateman (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1999), 252-303.

**2001**

“Hope: The Heart of Eschatology,” in Looking to the Future: Evangelical Studies in Eschatology, ed. David W. Baker (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Press, 2001), 177-198.

2007-2010

"Ghandi," in InterVarsity's Dictionary of Christian Apologetics (2007).

"Social Justice," in Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell). Ed. By G. T. Kurian.

"The Chosen People and Jewish Evangelism," in To the Jew First: The Case for Jewish Evangelism in Scripture and History, eds. Darrell Bock and Mitch Glazer. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2008.

## 2009

The Nearness of God: His Presence for Our Pilgrimage, Presbyterian and Reformed, 2009.

"From Ordered Soul to Corrupted Nature: Sin in Calvin's Drama," chapter for the International Evangelical Recognition of Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup>. *John Calvin and Evangelical Theology: Legacy and Prospect* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2009. Ed. By Sung Wook Chung.

"Moltmann's Anthropology," for an international consortium on Jürgen Moltmann, 2009

"The Scientific Method through the Lens of Neuroscience: From Willis to Broad," presented at Oxford University and published in the *Forum on Public Policy (Oxford)*

## 2010

Article on "A Contemporary Definition of Terrorism" presented at the Oxford Round Table and published in the *Forum on Public Policy (Oxford)*

## 2011

Articles on "Jesus Christ," "Resurrection," "Sin," and "Evil" for the *Lexham Bible Dictionary*

Article on "The KJV (1611) as Mirrored on its Preface" presented to the Oxford Round Table and to be published in the *Forum on Public Policy*

## 2012

"Moltmann's Theological Anthropology: From Crisis to Kingdom." *Jurgen Moltmann: A Critical Engagement* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2010)

## 2015

Wrote "Anthropology and Sin" for *Explorations in Theology*, vol. 2 (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House). Edited by Nathan Holsteen and Michael Svigal.

"The King James Version (1611)." *Leitourgia: Christian Service, Collected Essays* (Bangalore, IN: Primalogue). Edited by Andrew Spurgeon.

"The Comfort of God's Presence, John 14," for *Bibliotheca Sacra* (Summer 2015)

"Marriage as a Hermeneutical Model," at Evangelical Theological Society, 2015, in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Critical Essays

"Philip Yancey's The Jesus I Never Knew," delivered to the DTS Faculty in the Spring of 1996.

"What's Being Discussed and Who's Discussing It," Faculty Workshop, August 1997.

"Gordon Fee's God's Empowering Presence and Paul, the Spirit and the People of God," delivered to the DT Faculty in April of 1997.

"The Trinity: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Trinity," presented at numerous churches during the year, 1999.

"Philip Yancey's Reaching for the Invisible God: What Can We Expect to Find?," delivered to the DTS faculty on March 1, 2001.

"The Future of Hope: Christian Tradition amid Modernity and Postmodernity," for Multnomah's Cultural Encounters journal, Fall of 2005.

### Lectureships

I delivered

"The Historicity of the New Testament Narratives," "The Historicity of the Resurrection of Christ," and "The Divinity of Jesus Christ and the Revelation of the Trinity," at the Campus Crusade Conference on "Jesus Christ: God and Man," November 1986,

The Jiles Brooks Memorial Lectures at Calvary Baptist Church in New York City (1997), and

The John Memorial Lectures in Bangalore, India (2001, 2005, 2009, 2015). In these lectures I expounded my commitment to biblical theology and the unity of the Bible. Calvary and ACA retain rights to the content of the lectures. At Calvary, I exposed the bifurcation of the "Jesus of history" and the "Christ of faith" in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century theology. Some of my work on "alternative religious movements" surfaced in the lectures. In India, I surveyed the progressive revelation of the covenant in the Bible and argued for its Christ-centeredness. These lectures were well received, and I consider them an important part of my ministry.

### Presentations at the Evangelical Theological Society (national)

1994, "Hermeneutical Issues in Hebrews as Exemplified in the Second Chapter," Chicago, IL, published in JETS the following year.

1995, National ETS, "Peace: A Bridge between New Age Hope and Biblical Promise," Philadelphia, PA.

1996, National ETS, "Personality of the Holy Spirit: Past and Present Issues," Jackson, MS.

1997, National ETS, "Not Far from Each of Us," San Jose, CA. Published in The Asian Biblical Expositor (2001)

1998, National ETS, "Teaching Them to Obey: The Conscience from Biblical Text through History to the Net," Orlando, FLA. Formal response to Ed Glenn's "Hermeneutics in Dispensationalism" paper.

1999, National ETS, "Hope: The Heart of Eschatology," Danvers, MA.

2000, National ETS, "Israel in the Thought of Heschel," Nashville, TN.

### Other Presentations

Numerous, annual speaking engagements at Dallas Seminary to include chapels, spiritual formation groups, and World Focus Events

1986, I presented "God," "The Trinity," and the "The Future" on the Dallas Seminary Doctrinal Films in November of the year.

1994, "Nishitani's Concept of Being as Nothingness," AAR-Southwest Presentation

1994, "The Authority of the Bible, The Word of God," *Asian Bible Expositor*, Fall 1994.

1997, Report on Columbia International University's Accreditation for SACS as a member of the Reaffirmation-of-Accreditation Committee

1998, Maguire Center for Ethics, Southern Methodist University, "The Ethics of Contracts and Other 'Promises'," February 1998

- 1998, Southwest Philosophical Forum, "Clio, Muse of the Past with Clues for Our Present," February 1998
- 2000, Dallas Seminary and churches in the area, "New Spirituality: One Part Jesus, Two Parts Buddha," throughout the year
- 2001, "Preaching in a Multicultural World," in AEM Commentary, DTS Alumni Magazine
- 2003, "A Summary and Review of Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ'," presented at numerous churches
- 2004, Seminar on "Sexuality in *The DaVinci Code*," (with Ms. Vicki Kraft), Northwest Bible Church, Dallas, TX, January 2004
- Seminar on "The *DaVinci Code* as Art and Literature," (with Ms. Jan Weinbrenner), Northwest Bible Church, Dallas, TX, January 2004
- 2005, "Left Behind?: A Critical Analysis of the Series," for Austin Presbyterian Seminary's journal *Insight*
- 2005, "The *DaVinci Code* as a Global Phenomenon," Texas A & M University, The Hudson Institute (a university presentation)
- 2008, Review of Kevin Vanhoozer's *Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical-Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology*.
- 2009 "Christmas Devotionals" for DTS Advancement, Summer 2008 -- 2013
- 2010, A second book with Presbyterian and Reformed is under contract. Its subject is the biblical significance of humility.
- 2015, Memorial articles for Howard Hendricks and Fred Howe.

#### **Subjects: Interests and Expertise**

Trinitarianism  
 Anthropology, Hamartiology, Angelology, Eschatology  
 Theology and Society  
 Theology and Science, especially Neuroscience  
 The 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
 Historiography  
 New Religious Movements, Alternative Religious Movements  
 Theology of the Pentateuch  
 Theology of John  
 Pauline Theology  
 Theology of Hebrews  
 Catholic Theology (Roman and Eastern Orthodox)