

# LEGACY

THE LIFE OF

## BRYCE JESSUP





*"You will read throughout this issue about our dear President Emeritus Bryce Jessup who went to be face-to-face with Jesus earlier this year. We are now, all of us, clearly in a season of legacy." – Dr. John Jackson*

**BRYCE JESSUP**  
1935 - 2020

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A PUBLICATION OF WILLIAM JESSUP UNIVERSITY,  
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

In partnership with the Church, the purpose of **William Jessup University** is to educate transformational leaders for the glory of God.

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# HOW LEGACY WORKS

DR. JOHN JACKSON, PRESIDENT

Second Kings 2 is a powerful and yet curious passage of Scripture. It essentially records the literal passing of the mantle from Elijah to Elisha in the form of both a physical receiving of the prophet's cloak, but also in the form of a double blessing. That passage is a powerful statement about legacy. That is how legacy works.

Matthew 13:1-23 and 2 Timothy 2:2 are somewhat of a New Testament parallel. Paul exhorts Timothy to take what he has received and pass it on to others who continue to share the message. That is how legacy works. Jesus tells a parable about a sower who sows the seed of the Gospel on different kinds of soil. The best kind of soil bears a harvest of 30-60-100 fold. That is how legacy works.

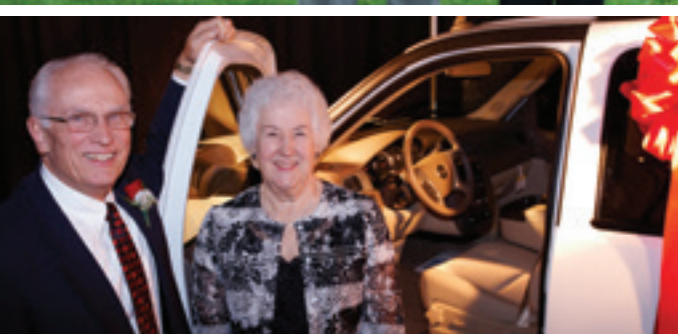
William Jessup University, and all our friends and family around the nation and globe have entered that season, not even of our own choosing. You will read throughout this issue about our dear President Emeritus Bryce Jessup who went to be face-to-face with Jesus earlier this year. We are now, all of us, clearly in a season of legacy. For many of you, the tributes you read here will spark your own memories and you will fondly recall times you had with Bryce. For others of you, you did not know Bryce personally and perhaps have no encounters about which to speak...BUT...you are part of the legacy here at Jessup that he poured into. That is how legacy works.

I personally believe Bryce is rejoicing in heaven as he sees the "ripple effect" of his reunions in heaven with those who touched his life, and the

ripple effect of how his life has impacted so many here, both directly, and indirectly, and then generationally. We have many people at Jessup who have generations of impact in their lives, extending from San Jose Bible College to San Jose Christian College to William Jessup University. That is how legacy works.

Please join us in remembering Bryce, living out what Jesus has done in your life and being faithful to Him, and if you are able to do so, participating in the Bryce and Jo Jessup Legacy Endowment Fund which Bryce longed to see reach \$1 million by his 90th birthday. I personally believe, along with many friends of his, that he was thinking too small! God can do more than we could ever ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). That is how legacy works.

**Thank you for being a faithful friend.**





# TO ME, HE WAS DAD

BY: JIM JESSUP, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS



*In this issue, you are going to read many stories of how my father deeply impacted the lives of the people with whom he came in contact. Some called him "Pastor, Dr., Reverend, Mr. President, and Sir." But I called him "Dad."*

Many people would say to me, "Bryce is amazing. He is such a great guy. He is an incredible leader." I would nod and say, "Yep. He's okay."

I think I was too close to my dad as a child to realize he really was an incredible guy. When I was in high school, I was obsessed with playing basketball. I noticed dad's paper calendar one day (before Google) and realized he had written in all of my games, even the away games where he was often the only parent in the visiting team grandstands! I knew he was very busy as a pastor at Central Christian Church in San Jose but, he made me a priority in his life.

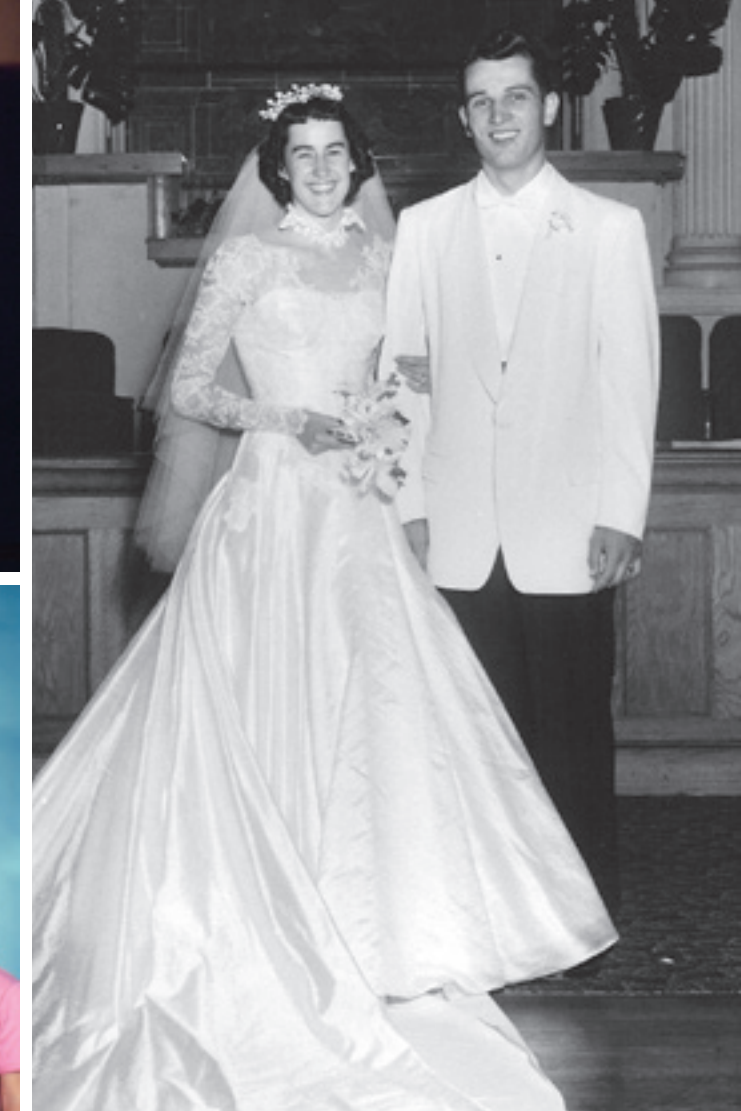
I realized as I grew older that many people felt like Bryce Jessup cared about them. Many would look to him as a father figure, and they would tell me that they even viewed him as their father. Maybe they just needed a

dad who would put them on his calendar. If you knew my father, you felt like there was always room on his calendar for you. I think that is just one of the reasons people loved my dad.

As you read other stories shared by those who were impacted by my father and his faith in Christ, I hope you will remember a man who simply wanted to glorify God in all he did. He knew that loving others through the grace of God was the best way to do it!

Now if my father was still among us, he would say with a smile through his lovingly sarcastic attitude, "Thanks for the tribute, but now roll up your sleeves and get to work! What are you standing around for? There is much to be done to help change the landscape of eternity!"

A foundation has been laid by the faithful support and prayers of people like you who believe in the mission of William Jessup University. Today, great leadership is in place to move WJU into the future as we train up the next generation of Christian leaders. Together, let's keep pressing on toward the goal!



Top left: Jim Jessup on his dad's ham radio.

Top right: Newlyweds Bryce and Jo Jessup.

Second row: Young Jessup siblings Jerri, Jim and Janice. Also pictured with parents Bryce and Jo.

Third row: Jessup family members join Bryce on his 80th birthday hiking trip to Half Dome. Carrying on the family tradition, Bryce performs the infamous Jessup headstand.

To right: A special photo including most of the extended Jessup family.





# EXCAVATING MEMORIES

BY: JOE WOMACK, Ed.D.  
PRESIDENT, BUSHNELL UNIVERSITY



In the 14 years I served under Bryce Jessup's leadership, we had one argument. Turning west on Sunset Boulevard in Rocklin, after having visited Adventure Christian Church, Bryce chided, "You turned the wrong way." We were heading back to San Jose after a long day and needed to find Interstate 80. "No, I didn't," I replied, and the quarrel ensued. Strangely heated, we debated as we drove along in a then, mostly unfamiliar town.

Our spirits were worn in the spring of 2002 after having expended a number of years, a significant amount of money, and a great deal of energy in an attempt to find and secure a new campus for San Jose Christian College. That spring, the wonderful news that we had been granted regional accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (something the college had tried to accomplish throughout the 1990s) was dampened by a demoralizing failure. After purchasing the former St. Louise Hospital in Morgan Hill (a small town just south of San Jose) for our new campus home, hiring an architect to design and plan its renovation, launching a capital campaign, and lobbying over a year for the necessary permits with the city, we failed to gain their approval.

Following the late-night conclusion of a city council meeting near the end of our struggle, I drove to the parking lot in front of the main entrance to St. Louise Hospital and stopped to pray. I had followed this practice dozens of times, sitting in the dark pleading with God to intervene with the city to allow us to use the vacant

property to His glory. Realizing our plans were not His, I broke down. I don't recall how long I sat in such a state but at some point, I realized Bryce had driven up next to me and was staring at me out his passenger-side window. I rolled my window down and Bryce simply smiled.

"What we know about God is much more important than what we don't," he said with a wave as he drove off.

**"Examining a life of impact is an excavation of memories."**

— Josh Oshinsky

I knew what Bryce meant. I had heard him preach on Ecclesiastes 11:5 before:

*As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*

I was constantly amazed by the depth of Bryce's faith and his unwavering confidence in the providence of God. "Do your best with what is in front of you and trust the result to the Lord," he often told me when I was anxious about the success of the college, referencing Proverbs 16:9, *In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.*

He was many wonderful things. A man of deep faith who possessed a boundless energy, genuine optimism, and a brilliant, satirical sense of humor. For me however, in these days since his passing as I excavate my memories of a cherished friend and mentor, I remember him as a gifted encourager. Looking back on our relationship, I know I owe much to his support of me and his calling me to deeper faith and trust in the work of God.

Our failure in Morgan Hill could have broken Bryce's confidence in his leadership—it certainly shook mine. We needed to find a solution to the challenges San Jose Christian College was facing with a tiny, dilapidated campus, struggling finances, and many other difficulties. The achievement of regional accreditation would prove of little value if we were unable to find a path forward that would allow the college to grow in enrollment and in the scope of our academic and co-curricular programs. When our final appeal for use of the property in Morgan Hill was denied, Bryce put his arm around my shoulder and simply said, "Go find another one."

Go find another one? I didn't know where to look. We had considered more than 10 since I joined the staff in 1997 and a number of other ideas were explored prior to that. We were absolutely sure the answer to our prayers was in Morgan Hill. It was embarrassing, frustrating, and disheartening to work as hard as we had only to come up short of the objective.

These emotions bubbled over as we debated the quickest route to Highway 80 in Rocklin. At Atherton Road, I pulled over to consult a map (this was pre-Google maps). Right in front of us was a for sale sign for a property owned by the Herman Miller Corporation. Almost before I finished reading the sign, Bryce was on the phone with our real-estate agent inquiring about a tour of the property. Unintentionally and providentially, we had discovered the future campus of William Jessup University.

"We can do this, Joe. This is where God is leading us," Bryce would tell me just a few weeks later, and as we were

granted use of the property by the County of Placer. San Jose Christian College had a new home. Over the next few months, his energy, faith, and leadership secured a bright future for a wonderful university. He lived a life-bearing testimony to his faith that what he knew about God was more important than what he did not.

For his 26 years as president, Bryce's consistent encouragement inspired those he led at SJBC/SJCC/WJU to accomplish more than we thought we could. His expectant faith informed his decisions and was the source of his almost unbelievably positive attitude. It was my great joy to know and serve with him.

By the way, he was right. I had turned the wrong way.

Bryce Jessup, Art Watson and Joe Womack





# FISHING IN GLORY

BY: FARNUM SMITH, SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR



Farnum Smith with Bryce Jessup

When I started climbing the familiar mountains toward one of our favorite lakes this summer, I had no idea it would be my last adventure with Bryce. The first time we left Tuolumne Meadows for the high country was 27 years before. His smile when he entered camp and headed to the lake to fish after his last long hard hike on this earth will forever be emblazoned on my heart. A warm bright smile and infectious positivity was a trademark of his. The lake will never be the same without him. He was not the kind of man who made waves, instead he was the kind of man whose life sent out gentle ripples. The ripples from his actions went far and influenced many. I am one of the lucky people who felt them.

I started attending San Jose Bible College in 1987 as a student athlete, and Bryce was the president. Immediately, I was struck by the way he put anyone from any background at ease. People just felt love when they were with him. He was charismatic, warm, friendly and boasted that sarcasm was his spiritual gift. I began to work at the college right after graduation and Bryce became my boss. I admired him. Then in 1993, I went on my first backpacking trip with him—and who knew that it would become a cherished yearly tradition for so long? On those trips, and during the many experiences we shared doing life and working together, I grew to love him. He was no longer just a friend. He had become a mentor and a father in the faith to me.

In this way he sent out many ripples. For example, he mentored a man named Glen Miller, who then became another great mentor of mine and for many others. He also directly taught me lessons I will always be grateful for. Bryce often trained before our trips. One time (when he was about 80), Bryce told me that people were looking at him funny for walking on the treadmill at the gym with a bowling ball and rocks in his backpack. He went on to say that he hated doing it, but he had learned to do many things he didn't like to do, so he could do the things he wanted to do. What a great lesson. The best part is, I saw him live it out. He lived his principles and faith in a way that few do, and I benefited greatly from witnessing it.

Bryce was a father in the faith to me and he was also a wonderful father figure to my wife Myrna during the eight years she was his assistant. He was relaxed and enjoyed life. He was extremely accepting, loving and not critical. Those qualities were like cool lake water on a hot day for my wife and me. And he poured those wonderful blessings on us over the years.

One day, Bryce asked me to go fishing with him. It was during a drought, so the water in the lake was low. To get to a good spot to fish, we had to go upstream through a narrow and shallow river that fed into the lake. Bryce cut the main motor, turned on the trolling motor and asked if I would navigate at the front of the boat. The boat's "high-tech" navigation system had foot pedals to switch the direction of the boat. I had never done this before and was so nervous I might hit a boulder. I got on my knees so I could move the foot pedals with my hands and still be able to see over the front of the boat. I was feeling overwhelmed, sweating profusely and craning my neck to see anything we might hit. We finally got to a place where we could go no farther. I told Bryce we had to stop. I then turned

around and realized he was joyfully fishing off the back of the boat with a silly grin on his face. He thought it was pretty funny how stressed the whole thing made me! We both laughed. He had a great sense of humor.

In a strange way, those were the kind of situations God used Bryce to be a father to me. He had confidence in my abilities, even when I did not. He let me see the lighter side of life. He taught me to laugh at myself. The more obvious ways he was a father in the faith to me

was his example of a life completely sold out to the Lord, his family, and God's people in general. I watched and learned for 33 years.

My family and I will sorely miss Bryce. The WJU community will also. I rejoice that he left this earth in a place he loved, doing what he loved with the assurance he would go to heaven.

Thankfully, the ripples of the life lived for Jesus will still go on. I'm looking forward to fishing with him in glory.

*“...he had learned to do many things he didn't like to do, so he could do the things he wanted to do.”*

Bryce Jessup pictured with Glen Miller and Myrna Smith.





# FIVE LIFE LESSONS

BY: PAT GELSINGER  
CEO, VMWARE



Bryce Jessup has been a counselor, friend, pastor, mentor, mentee and brother to me for almost 40 years. Our relationship began when he was senior pastor at Central Christian

Church in San Jose. My wife Linda and I were soon engaged after joining the church, and Bryce became our premarital counselor and eventually officiated our wedding. He would often joke we were one of the few marriages he did that was successful but we knew that was his humility, and sometimes quirky sense of humor! In my four decades with Bryce, I learned many lessons from this great man. Here are five that I think we can all take from him:

## Lesson 1 - Be an Encouragement

*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world (Romans 1:8).*

Bryce constantly reminded me how proud he was of me. Sometimes to the point of embarrassment! He sent me notes on birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, and randomly when I'd come to his mind. Whenever he'd see me in the news or on television, he'd often send me a note saying "only understood 10 percent of what you said but, it sounded REALLY good! So proud of you." Whenever I was in town for WJU board meetings, I'd stay with him and Jo. Sometimes we'd talk about the college, sometimes about what was happening in my life, but always he'd be encouraging me to greater things.

In 2012, Linda and I moved back to the Bay Area after having been in Oregon and Boston for 25 years. I shared with Bryce the vision to start a City Gospel Movement in the Bay Area. Bryce's encouragement went into overdrive; he was so thrilled with the idea. Today this work is Transforming the Bay with Christ, TBC (www.tbc.city). The work is thriving, and the Bay Area today is more connected in Christ than it has been for decades. As many other ministries can attest,

Bryce was that force pressing behind you saying - "You can do it! How can I help?"

## Lesson 2 - Seek Wisdom

*And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven (Ecclesiasties 1:13).*

*Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed (Proverbs 15:22).*

Bryce was a humble man. He was unashamed to describe his inadequacies and areas of uncertainty. The college was in a pickle with numerous efforts to find a path forward. Finances were hard and he once said to me if he knew how bad they really were, he'd never have taken the president's role. The city of San Jose building commission was hard if not outright hostile. The more pathways that were sought to build or expand, the more shut doors there seemed to be. The Morgan Hill fiasco became the loudest and hardest shut door of them all.

In this period, Bryce sought the wisdom of others. He formed what he would come to call his Dream Team. In some ways it was a bunch of us who simply loved Bryce and wanted to encourage him. A group of business leaders who each had made marks in different capacities. How could I turn down the request to join from one who was so constantly lifting me up? It became almost a parallel board, not of governance but of strategy and vision. This Dream Team became a source of vision, insight, plans and capacity to move the college, and Bryce, to the next stage of its journey.

## Lesson 3 - Be Encouraged

*A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out (Isaiah 42:3).*

Often those who are encouraging to others demur from being encouraged. This was not at all the case with the humility that Bryce had and was unashamed to demonstrate.

After many failed attempts to expand or relocate in the Bay Area, plans were underway to move from the land-locked San Jose campus to the divinely appointed site in Rocklin. This involved a massive remodel, major debt load, and transition of the staff—a radical step after many years in the desert of the Bay Area. While much was yet to be done, the plan was finally rolling. Over dinner one night, his face looked troubled. He said he felt like his then 65-year-old soul needed to retire, to pass the baton to younger legs, someone who could carry the race longer than he felt he was capable of.

I was not as gentle as the Isaiah passage recommends, and responded "Retire!? NO! Everything God has done in your life, every relationship, every learning experience was preparing you to lead this transition. And Moses didn't start his ministry until he was 80. Quit being a wimp and do it!" I probably heard Bryce tell that story 50 times. It was a defining moment for him, the University and the lives of many.

## Lesson 4 - Live Generously

We were in one of several fundraising cycles for the new campus. The college was growing but debt was high. While the student body was expanding, tuition was far from covering the massive financial challenges. As board chair, I knew full well Bryce's salary and what was being committed in fundraising by the board, major donors, and staff. I was overwhelmed and somewhat embarrassed by how much Bryce was giving to the campaign. He gave generously of the modest salary the University could afford. He was all-in for the school's success.

He gave generously of his time. Whenever I was speaking, he'd be there even if it meant a three-hour drive to get to the bay and then a long drive and late night back to Rocklin. When different ministries needed a hand, he'd always be there to help, leveraging his network and using whatever capacity he had to bring success and impact. He gave of his wisdom. When a church hit a rough patch, he'd jump in with the elders with care and insight. When an interim was needed to preach, he was willing to serve in whatever kingdom capacity he could; no pulpit too small or location too far. In retirement, he said he loved preaching to the old because they always loved his recycled sermons like they were brand new!

## Lesson 5 - Finish Well

*So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said (Joshua 14:10-12).*

But maybe the greatest lesson I've learned from Bryce is to finish well. In April of 2018, Bryce was completing his time leading the Adventure/Rocklin campus of Bayside. I came and did part of the sermon with Bryce that day. I was honored he wanted me to join in his last sermon before passing the baton to the new campus pastor.

His sermon title that day was "Giving Your Life Away." It was such a fitting topic for a man who lived his life so well. The final section of the sermon was on giving

your life to your spouse. He had arranged for Jo to be brought from rehab to attend. As he finished his sermon that day, he came down from the stage singing a song that Jo had written for them years ago.

When Bryce and Jo walk down the street together,  
We walk and talk as good friends should and do.  
We clasp our hands and pray for friends and family,  
When Bryce and Jo walk down the avenue.

Not a dry eye in the place.

This is the last email I had from Bryce just two weeks before his passing. He was planning a final climb of Half Dome to one more time stand on his head-dome to Dome, as a fundraiser to create an endowment for the University.

*Oh Pat...you just ignited a flood of gratitude tears in me. I am thrilled that you and one of your boys will be joining us on June 11, 2025 to encourage me in my headstand on Half Dome in honor of my dad's legacy and for your desire to help with his and mom's legacy endowed scholarship fund! You can't fully know how encouraged and blessed I am by your positive response. It has increased my passion to keep in shape and my prayers that God will keep me breathing until my 90th. If not, you and your sons can carry me up in my casket and stand it on end, to the glory of God!*

The final lesson from Bryce's life and challenge to each of us today - finish well.



Bryce with Linda and Pat on their wedding day, Aug. 7, 1982.



# HOW THE MIGHTY HAS FALLEN...

## *BUT HE WILL RISE AGAIN*

BY: ROGER EDRINGTON



# THAT JESSUP GUY



BY: JIM CRAIN  
FACULTY/STAFF CHAPLAIN AND ALUMNI LIAISON

Bryce Jessup was among God's mightiest men because he served the Almighty well. His big shoes, stuffed with big faith and humble love, will be hard to fill. We looked up to him as we walked beside him, hoping to learn from his example.

I walked into Bryce Jessup's small, unassuming, book-lined office in San Jose with few expectations. I landed in San Jose after a 12-year ministry of resurrecting dying churches in England and a six-month research project on the heart-wrenching Ethiopian famine of 1984-85. Though my pedigree was in sister churches and a sister Christian college, I had not heard of San Jose Bible College. I knew nothing of Bryce's stellar reputation in the community nor the legacy he would leave. I was just seeking the Lord's direction for my next step in ministry. I thought my next ministry would be in some way international but had no idea what. Little did I know that Bryce was overseeing the infant stages of an innovative, Multi-Cultural Bible Institute in that little college near the freeway.

Bryce took a risk with me. He was like that. He believed in people. With his always open door, he would open doors for others. He first steered me to teach an evening class with students from many ethnic backgrounds. True, one class was a fairly safe trial. But soon, he was tapping me to be the assistant director and then director of the Multi-Cultural Bible Institute. And before long, as he stacked on more responsibilities, he challenged me to become executive vice president, "doing all those jobs he didn't want to do," we later joked.

He and I walked together through many attempts at creating a larger campus for the landlocked college. We surveyed bare land, office buildings, shopping centers, even a biotech lab before we ended up at what we assumed would be God's perfect spot for us in a

shut-down Morgan Hill hospital. Bryce's father, William Jessup, had been taken to this hospital when he died after preaching an intergenerational sermon with Bryce and grandson Jim. Was it a sign? We didn't succeed in making that move. Yet Bryce was still not discouraged; he knew there was a 'promised land' for the college.

Always a shepherd at heart, Bryce pastored many students to drink deeply of the Living Water and to be filled in green pastures of God's Word. Bryce never lost his love for the local church and for developing pastors and church leaders. He preached in a church somewhere nearly every weekend, usually taking with him students to give testimonies, singing groups, his dad, and faculty members. Many students were highly impacted by the encouragement Bryce gave while riding with him—despite him driving with his ham radio in one hand and a sandwich in the other!

When my family and I decided that the Lord didn't want us to make what seemed the logical career move to Rocklin with the newly named University, I was again in a situation of uncertainty. Bryce let me know that Central Christian Church was looking for a senior pastor; it was the church that William Jessup founded in order to support the college, the church that Bryce himself had shepherded for 10 years. Bryce didn't push but he urged me to consider it. Just like he paved the way for me to be part of William Jessup University for 16 years, he prepared the path for me to minister at Central Christian Church for 10 years.

Bryce catapulted all who knew him to places we would never have dared go without his enthusiastic encouragement, his big trust in our big God, his shepherding love, his uncompromising integrity, his self-deprecating humility, and his rock-solid stability. How the mighty has fallen...but he will rise again!

My first impression of what has become William Jessup University was in the person of a 19-year-old freshman at San Jose Bible College named Bryce Jessup, and his girlfriend, Shirley-Jo Hulbert. It was 1954. I was 10-years-old. He was the newly hired weekend youth minister at the First Christian Church in Healdsburg, California. Jo was my Sunday School teacher. They both had black hair. And, Bryce drove a way-cool 1949 pale green Ford Coupe, complete with a humongous ham radio antenna and rumbling glass-pack mufflers. I recall the Sunday night service when Bryce preached what might have been one of his first sermons—a lively retelling of the Old Testament story of Gideon. Five years later, I preached my own first sermon from that same pulpit.

What impressed me most about Bryce and Jo in those days was the loving patience they paid to me, a hyper-active rascal who had already done the incredibly stupid thing of carving his initials in the back of a church pew. One Sunday at an after-church potluck while we waited in line to get our food, I twisted a knuckle in Bryce's back, gleefully whispering in his ear, "Am I boring you?" You get the idea. They loved me anyway. Little did I know then that we would become colleagues in all three eras of Jessup's history.

Our work together began 17 years later as faculty and staff newbies at SJBC. He in 1970 and me in 1971. Bryce

was the dean of students and taught classes too. I was the professor of practical ministries. It was the apex of the Jesus Movement on the West Coast. God had generated a wave of spiritual revival. And, we got to ride it.

*“What impressed me most about Bryce and Jo in those days was the loving patience they paid to me, a hyperactive rascal who had already done the incredibly stupid thing of carving his initials in the back of a church pew.”*

Being one of the few Christian colleges in the country with no actual dress code, much of the student body looked like a crowd of happy, Christ-loving hippies. Occasionally though, it was necessary to reason with some of them to be deferential to parents and conservative constituents who might not approve—especially the boys with shoulder-length hair. Bryce, myself, and a couple other staff members, got that assignment. Those were the days!

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the seventies. Of course, Bryce went on to be the school's fifth president and I continued to teach. One morning after chapel just recently, he

and I were walking out of the warehouse together, arms around each other's shoulders, reminiscing. A little later, a freshman student came up to me and said, "Professor Crain, I have a question I wanted to ask you earlier, but you were talking to that Jessup guy." Of course, he meant no disrespect. But, oh, how little did he know just how happy and proud I was to be a life-long friend of "that Jessup guy!"



# MY ADOPTED GRANDFATHER

BY: ABHIJEET LALL  
ALUMNUS, PASTORAL MINISTRY, 2011



There are very few people who make an impact on thousands upon thousands of lives in this world. Dr. Bryce Jessup was a man of God who did just that. My wife Katie and I are blessed to be recipients of that very impact. He was a man who loved God with all his heart, loved people and shined his light for Jesus. Dr. Bryce and his wife Miss Jo took the time to mentor us, encourage us, counsel us, support us, and pray for us. For that, we feel so honored and thankful.

As a child, my grandfathers both passed away before I could really remember them. It is something I had always longed for—a bond with a grandfather. I didn't know that God had a plan to bring an adopted grandfather into my life to fill that void. Once I started college at William Jessup University, Dr. Bryce came beside me and stood there with me and took on a role as a mentor and grandfather. He even came all the way to India for my ordination after graduating from WJU.

If you knew Bryce, you know how humble a man he was. The only time I saw him not-so-humble was at the pingpong table! He would give many of us students a run for our money at that table-top game. He loved to play pingpong, and he was good at it—and he knew he was! He would take me to the Auburn Table Tennis Club where we would play game after game of pingpong. I have so many special memories of those times.



He helped me improve my pingpong game, but he also taught me so much more. Bryce taught me how to preach. He encouraged me and gave me opportunities to preach at different churches around the area. He lived a life that taught me so much. He was an example for me. I learned from him how to set priorities with family and ministry, and he always demonstrated how important it was to keep God first. He truly lived by example.

When my wife and I were missionaries in India, he always made time to meet up with us when we would visit Rocklin, no matter how busy he was. He celebrated and came alongside us as we went through big life changes—our marriage, moving, new jobs, the birth of our daughters. Just recently, my family moved back to the Rocklin area. We were excited to live close to Bryce again and spend more time with him. We made lunch plans last minute on July 22, 2020. He, once again, made time within his busy schedule to meet with me. I remember him telling me “God is going to take me peacefully home one day,” and “If I ain't dead, I ain't done!” Little did any of us know that just a week later, God would call him home.

His impact, his life and his legacy will always be remembered and cherished by many. I can't wait to reunite with my brother-in-Christ, friend, pingpong competitor, mentor and adopted grandfather in heaven one day! If there is pingpong in heaven, you'll know where to find us!



I've been blessed to work at William Jessup University since the fall of 2004, soon after the Rocklin campus opened. That chapter in the story of Jessup was what I can honestly call 'the best of times,' not because it was easy or burden-free, but because I was part of a team, from President Bryce Jessup on down, who knew they were part of a great community and that everyone had a voice and value. I served under the then VP of Advancement, Joe Womack, supporting scholarship fundraising efforts, community relations and marketing.

Bryce and his entire executive team collectively led with such positive leadership and inclusive sacrifice, that the rest of us stood ready to support the University through some difficult years. Even in his retirement, Bryce demonstrated support of the University with his time, talent and treasure and was a constant reminder of faithfulness to the mission.

When John Jackson began his presidency, he spoke often about “exceptionally employable” graduates. With a background in workforce development and business/education partnerships, I somehow convinced Dr. Jackson to let me lead Career Development efforts at Jessup. With the support of a grateful Sacramento region and seeds planted by Bryce, now cultivated and fed through the influence and expertise of Dr. Jackson, my job of connecting

Jessup students and alumni with marketplace opportunities has seen tremendous success.

Jessup has graduates serving in vocational ministry around the United States and the world, as community, spiritual and music influencers. Alumni serve in and own small businesses, the backbone of our nation's economy. They serve with distinction in key organizations like the California Legislature, law enforcement, K-College education, healthcare, media/entertainment and financial services. They are raising families and shaping culture. They work at companies like Oracle, Intel, Sutter Health and Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

Simply put, they are taking the message of the Gospel to all areas of societal influence, where it's needed most.

Bryce and his son Jim often preached in churches about generational faith. Bryce, the-husband-and-father, lived this message, passing along his parents' legacy to his own kids and grandkids. Bryce, the-president-and-leader, did this in his work and ministry as well. He led, grew and left a legacy so that the University is able to move forward in faith. He knew he stood on the shoulders of the sacrifice of generations, and we know that we stand on his shoulders to carry on and carry out the mission.

As a grateful employee and observer, I give thanks for him always.



# TODAY'S CALEB



**BY: RAY JOHNSTON**  
SENIOR PASTOR, BAYSIDE CHURCH

If you look in the dictionary somewhere between the words ENCOURAGEMENT and ENERGY, there should be a picture of Bryce Jessup. I know of only two 85-year-old Christian leaders who still had

enough passion to have world-changing dreams. One was Bryce Jessup and the other was an 85-year-old leader in the book of Joshua named Caleb. At age 85, in Joshua 14:11-12, Caleb literally said, "I'm still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out, I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this mountain that the Lord promised me."

Bryce possessed an unstoppable spirit and an unabated faith. At age 85, Bryce was literally scaling a mountain in Yosemite and was at a 10,300-foot elevation when his spirit left this earth. He was also scaling a fundraising mountain, one of many projects he still had in the works.

One of the many blessings of pastoring is I get to know outstanding leaders around me—people whose leadership heights I can only aspire to, like the late Glen Cole and Sherwood Carthen. Bryce Jessup is right at the top of this short list of hugely influential leaders God has privileged me to count as close friends.

I first met Bryce when he relocated William Jessup University to the Sacramento area. He served as president from 1984 to 2010, and after as President Emeritus. Soon after our first meeting, I realized he was making no ordinary move. The great Christian educators I knew paled in comparison to the brain power and ingenuity of Bryce. He secured an enormous campus and developed it using the biggest names in architecture and building. Much later, Bayside Church was phenomenally blessed to have Bryce become an integral part. That's

when I realized his genius spread in every direction, with a spiritual depth that was as refreshing as it was rare.

## Bryce Jessup was:

- A spectacularly ingenious leader, evidenced by securing world-renowned talent to design the University he relocated, which won awards and impacted our entire region for Christ.
- A gifted scholar, seen in his many degrees and even greater accomplishments.
- A pillar of strength, goodwill, and faith that included racial reconciliation, for which he won awards.
- A "pastor's pastor," who "fathered," mentored, coached, trained and championed thousands of leaders with love, truth, and a sense of humor no one will forget, then sent them out to at least 50 nations.
- A team player right to the end—although he was so spiritually and intellectually gifted, it was often like having Alex Rodriguez join your Little League team—for which he was honored (yet again) at the Golden One Center during his last September on earth for his role in City Serve.
- A dear friend to many, including my family and me. Jo, his wife of 64 years has been integral to his every accomplishment, not the least of which is the legacy they built in their own family.

Above all, Bryce was a fearless fighter for the cause of Christ in any form it took. It should be no surprise that in the autumn of his life, he took on the responsibility of a church that needed a reboot and became the key pastor transitioning Adventure Church to its future. Even the most energetic young pastor is daunted to preach multiple services each week. Yet Bryce, in his

eighties, relished the task. As a result, the people loved both him and his message, and his own stability prevailed, bringing stability to an entire congregation.

It is not a stretch to say Bryce continued to reach more people for Christ every year until the day of his death. I believe he did. And those he reached are reaching still more. Some people thought it was a shame for Bryce to die with an unfulfilled dream due to the unfinished funding he was securing. I believe the opposite. In pursuing a huge goal, Bryce taught us that the real shame is to run out of dreams. Most people die 25 years before they leave earth. Bryce never stopped, and never even slowed down.

In fact, Bryce and I had a lot more projects planned. I'm not sorry for any of those unfinished plans. Through them, Bryce taught me not to be ashamed if my dreams are too big to accomplish in one lifetime. Perhaps this last lesson is Bryce's greatest. Let God give you a future and then pursue it with all your heart.

To say that Bryce's presence will be missed is an understatement. There are many good leaders—quite a few great ones too, but there was only one Bryce Jessup. This modern-day Caleb simply never stopped contending for what God had placed in his heart. To the end, Bryce prayed the same prayer as Caleb, "God, give me this mountain."

# 55 ALIVE

**BY: BRYAN HARDWICK**  
PASTOR OF ADULT MINISTRIES, BAYSIDE ADVENTURE CHURCH



In Hebrews 13:7, we are told, *"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."* In reflecting on this verse, there is so much about Bryce's life and legacy that many of us aspire to. A modern-day Barnabas, Bryce lived to encourage and inspire others. He looked for ways to bring out the best in people and helped them maximize their gifts for kingdom impact. But he did so in a uniquely relatable and humorous way that characterized Bryce.

Having worked with Bryce at Bayside Adventure Church for over eight years, I served alongside a man who understood his calling, played to his strengths, and kept his message consistent. He lived for the kingdom of God, and his age was not a deterrent, because he knew as long as God would allow him, he would "pick up the towel" to serve others! As the leader of our 55 Alive community at Bayside, Bryce encouraged our seniors to leave a similar legacy. To live out their calling and not let their age limit them, but rather allow their experience to ignite them.

In the best and worst of times, Bryce brought our church together by offering hope and perspective and encouraged us to press on. Nothing seemed to rattle him, not even the COVID pandemic of 2020. As most were retreating, Bryce was advancing the church forward, encouraging our 55 Alive community to embrace technology through Zoom meetings. When sanctions lifted, he led our seniors as the first ministry to gather back on-site. Bryce was becoming quite the Zoom master as well. One day I saw him monitor two separate Zoom calls simultaneously, one with the church and the other with the University. It was inspiring to see Bryce fearlessly go after it with such conviction. He was always learning and adapting, but never compromising.

There is much about Bryce's legacy we won't fully comprehend this side of heaven, but I am thankful and honored to have had a front-row seat these past eight years. From my interactions with him at 55 Alive, at Jessup, and throughout the community, I saw firsthand how he brought people together and inspired a whole new generation of young leaders and seniors.

However, my fondest memories of Bryce will not be his incredible accomplishments, of which there were many. It will be the times when he spoke into my life during our lunches at Jessup's Crossroads Café and how he lived out his faith when no one was looking. He left me with so many examples, from seeing him at the gym, working out with Jo, and then walking to their car while holding hands. Or praying with him on a Zoom call and seeing him get caught up in conversation with his Savior.

Through it all, Bryce taught us all how to love, lead, and live like Jesus. And while he will be missed, his legacy continues in our community, in our church and in our hearts.



# LOVED BY THOSE HE LED

BY: BEV WIENS



**Bev Wiens, Ph.D., M.F.T.**  
faculty member from 1980-2014

A leader is someone who has followers. Bryce Jessup was certainly that! I was privileged to follow Bryce throughout his entire journey as the president of the college his father founded: San Jose Bible College, which became San Jose Christian College, which became what is now William Jessup University.

There is no doubt he was a loved and trusted leader—calling an entire faculty to sell their homes and move to an unknown city three hours away. And they all did, save one! What an adventure! I moved my husband; our married daughter, her husband and their two children; our second daughter; and my mother—three households—out of commitment to Bryce’s vision for an expanded Christian educational institution.

But, let me back-track for a moment and sound like an older person, reminiscing about “the good old days.” Those were humble beginnings for sure. There was no internet, no computers, no power points, and only one rotary phone for the entire faculty housed in what we called the “faculty lounge.” We had one transparency projector that had to be checked out of the library and carted to your classroom if you wanted to use it. And, you had to reserve it, since only one classroom could be projecting anything at any one class hour. The buildings were clearly dated and some were in real disrepair. One of the positive things about living on the edge financially is that you get to see God’s provision in unexpected ways—always at the last minute. That happened many times, bolstering our commitment that we were in line with



God’s purposes. Most of the time we were paid on time. But, when we couldn’t make payroll, Bryce was always the last person to be paid. That’s one of the things I admired so much about Bryce. None of us ever doubted he wasn’t making sacrifices right alongside the rest of us to keep the college and his vision for it alive. No matter how hard it was, his trust in God for provision and his optimistic spirit kept us all committed to that vision.

As noted above, Bryce’s vision expanded beyond a college that would prepare students for ministry within the local church. That was, and still is, very central to the mission of William Jessup University. But, his vision was to expand academic offerings and thus prepare our graduates to take the Gospel to the marketplace. I remember him saying on several occasions that he wanted to be the president of a Christian liberal arts university. He certainly saw that come to fruition during his tenure. It was my privilege to develop the first of Jessup’s liberal arts majors—what is now the Psychology Department. The program has certainly prospered and expanded to a graduate program that prepares Christians for licensure as marriage and family therapists and or professional clinical counselors. Since that small beginning, Jessup now offers 60 programs, equipping many Christian students for service in their chosen fields.

I am so grateful I can look back and feel a sense of satisfaction that I invested 34 years of my life helping Bryce and the leadership team in the development of what is now William Jessup University. What a blessing it was to serve such an institution under the leadership of someone I will always hold in the highest of esteem—Dr. Bryce Jessup.

# RED LETTER CHRISTIAN

BY: DON BREWSTER  
CEO, AGAPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS



Bryce Jessup was introduced to me for the first time nearly 24 years ago. He was an elder board member of Adventure Christian Church (now Bayside Adventure) and was interviewing me for a pastoral position. On that first day, it was evident that Bryce had a heart to care for people individually. His focus on the One before him was incredible. We met for several hours in a busy restaurant, people constantly going in and out, but his eyes never left mine. He never peeked up to see who was coming in, or what was going on. During our time together it seemed I was his only concern, that I was truly important to him. Bryce Jessup was living the Adventure Church’s vision... letting God love others through us, one at a time.

A short time later, I was offered and accepted the position and Bryce became my leader until the day he passed. Although he was more than a Christ-like leader; he was a teacher, mentor, friend, and cheerleader for me and our entire staff. He celebrated every success, both for the church and individuals. He coached us through the tough times that come with a growing ministry with a wisdom and discernment which only comes from God. His encouragement through all circumstances was contagious. Someone looking from the outside may not have seen (due to Bryce’s loving and encouraging nature) that the love he expressed included making difficult decisions and discipline, when necessary. His example taught loving compassion and speaking the hard truth. Of course, all this came as a result of his faith in Jesus and his commitment to God’s Word.

When my wife Bridget and I considered whether we were being called to launch a new ministry (Agape International Missions, or AIM) to fight sex trafficking in Cambodia, Bryce came alongside us to pray and offer some wise advice. Along with prayer, he suggested we meet with some experienced missionaries to get a better understanding of the cost involved. He introduced us to his daughter and son-in-law who were missionaries in Southeast Asia for many years. Their counsel was

invaluable and after much prayer, we left for Cambodia. But we didn’t leave Bryce behind. You see, he had been on AIM’s board from day one, and served as the board chair for much of that time.

All of God’s blessing we received through Bryce continued. There are so many stories to share, but the following most exemplifies how the love of God was truly evident in Bryce. The first ministry program we launched in Cambodia was an aftercare home for girls rescued from sex trafficking, and it was the first place Bryce visited when he came to Cambodia. These girls, ranging in age from eight to 12-years-old, had been recently rescued from being horribly abused by men who in all reality looked like Bryce. Normally they would shy away from any man, especially those who looked like Bryce because of the physical resemblance to those who hurt them. However, that day they didn’t shy away, but instead they came to Bryce, hugged his leg, grabbed his arm and said thank you. They weren’t told anything about Bryce, they just sensed the Spirit of God, the love of God in him.

We may tend to see Bryce’s legacy as his family, the church, and William Jessup University, but I believe it’s far greater than that. His legacy includes the hundreds of individuals who God loved through Bryce one at a time, including some of those Cambodian girls, who today are now impacting thousands and thousands of lives around the globe with that love.







# PEARLS OF WISDOM

BY: ERIC HOGUE



**Eric Hogue**, Vice President,  
University Advancement,  
Colorado Christian University

In the Christian worldview, people are, by divine intent and nature, world-makers. God instructs us to work, nurture, sustain, and husband our distinct vocations and calling. At the same time, it is God who provides as He compels us to safeguard, preserve, steward, and care for the garden of our life's toil and passion, resulting in God's ultimate glory and man's satisfaction.

I was introduced to Dr. Bryce Jessup in 2003. As a political talk show host, I was focused on recalling a California governor. As the president of a growing Christian college, Bryce was focused on moving San Jose Christian College to Rocklin, California. It was Bryce who had the

harder mission before him. He was faced with a task of convincing the Dream Team of Bay Area business and ministry leaders to literally relocate San Jose Christian College to the city of Rocklin in Placer County. The job before him had to be tumultuous. There was no playbook or best practice strategies on how to physically relocate committed faculty, philanthropic partners, current and enrolling students, and a wide breadth of key administrative staff to transition their lives and futures from the Bay Area to a small town called Rocklin.

As Bryce would tell the story, it was the grace and provision of God that led him, the Dream Team, and his cabinet to the 'promised land' of what would become William Jessup University. If you asked Bryce how he did it, his answer represented his usual authentic transparency wrapped in an attractive dose of humility, "We

simply made a wrong turn onto Sunset Boulevard and God did the rest." This is where Bryce and the search committee discovered the Herman Miller Furniture property—today's site of William Jessup University's main campus. Bryce would later recount this story for many church and business leaders by saying, "In this situation, I learned that God's GPS is never wrong even when we believe He is recalculating."

After the property procurement and a vote to relocate from the Bay Area to Rocklin, Bryce was tasked with one of the hardest philanthropic missions known to private Christ-centered higher education. How do you convince hundreds of annual and major donors to not only continue, but in many cases, increase their giving to support a Christian university that is moving from the donors' backyard to, what many considered, "a cow town in the middle of nowhere?" I know of a few Christian universities that have attempted to physically relocate to new campuses—in all cases, the relocation ultimately failed.

It's at this point that everyone asks the same question: "Why was Bryce so successful?" One of the many redeeming qualities of Bryce Jessup was his ability to connect with an unpretentious way of life, which was exemplified by his constant love for people and the Church. For Bryce, life is to be lived in concert (in partnership) with the Church and her people. Everything Bryce represented and orchestrated was filtered by prayer, God's Word, and his passion for Jesus' Church. His purpose for continuing his father's work at San Jose Christian College was the Church. His reason for leaving for better futures in Rocklin was the Church. His commitment in leading William Jessup University for 26 years as president was the Church.

Bryce believed in a rigorous Christ-centered liberal arts education, but only for the intended purpose of the glory of God's name and to the eternal benefit of the Church. Bryce never wanted WJU to become Harvard. He wanted WJU to remain committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God and the mission of producing graduates who took their place in the world as leaders and in the church as committed followers of Jesus Christ. For Bryce Jessup, Christ-centered higher education is to be exactly that, "Christ-centered."

I remember the day the new university sign was erected at the Rocklin campus entrance. Bryce could have been boastful about the new name of San Jose Christian College being changed to William Jessup University,

but he was unimpressed. Bryce was more enthused about the new sign's backlit tagline, "CHRIST-CENTERED HIGHER EDUCATION. This is our most treasured value and the foundation upon which WJU has been built. Every person coming to the campus is greeted by this central purpose...putting Christ at the center and circumference of all that we are and do."<sup>1</sup>

The attraction for million-dollar donors from the Bay Area, significant friends in high places, and constant admiration from colleagues nationwide was Bryce's transparent, humble, and personal commitment to wait upon God. He took to heart the Old Testament's instruction: "O man (human), what is good; and what does the Lord require of you except to be just, and to love (and to diligently practice) kindness (compassion), and to walk humbly with your God (setting aside any overblown sense of importance or self-righteousness)" Amplified, Micah 6:8.

For donors considering gifts to WJU, there were no frills to Bryce Jessup, just pearls of wisdom and great admiration. For a few Bay Area CEOs, Bryce was a mentor, brother, pastor—even a father figure. In the end, it was the Dream Team that afforded the move from the Bay Area to Rocklin through their tremendous generosity shown toward WJU—that combined with their tremendous respect and love for Bryce himself.

After my 32-year radio career ended in Sacramento, I was honored to serve at William Jessup University for seven years. I learned firsthand the relevance and significance of Dr. Jessup during those blessed years. I took advantage of the times we shared an office conversation, or a quick lunch in the Crossroads Café. In one of those private encounters, before I departed WJU for God's calling to another Christ-centered university, Bryce offered me a dog-eared page from his book and a short retort of impactful encouragement, "Eric, give God glory both privately and publicly for every step of victory the Lord gives you. And be careful that you do not forget the Lord once you settle into the place He has called you—for it is God who put you there, for His glory and for your satisfaction."

Bryce, thank you—and until that day we meet together, may we all commit to the calling God has placed within us, for the purpose of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the love of Jesus' bride, the Church, and the glory of God's great and holy name, amen.

1. Jessup, Bryce. City on a Hill: William Jessup University Celebrates 75 Years of History. Bryce Jessup, 2014 (p.274).



# A VISION FOR THE SPORT HE LOVED

BY: JERRY MANUEL



# DREAM TEAM DELIVERS

BY: GREG JAMISON



Bryce with Jerry Manuel

breakfast, a number of people introduced themselves to me, among those was Bryce Jessup. During that short introduction, Bryce mentioned he wanted to call and talk to me about a vision he had for WJU.

I had not heard of the school nor was I aware there was a Christian university in our area. That excited me, so I gave Bryce my information and said I looked forward to speaking with him. Two days later, Bryce called to set up a meeting on campus. Bryce told me his dream was to see WJU with a collegiate baseball program and asked if I would be interested in running it. He said he saw himself someday throwing out the first pitch. Who could say no to a man such as Bryce? A man that embodied the characteristics of Christ at first glance and beyond. His kindness, humility, and wisdom drew me to him and his vision.

I came home and discussed the opportunity with my family. Our oldest daughter Angela said, "Dad, to the world it may appear you have stepped down from the Major Leagues and have taken a lesser job, but we know this is a great promotion to be able to share Christ without restriction in a game we love." I was between jobs and had the time to come alongside Bryce and his

While I write this with a heavy heart, I rejoice that I was granted time and space here on earth with a man such as Bryce Jessup.

As the former manager of the Chicago White Sox, I was asked to speak at the 2004 Men's Prayer Breakfast in Sacramento. Shortly after the prayer

vision. With my family's blessings, I said yes.

Subsequently, my wife Renette was asked to sit on WJU's board and together we began to campaign for funds to build a facility of collegiate standards on campus. I was introduced to several key players to get the ball rolling and had numerous meetings to vision cast all while getting to know Bryce at a deeper level.

Bryce had a great love for the game. He said as a young boy he dreamed of one day playing professionally, and was later recruited by the minor league team, the St. Louis Browns. But for Bryce, the call of ministry was greater than the desire for baseball. He answered the call to serve God's people and was blessed with the ability to play recreationally and the platform to tell his great stories over the years.

As we journeyed through the process of dreaming and raising funds, I was called back to the Major Leagues. My new position with the New York Mets brought my family and I to the East Coast seasonally. Being bicoastal and holding a Major League position redirected my responsibilities and affected our focus raising funds.

Although we had a few hefty donations from Bob Howry, Dusty Baker and others, we knew we needed to search for a temporary site off campus. The search brought the William Jessup Warriors to McBean Park in 2017 and we witnessed Bryce's dream fulfilled when he threw out the first pitch!

I often smile when I think about one of Bryce's famous quotes.

**"Baseball is in the Bible," he would say, with his trademark brilliant smile. "Genesis 1 reads, IN THE BIG INNING, GOD..."**

I first met Dr. Bryce Jessup in the late 1990s when he was president of San Jose Christian College. I honestly can't remember who introduced me to Bryce, but I've always been incredibly grateful for the introduction.

At that time, I was the San Jose Sharks President and CEO and he was beginning the attempt to move the college to a different location. He was motivated and driven to achieve this goal and it proved to be a tremendous amount of work and effort.

As a member of the Dream Team, the purpose of the group was to periodically meet with Bryce to support and help the effort of finding the new home for SJCC. It was an honor and wonderful experience to share this goal with our team. Bryce assembled the Dream Team and his excitement was noticeable from the initial meeting and throughout the entire process. He enjoyed the interaction with each member as he inspired us individually. He shared his thoughts and enthusiastically anticipated great feedback from our team while demonstrating remarkable leadership and determination.

Bryce had a vision and never quit on the idea of moving nor did the group allow him to give up on the chase. I firmly believe that the work of Bryce and his staff, combined with the Dream Team, and the prayers of many people allowed this project to come together.

Under a new name in Rocklin, William Jessup University opened in 2004 and continues to flourish in a renovated location. In March 2005, the University received the Best/Rebuild/Renovation Award from the *Sacramento*

*Business Journal* in addition to other numerous awards during its 16-years of operation in Rocklin. It was definitely worth the work and effort as the future continues to be bright for WJU.

*"Bryce had a vision and never quit on the idea of moving nor did the group allow him to give up on the chase."*

Dr. Bryce Jessup was a man with boundless energy and a good friend to all. He loved the Lord, his family, the University, sports, hiking, and he loved his job. I appreciated his friendship and he was such a positive influence in my life and career, as he was with many people. We enjoyed our opportunities to get together and humor was always part of the conversation.

Somewhat recently, I saw Bryce in Carmel and we had lunch. I was late and he was forgiving. During the conversation he told me what he planned to do on his 90th birthday. It would be an energetic undertaking, but he was excited and prepared to pursue it.

Bryce has been described by some friends and family as a devout leader who lived out his faith. I agree.





# THE TIPPING POINT REGIONAL ACCREDITATION

BY: KAY LLOVIO

VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS | DEAN, SCHOOL OF THE HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS



Confetti cannons were blazing and Bryce Jessup beamed at the front of San Jose Christian College's gymnasium. The entire college community was gathered for chapel early in March 2002 to celebrate the news that SJCC is regionally accredited by WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges)!

In retrospect, regional accreditation was the third and final piece to fall into place to solidify the mission and vision of the college under Bryce's leadership. I had the privilege of serving with Bryce through all but the first year of his presidency (when I was still a student), and most closely as vice president for academic affairs and accreditation liaison officer. So, with both an insider's insight and bias, I believe WASC accreditation was not only one of his most dogged pursuits but also the catalyst for the remarkable achievements of William Jessup University today.

As Bryce chronicles in his book *City on a Hill*, his presidency had a rocky start. Yet, an early decision in 1985 to respond to the influx of immigrant populations to the Bay Area helped to anchor the floundering college. The Multi-Cultural Bible Institute was born, and San Jose Christian College became known for its multicultural focus on leadership training, evangelism, and church planting among communities of various cultural heritages in and around San Jose. The original vision of San Jose Bible College was taken to new people groups, with classes taught in more than seven languages. Today, 225 international students receive a Christian education in both Rocklin and San Jose.

A decade later, the Excel Degree Completion Program was initiated to meet the educational needs of adult learners. New degrees, delivery modalities, and operational structures were created as SJCC once again

returned to its founding principles as Bryce grappled with the implications of the "church and society" part of our mission statement, for these programs were the first not directly focused on church ministry. His struggle might have lessened if he could foresee that in a few short years, one-third of all students were in our adult programs and we were positioned for the launch of graduate programs in 2014. Today more than 700 students are served in our graduate and adult degree completion programs in Rocklin, San Jose, Elk Grove, and online.

Regional accreditation is the key, however, that unlocked the future of William Jessup University. Although the path to accreditation was long and arduous and consumed most of the first two decades of his presidency, Bryce remained a strong advocate throughout the process. The importance of this decision Bryce often shared in advance with the campus community: "Regional accreditation is essential for our survival."

Why was WASC regional accreditation the tipping point? Regional accreditation serves to assure the educational community, parents, students, employers, policymakers, and the public that an accredited institution has met high standards of quality and effectiveness, without sacrificing its core values. "I was thrilled that WASC did not tamper with our mission," Bryce writes in his autobiography, *City on a Hill*, "but rather they pushed us to clarify and unify the institution in its resolve to fulfill its mission." Armed with a clarity of mission and an assurance of quality, William Jessup University successfully relocated to Rocklin just a year later and opened its classroom doors on August 30, 2004.

Employees from San Jose and Rocklin joined together to launch the first regionally accredited private university in the Greater Sacramento area. On the one hand, it seems

everything changed—our name, address, academic calendar, major offerings, general education requirements—and sometimes more than once!

Yet, emerging from a glorious past and centered on its mission, Jessup has become Northern California's premier Christian University in a very short amount of time and one of the region's most influential thought and personal development centers. With more than 1,800 students enrolled in the traditional undergraduate, adult degree completion, and graduate programs, Jessup has experienced an unprecedented 400 percent growth since the move! "Can you believe it, Kay?" Bryce frequently asked me, shaking his head in awe and wonder.

These words first penned in that initial accreditation report in 2001 are included in every commencement program since, for they capture the faithful legacy in leadership of Bryce and his father, Brother Bill, for this University:

*Looking back over eight decades, we see the hand of a faithful God directing our steps.*

*Looking ahead, we see the hand of a faithful God, offering to direct our steps to new and exciting venues.*

*With great expectations, we reach for His hand!*

# ENTERING THE VORTEX



BY: MIKE WEST

Bryce Jessup is one of very few people in my life who made me feel as though he genuinely cared and was interested in me as a person. I am sure others who knew him would say the same. But his interest was sincere and not with some hidden motive. His love of the Lord and commitment to God's work was infectious. He had an ability to present opportunities in such a way you found yourself saying yes almost immediately.

Bryce was someone you wanted to be around and wanted to work with. Bryce often spoke of the Dream Team he had created with a number of business people in the Silicon Valley to discuss the future of San Jose Christian College. I was excited to attend the first Dream Team breakfast at the Hayes Mansion on September 15, 1998. Even though I had known Bryce before, it was that breakfast that pulled me into the Bryce Jessup vortex. And by the way, once you are in the vortex, you never get out! This gave me the opportunity to serve and pray with Bryce unofficially as a friend and more officially for three years on the Foundation Board. When we merged the Foundation and Board of Trustees, I served an additional nine years. During this time Bryce retired and Dr. John Jackson was named Jessup's new president. Bryce once again made this transition with grace and humility and continued to work for WJU to his last day on earth.

Bryce always had self-awareness and knew he didn't know what he didn't know. But, he did know God had a plan and would reveal it in His time. The history of the move from San Jose to Rocklin is evidence of God's hand on Bryce. The right people at the right time would show up to serve, assist financially and or provide intelligent counsel. Everyone wanted to please, help and be around Bryce. He was an example of a man, who loved the Lord, loved his family and loved his ministry. He always acted justly, loved mercy, and walked humbly, with our God. His life has and will continue to have a lasting influence on generations of Christian leaders who came through SJBC, SJCC, and WJU. He fought the good fight and finished his race and kept the faith.

Finally, Bryce was a gentle giant in my life and I will miss him terribly for so many reasons including his ready smiles, his positive attitude, and good-natured sense of humor. He is a true example of a life well-lived and someone who talked and walked his faith.

Our prayers go out to the entire Jessup family and greater WJU community as we grieve this loss. We know we will see him again! Love you Bryce.



# CONTINUING TO DELIVER ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



BY: PHIL ESCAMILLA

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

As I write this, the Jessup community celebrated Dr. Bryce Jessup's graduation from this world at the campus he helped move to Rocklin back in 2004. The

memorial service certainly captured the life and legacy of Bryce as a man of family, ministry, and service. I was struck not only by the faculty and staff who recalled Bryce so fondly, but also the alumni and students who knew Bryce personally and loved him on such a deep level. Indeed, Dr. Jessup's vision for scholarly and spiritual success for students was bold and far-reaching. We feel the benefits of his labor and the burden of his calling in our academic endeavors even to this day.

The first time I met Bryce was actually at a leader's conference. I recall him talking about a new college off Highway 65 (this was before the Sunset Boulevard overpass when you had to take a right off the highway at the stoplight to get to campus). He spoke of future growth, of a sprawling campus teeming with students carrying backpacks and walking to athletic practices, music rehearsals, and to student activities and classes. What struck me about Bryce at the time—and proved to be true for me as a new professor on campus—was that while Bryce was a pastor's pastor, he also had a heart for faculty, precisely because of their dedication and interaction with students. Whether he was talking to our legacy instructor-pioneers who initially made the move with Bryce from San Jose to Rocklin, or our recently-hired faculty, Bryce never hesitated to reach out to show his support for those most directly responsible for creating a transformational education experience.

The Jessup tradition of academic excellence continues today. Much of what Bryce predicted 15 years ago has already come to pass: faculty teach students to perform on the theater stage, examine cadavers in biology and psychology labs, hike the Pacific Crest Trail, work in the

halls of Congress, navigate flight simulators, storyboard news articles, paint pictures and create sculptures. Students recreate crime scenes, launch businesses, educate and inspire young people in public schools, plant churches, and yes—pray for missionaries that they will receive power from the Holy Spirit before they embark on a journey that will take them away from the familiar and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

What Bryce (a great lover of sports and the outdoors) understood better than anyone, is that the classroom, like the mission field, extends beyond the four walls of any room or even the campus itself. To be world changers, our students learn to serve with excellence whenever representing Christ to the greater external world. They know that, whatever they do, they do their work heartily for the Lord. We have carried this mission forward even in this time of uncertainty, as our faculty are delivering courses with excellence on computer screens as well as in traditional classrooms to students from different cities and even countries.

Christ-centered higher education—it's written on the sign and etched in our hearts, and thanks to the legacy of our founder and his son, the work of the Jessup academic enterprise endures.



# REMEMBERING BRYCE JESSUP

BY: DR. THILAK PAPPU, NEW DELHI, INDIA



I grew up in a Hindu home in Kerala, South India committed to the cause of Hinduism and disciplined under a guru in his monastery. The teaching from the monastery made me become more committed to the Hindu ideology. I eventually became a choir conductor in the Hindu temple and for other gurus and cults.

In 1984, I was introduced to Jesus Christ and the death of Christ on the cross for my sins by a group of believers in New Delhi and Delhi Brethren Assembly. After surrendering my life to Christ, I experienced miraculous transformation in my life. Two years later, I came to the United States to study Business at Fresno Pacific College by the help of my older brother Pushpan Pappu. He was the first follower of Christ in our family and because of his faith, he was ostracized by the family at the age of 17.

In 1987, I went to an Urbana conference and on the first day, Dr. Billy Graham preached from Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'" And I said, "Here I am. Send me!" At that time, I had a divine encounter with the Lord and the call of God came to me to be a missionary for Christ to take the Gospel to my own people of India.

Not knowing my next step, I changed my major from Business to Bible and Theology. Guided by my brother, I came to San Jose Bible College from 1987- 1992 without any biblical background. In fact, I heard the story of Noah building an ark for the first time in my life when I came to SJBC as I took the course "The Life of Christ" from professor Jon McFarland. That course study changed the direction of my life.

I believe SJBC and Dr. Bryce Jessup made me a cross-cultural missionary and gave me the tools and vision to serve the Lord. My assignment was similar to Jonah going to Nineveh as I got the call to go back to North India. We lived 24 years in one place, shared the Gospel to hundreds of Hindus and so many have turned to the Lord. Four

churches have been planted and we started a school to reach the people with the Gospel of Christ, all because of SJBC and the vision and fire exchanged into my life by Dr. Bryce Jessup.

**Man of Mission:** I am fortunate to have had the privilege of making several fundraising road trips to Oregon with Dr. Bryce and Dr. Bill Jessup. During these trips, Dr. Bryce and his father had heavy biblical discussions. We used to travel on the road for seven to nine hours at a time. When we reached our destination, the three of us would go straight to the church, find three benches to rest on and pray until the evening service started. Usually, I shared my testimony and Dr. Bryce would preach. Dr. Bryce had vision for the lost world which he instilled in me during our many journeys. During our conversation one day he said, "Thilak, you must take the Gospel to your own people. If you don't go, who will?"

**Man of Humility:** Dr. Bryce was a man of humility. During my time at SJBC, I was a janitor for five years. I enjoyed my job, cleaning 13 bathrooms and setting up chapel for worship. Before chapel service started we used to have prayer time and Dr. Bryce was always there to kneel down and pray with us for the blessing of the chapel message. One day, my job was to clean the roof of his office building. As I was climbing the ladder, Dr. Bryce was climbing behind me to help do the cleaning. That act demonstrated his humility and attitude toward servanthood.

**Man of the Bible:** Dr. Bryce was a man of wisdom and loved the Bible, studying and preaching from God's Word. I loved his preaching. Being a janitor, I had access to his office where he was studying the Bible demonstrating that studying the Word was always his goal. I have fond memories from my Homiletics class when Bryce came and taught us how he preached and how he prepared the message. I still follow his methods in my preaching to this day.





# MORE HEAVEN HERE ON EARTH

BY: KEN FOREMAN, LEAD PASTOR, CATHEDRAL OF FAITH

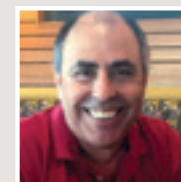
The first contact between the Foreman family and Bryce Jessup was when my brother started dating a young lady from the church where he pastored. The dating relationship ended, but the relationship of Bryce with our family continued to grow for over 40 years. My father was also a pastor in San Jose and he and Bryce forged a strong friendship over the years. Together they provided leadership for a South Bay pastors group that was pioneering at the time. It crossed denominational lines and modeled genuine unity while celebrating our diversity. Bryce's disarming warmth, engaging smile, gentle spirit, and large heart broke down walls and built bridges among the pastors, and they became a shining example of how we are better when we are together.

When Bryce moved from pastoring to leading the college, well, it seemed to me he never stopped pastoring. He became a pastor to the pastors, a shepherd to the shepherds, a coach to the coaches of the South Bay. Bryce was highly respected and regarded for his character and leadership, and he became a source of wisdom, encouragement, and healing to churches in our area. He would help congregations navigate rough waters so they could get to the other side of the storm instead of sinking in the middle of it. I have been in the area for 55 years, and in my humble opinion, Bryce was one of the greatest forces for the kingdom that the Bay Area has ever known: A true spiritual father to our city.

I would eventually follow my dad and become the lead pastor of the Cathedral of Faith. Through the transition, Bryce was like another dad to me, one of the most significant people God brought into my life to help me slowly grow into the role. He could identify with both the joys and challenges of following your father in ministry (it's not always easy following Joe Montana!) His kindness, insight, and encouragement were invaluable to me as I was learning to lead the church. He believed in me when I was still struggling to believe in myself—but that was Bryce. He had a way of loving you up, lifting you up, and bringing out the best in you. When you rubbed shoulders with Bryce, his faith had a way of rubbing off on you. It rubbed off on me. Conversations with Bryce around the table would spur me on to dream more, risk more, believe more...that with Christ nothing is impossible.

I will be forever grateful for his mentorship and was honored to call him friend. He not only poured into me, he poured into our pastoral staff as he was the keynote speaker at staff retreats. He poured into our church family when he would preach for us on a weekend. When he would show pictures in the sermon of his hikes up to Half Dome, you left the service feeling you could conquer any mountain you were facing. Encouragement was more than something Bryce did, it was who he was...a living definition of what it means to be a Barnabas. The Cathedral of Faith and the city of San Jose are both better because of the life and legacy of Bryce Jessup. Now, there is a little more heaven here on earth.

# REACHING ALL NATIONS



BY: CESAR BUITRAGO  
ALUMNUS, BIBLE AND THEOLOGY, 1993

I had the privilege of meeting Bryce Jessup in San Jose in 1987 while he was president of San Jose Bible College.

A good friend of mine encouraged me to take a class on pastoral care. Since I was involved in our first church plant, and without any formal training, the class was a great resource to my ministry that began a seven-year journey into SJCC until graduating in 1993. These years were foundational to my life and ministry and Bryce played a key role.

**Bryce was approachable to all of us.**

If I was struggling with a ministry or family issue, I would peek in the window, and if he was at his desk, I would find my way to his office. Typically, there was someone ahead of me. I would patiently wait my turn and then I would be welcomed to take a seat. These weekly 10-minute conversations with Bryce changed my life. I was important to him. I was no longer a lonely, often ignored young pastor working in the East Side with Latino immigrants. Bryce became my mentor, and my friend. He was the president with an open-door and an open-heart policy. He was the mentor-in-chief at the school, and the entire faculty followed his loving example by empowering students not only with lectures but also with their friendship. SJCC was much more than a college. It was a closely-knit international community of young missionaries that would impact the world for Jesus.

**Bryce was approachable because he loved others.** He cared for his staff and students, especially the international students. He loved the nations, and the nations

came to him! SJCC became a womb for dozens of multi-cultural church plants in the heart of the Silicon Valley: Assyrian, Iranian, Korean, Indian, African-American, Latino, Filipino and Cambodian groups used the facilities to start new churches. Classroom A was the first room and once you had more people you could use larger facilities or move off campus. For in Bryce's eyes, just like Christ's, we were all brothers and sisters, members of the

same family of God. The color of our skin, our language accents, and our cultural background made no difference to him. He loved Jesus and loved His universal Church, and because of this, we could all find a way to His heart.

How much we need this kind of love and leadership in our nation today!

**Bryce was approachable because he was humble.** He followed the example of Jesus, of true servant-leadership. He was a great leader because he served so many with deep compassion and humility. Life was never about him. He always thought about others and about ways to empower them. And of course, no one will forget his sense of humor. When describing his love for fishing, he once told me, "There are a number of trout with an attitude that need to be subdued."

Bryce, our friend, our pastor, our mentor, and our loving and humble leader has gone home with Jesus, but his legacy will continue through us, in the power of the Holy Spirit to bless the nations for generations to come!



# WORKING THROUGH BLIND SPOTS

BY: JUSTIN HUMPHREYS  
ALUMNUS, YOUTH MINISTRY, 2000



Bryce Jessup has been part of my life since it began. There are deep connections between the Jessups and my family on my mother's side, the Alders. My earliest memory of Bryce was at three-years-old when he came to the hospital after my first leg surgery. That hospital visit deeply imprinted on me the things that pastors do for their people.

At age 16, I first shared my testimony publicly. Bryce was there. I spoke about some verses in the book of Job. Afterwards, Bryce told me I did a great job, to keep it up, and to read the rest of Job. In his own gentle way, he helped me understand that I had missed something significant, and to keep studying.

When I began attending San Jose Bible College, his door was always open to me. We would often share a laugh or a story about my grandpa George. I loved joking with Bryce. He had a keen sense of humor.

While enrolled in Homiletics class, I thought it would be fun to count all the awkward pauses (ums, uhs, ohs) during his messages at a Central Christian Church retreat. While his sermons did improve that weekend, he was quick to remind me that "love keeps no record of wrongs." And yet, he still told me he was grateful. We had many good laughs that weekend.

In the weeks leading to my college graduation, I asked Bryce to give the charge at my ordination. He agreed, and asked me out to lunch. A few days later, we went to the Bold Knight restaurant in San Jose. I thought Bryce was going to tell me how much he would miss me on campus, and how the school would never be the

same without me. The conversation turned out a little different than I expected.

All leaders have blind spots in their character or leadership, and at 22, Bryce had already recognized one of mine showing up. As we ate, he lovingly pointed it out to me. He did this in such a way that built me up and didn't tear me down. He did it with grace, gentleness, and a love that I have never forgotten. I was so humbled. His correction helped me realize how far I still had to go as a leader. Shockingly, I didn't have it all figured out at 22.

Some blind spots never go away, but because Bryce lovingly pointed this one out to me so early in my ministry, I have remained aware of it, and worked to keep it in check throughout my ministry.

I am a better pastor and mentor because of that lunch with Bryce. He taught me to have hard conversations that were also filled with love.

The Lord didn't build me for hiking in Yosemite. I feel I have missed out on some great memories with Bryce because I never got to go hiking with him. However, I look with great anticipation to the day I can hike golden trails with my grandfather George, Brother Bill, Brother Veltie, and Brother Bryce.

# THRIVING SPIRITUALLY

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND INTO THE FUTURE

BY: DAVID TIMMS



When San Jose Bible College began in 1939, William "Brother Bill" Jessup instilled a spiritual commitment and began to establish a lasting legacy. During financially difficult days, he would call the staff and students to prayer. In thriving days, he would "celebrate what the Lord has done!"

Growing up in such a home, it's no surprise that Bryce Jessup would catch this spiritual focus. When Bryce became president of San Jose Bible College, he led the school through two name changes (San Jose Christian College and then William Jessup University) and one major relocation. He also presided over the regional accreditation of the school.

One might understand if the University had lost its focus a little through such major transitions. Many schools have. But under Bryce's leadership, there was not so much as a stutter. "Thriving spiritually" was not a slogan, but a core value. It was never up for negotiation.

Bryce was never one to "turn it on" when it came to spiritual leadership. His faith was not a slice of the pie but a key ingredient infused throughout the whole pie. In his retirement chapel service in Spring 2010, Bryce used the occasion to preach and then invite students to follow Christ through the waters of baptism. A line started to form. Ten, 20, then 30 students stood in line in their street clothes waiting to follow the Lord in obedience to His command. It was a capstone moment to highlight a presidency fully devoted to introducing students to Jesus Christ.

Today, the University perpetuates this legacy without skipping a beat. Continuing 80 plus years of devotion

to the spiritual development of its students, William Jessup University still invests heavily in this core value. Students still attend chapel services throughout the semester. Three services are offered each week; one being fully organized and run by students. There are Christian service requirements each semester. Dorm wings organize their own devotional times with resident assistants. Freshmen and sophomores experience Spiritual Formation Groups and campus ministries organize regular special events to support, encourage, motivate, and inspire students to thrive spiritually. Faculty continue to integrate faith and learning across all academic disciplines.

Many Jessup students go on to become spiritual leaders in the community, introducing the love of Christ into public and private schools as teachers all around northern California, offering leadership in churches, reshaping the spiritual landscape of businesses, and building marriages and families grounded in the Word of God.

Bryce Jessup did not begin the emphasis on thriving spiritually and he certainly did not finish the job. He did faithfully sustain the foundation and add to the building—a building that continues to be constructed for students from all walks of life, for the sake of the kingdom, and for the glory of God. And as we hold steady to this vision, the Lord keeps pouring out His blessing. We can be thankful for an unbroken legacy of thriving spiritually.



David Timms,  
Dean of Theology and Leadership





Bryce sharing a laugh with Pastor Henry Wells during a pastor appreciation luncheon.



Bryce enjoying Yosemite's High Country.



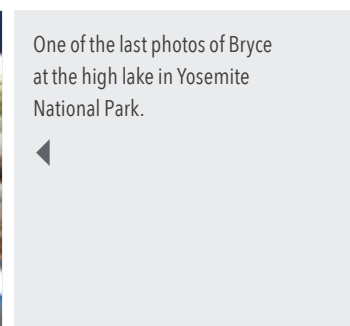
Groundbreaking ceremony for The Block student apartments.



Bryce's South Placer Senior Softball Club sporting their Jessup gear.



Bryce and Don Brewster baptizing high-ranking officials from Cambodia.







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## THE BRYCE & JO JESSUP LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

The Bryce and Jo Jessup Legacy Endowment Fund provides scholarships for those called to church vocational ministry, such as pastors, youth ministers, missionaries, Christian educators and evangelists. Scholarships are available to those who demonstrate financial need in order to reduce or eliminate student loan debt.

The purpose of this endowment is to ensure the next generation of church leaders are tethered to their calling, not debt.

Your support of this endowment will change the very landscape of eternity by training and equipping the next generation of church leaders.

[jessup.edu/bryce](http://jessup.edu/bryce)

