

FOURTH BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WARRIORS

ALUMNI VIP NEWSLETTER

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Dear Alumni:

School has begun with 206 students so far, up eleven from last year. We are grateful to the Lord for this increase. We also kicked off our school year with our secondary retreat at Iowa Regular Baptist Camp and had a wonderful time together and in the Word of God. We have our first home games for soccer and volleyball against Chisago Lakes Baptist tonight. All teams will play and the competitions begin at 4:00 p.m. We hope to see our local alumni at some of our games. Please introduce yourselves to me if you see me. I'd love to meet you.

Preparations are already beginning for the Alumni Weekend (January 20-21) planned to coincide with our Spirit Week and Homecoming games, January 17-20. Our alumni speaker is Colonel James Meisinger ('83), US Army. Please make plans now to be a part of this special event.

Jim was born in Dallas, TX, while his father was attending Dallas Theological Seminary. After seminary, God called his father to pastor a church in Minnetonka, where Jim grew up with his brothers, Keith and Joe, and sister, Michelle, all of whom attended Fourth Baptist.

Jim was saved shortly after moving to Minnesota, at the age of four. However, it wasn't until his early teen years that he fully understood the magnitude of Christ's redemptive work for him. He credits attendance at Fourth Baptist and a good Bible believing church with helping him reach that understanding.



Jim attended Fourth Baptist from 1st-12th grade (1971-1983) while it was still in North Minneapolis. He was strongly influenced by many of the faculty, including Nadine Davey, Lanette (Fahlgren) Muri, Loretta (Cooper) Simons, Bob Hazard, Jim Zakariasen, Dave McLain, Terry Harrington, Karen Burns, Paul Drexler, Karen Iverson, Brad Hagner, and Mark Stuckey. Other strong influences included Dr. Clearwaters, Dr. Mawdsley, and Dr. McLachlan.

He was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point just a month after graduation in 1983. Thanks to the academic preparation provided by Fourth Baptist, he finished in the top third of his class four years later with a BS in Aerospace Engineering. His postgraduate work includes an MA from Trinity Theological Seminary, an MA from the Naval War College, and the Senior Executive Fellows program at the Kennedy School of

Government, Harvard University.

In the Army he first served in the infantry as a platoon leader, company commander, and staff officer. In 2000, he switched specialties to space operations, serving on various general and joint staffs. Over the last 24 years he has served in the 82d Airborne Division, 1st Ranger Battalion, 1st Armored Division, ROTC at Oklahoma State University, 2d Infantry Division, Army Space Command, United States Strategic Command, 3rd Infantry Division, and currently serves as Chief of Operations at U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

He has been awarded the Bronze Star and other decorations, as well as the Ranger Tab, Expert Infantry Badge, Master

Parachutist Badge, and Master Space Badge. His military career has taken him all over the United States including New York, Georgia, North Carolina, Kansas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Colorado, California, Nebraska, and Rhode Island. He has served overseas in Korea, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Kuwait, and Iraq, including Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. His spiritual gift is teaching, and he has been able to exercise that gift at just about every one of those places.

He and his wife, Shannon, have been married since 1990, and they have three children: Steven, Sarah, and John. They currently live in Colorado Springs and attend Grace Bible Church where Jim teaches an adult Sunday school class.

We are excited that Colonel Meisinger has agreed to be our first speaker on Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. We are inviting all our alumni to come and be a part of our Homecoming games on Friday night (20th) and to our Saturday morning brunch event with Colonel Meisinger in our gymnasium. We are also trying to reclaim some of our history. If you have any photographs of the old facility, staff or school life, please allow us to borrow them. If you would like to serve on our alumni planning committee, please email me your name and contact information. Help us develop the **FBCS Alumni Association** by planning to be a part of this event on January 20-21, 2012. Please continue to pray for our staff and school as we begin year #46. Thank you.

Praises:

- An increase in enrollment
- Our second Kindergarten class
- God's continued provision
- A great staff

Prayer Requests:

- That God would continue to provide for our families
- Safety for our students as they begin the new sports seasons
- Transition for our students as they begin a new school year
- A hedge of protection for our school and families

Thanks again for your prayers.
For Christian Education in Plymouth,
Mr. Alan J. Hodak, *Administrator*