

Why Do I serve...?

This new section of *Connecting* will be an ongoing column to highlight various personalities that serve PSI. Consider what capacity the Lord might be calling you to serve.

Neil Anderson, Facilities Manager and IT Manager

I serve because God has so graciously placed me here. I came to work for CBI in 2000 not knowing what He had in store for me. I had an opportunity to serve God and a man I had admired for years, Henry Henegar (former PSI president). And I came with "gifts" of the mechanical nature. I was so excited to be able to work for a place that allowed me to use my natural talents at the same time ministering to people in the midst of that. I remember a conversation I had with Jeff Terrell and Phil Coyle several years back-- I said to them that if I had known then what I know now I probably wouldn't have taken the job. That got a look from them! I then explained that I would never have had enough faith to "sign on" knowing that He would place me so far out of my comfort zone (Information Technology). I must confess that sometimes I lack faith in new areas of challenge. Thanks to all of you because you allow me to serve HIM as I serve you.

Angie Conroy, Trustee

I serve on the board of PSI because I believe in what they stand for; not only as an accredited educational institution, but as an invaluable asset to the community. The classes I have taken at CBI have revived and enriched my Christian journey with such an abundance. Words are inadequate. CBI has become my "watering hole."

Bunny Tharpe, Donor

God put PSI on my radar over and over again, so I decided to enroll as a student and soon thereafter had the opportunity to work for the school. To succeed in marketing, you have to believe in what you're selling. I did then and still do. So even though I'm no longer a student or employee, I'm proud to be a major donor invested in PSI's success. So much of what we believe about ourselves and other people is based on lies, at worse, and on misinformation, at best. PSI's mission is to help us know the truth about ourselves - the good, the bad and the ugly - in light of God's love. Through Him, we can be transformed through the renewing of our minds.

WHY DO YOU SERVE?

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jmason@psy.edu

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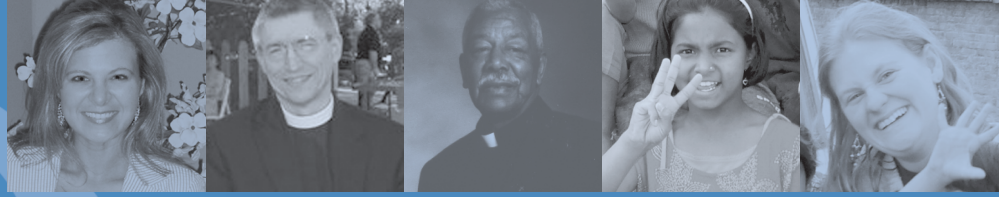
Chatanooga, Tenn.

Connecting is a publication of the Psychological Studies Institute (PSI), which was originally founded as the Chattanooga Bible Institute (CBI) in 1933. PSI's mission is to provide graduate education, integrating applied psychology and practical theology to make Christian counseling a servant of the Church for Christ-centered transformation. PSI is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award master's degrees in professional counseling and marriage and family therapy. Our campuses are located in Atlanta, Ga., and Chattanooga, Tenn.

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FALL 2006

A CALL TO SERVE...MAKING A DIFFERENCE ABROAD

At first glance Jennifer Hand might appear to be your typical post-masters graduate: working to save money for future travels, substitute teaching until her dream job comes along, waiting for the real world to begin. But Jennifer doesn't have dreams of just any counseling career. She's preparing to fulfill her lifelong dream of serving others as a foreign missionary.¹

A 2006 graduate of PSI and the Malone Service Award recipient, it is apparent to all who have the privilege of knowing this young woman just how unique and humble she is. Initially, Jennifer wasn't sure why God had directed her path to a graduate school for Christian counseling. From a very young age she felt the calling on her heart to be a missionary. Jennifer prayed that God would use her talents and abilities as well as her training at PSI to equip her to serve others on the other side of the world. Throughout her life God has confirmed this call to serve. Ms. Hand decided to go to South Asia permanently after spending three months there in the summer of 2005 on a trip with Tennessee Baptist Collegiate Ministries. It is no coincidence that God has called her to a land that is in desperate need of caring individuals. She will be going to a country with a high suicide rate and a 'spiritual darkness that is evident in the hopeless faces of leprosy, orphans, and those in the hospitals.'

Ms. Hand hopes to leave for South Asia by August 2007. She will be on a team with five or six other missionaries who will work at a hospital and nearby orphanage. "I realize that not everyone can go overseas," Ms. Hand says, "however, God can use your arms, feet, hands, mouth, and ears to touch the world by supporting those of us who can go." Jennifer also mentioned another dream-- maintaining her connection with PSI so that in the future students [and others] might come experience what it is like to counsel internationally.



Jennifer Hand (right) posing with children on her missionary trip.

The PSI Mission Statement reminds us of that calling, and several members of the PSI family are making a difference abroad each year. Faculty and staff have taken trips to Ecuador, India, Africa, and Honduras. Another 2006 graduate, Kara Harris, and her husband have recently left on a two-year commitment to Guatemala. Susan Stocksedale ('94) is serving full time in Kenya as a counselor at a boarding school for missionary children. Her prayer is that more counselors would join her on the mission field. Fareed Shehadeh ('90) is a licensed psychologist and pastor in Israel. These are just a few of our alumni who are making a difference abroad. Not everyone is called to international missions or counseling--but we've all been called to serve. How are you answering that call?

For more information about Jennifer Hand's upcoming missionary journey please visit www.reachingsouthasia.com. Kara and Daniel Harris' Guatemala updates can be found at: <http://dkharris.blogspot.com/>

¹Some of the information above was obtained from an article in the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

The PSI Mission Statement:

The Psychological Studies Institute provides graduate counselor education, integrating applied psychology and practical theology to make Christian counseling a servant of the Church for Christ-centered transformation.

PREVIEW DAYS

Is God calling you to be a difference-maker? PSI will host Preview Days in Chattanooga on **Saturday, November 4** and in Atlanta on **Saturday, November 18**. These events introduce prospective students to PSI's graduate programs in professional counseling and marriage and family therapy. Attendees also have the opportunity to meet the faculty and staff and ask questions as they consider a career in Christian counseling. Preview Day begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 1 p.m. and includes lunch. If you or someone you know would like to attend one of these Preview Days, please contact the Admissions Office at 888-924-6774, ext. 105. Please stay tuned for updates and other upcoming events by visiting our website at www.psy.edu

Difference-Making 101

Staff & Faculty Additions & Recognitions



Donald Walker, Ph.D.

Director of Research

Dr. Donald Walker is originally from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He completed his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the Graduate School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. His clinical and

research interests are in serving children, adolescents, and families. As part of his role as Director of Research, Dr. Walker coordinates the thesis track on the Atlanta campus.

Dr. Walker is teaching Research Methods, Methods and Models of Integration, and Child Psychopathology for PSI this Fall semester. Dr. Walker is currently developing research teams with our faculty. These will be presented as a series of symposia in January. More information will be provided to faculty and students later this fall.

Joannah L. Mason

Managing Editor, *Conversations*
Director of Alumni Relations

Ms. Mason is a May 2006 graduate of PSI with a degree in marriage and family therapy. She is working part time as the managing editor of *Conversations Journal* as well as coordinating alumni relations and events. In addition she is pursuing licensure in MFT as an alumni therapist at PSI. Ms. Mason resides in Atlanta, Georgia and is engaged to be married in November.



Kristen Smith-Vaniz

Director of Development

A 2006 graduate of PSI, Kristen Smith-Vaniz is the new director of development for PSI. Kristen has a passion for people as evidenced by her work in development and as an

alumni therapist. Mrs. Smith-Vaniz is pursuing licensure as a marriage and family therapist in Georgia. She lives in Atlanta with her husband Reid.



Jana Pressley, Psy.D.

Assistant Professor
Assistant Dean of Students, Chattanooga

Jana Pressley is now assistant professor at PSI, and assistant dean of Students in Chattanooga. In addition Dr. Pressley is director of the PSI Community Counseling Center in Chattanooga, TN.



Kelly Bowden

Administrative Assistant to Academic Services

Kelly has recently joined PSI as the Administrative Assistant to the Academic Services on the Chattanooga campus. She was most recently the office manager of a

Christian counseling center where she worked with several PSI graduates who shared with her fond memories of their educational and personal experiences at PSI. Kelly has a Master of Communication Disorders in audiology from Auburn University. Since graduate school she has lived in Oregon, North Carolina, and Montana; however, she has found her home in Chattanooga and is beginning to plant and grow roots. She believes God has called her to serve the PSI community and hopes to have a long future as a difference-maker for the Kingdom!

Lauren Cribb

Assistant to the President



Lauren is a Georgia native and a graduate from Georgia State University. After completing college, Lauren was led to a position with Mount Paran Church of God-Central. That is where she first learned of the wonderful work being done by PSI. Many years later the Lord has led Lauren to work for that very ministry. She is thrilled to be part of an organization that's dedicated to healing God's people and privileged to serve as the assistant to our wonderful PSI president.

Michael Reid, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean of Students for Community



Dr. Reid is an ordained minister and a licensed marriage & family therapist. He received his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the New Orleans

Baptist Theological Seminary and holds Masters degrees in divinity and theology. He has worked as a professional counselor since 1986 in private practice, schools, churches, and in the community mental health system. Dr. Reid is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors and is a clinical member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He has served as an adjunct professor of counseling at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to his teaching and clinical work, Dr. Reid has a passion for spiritual formation particularly in the church setting.

James Clay

Director of Environmental Services,
Chattanooga



James Clay, Director of Environmental Services at the Chattanooga campus, will be inducted into the historic Howard High School Football Hall of Fame. This accolade will honor his athletic contribution for 1967, 68, and 69. NFL Hall of Famer, Reggie White also played football for Howard High School in the years following James.



Rhonne Sanderson, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor

Dr. Sanderson is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. He obtained his Ph.D from the University of Florida, and M.A. from University of South Florida. His specialization is marriage and family therapy.

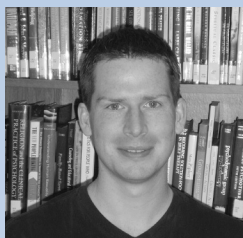
Dr. Sanderson has been in a private counseling practice since 1983. He is licensed in marriage & family therapy in Texas and Florida and is presently working to acquire licensure in this field in Tennessee. He is also a certified clinical supervisor in marriage & family therapy in Florida and Texas.

Victoria Hales

Assistant to Dean of Students



Victoria is a 2005 MFT graduate of PSI-Chattanooga Campus and has recently been named the assistant to Dr. DeAnne Terrell, dean of students. Originally from Wilmington, NC, Victoria moved to Chattanooga, TN to attend Tennessee Temple University. It was there that Victoria first heard of PSI and the many opportunities that were being shaped from the institute. Victoria felt a direct leading by God to attend PSI and is thankful that the knowledge that she gained while attending will influence her relationships, both personal and professional, for the rest of her life. Victoria is excited to be back at PSI working with the faculty and students, and for the opportunity to counsel alongside other alumni counselors who share her heart for the ministry of serving others.



Michael Hopkins

Library Assistant, Atlanta

Current student, Michael Hopkins has taken a position in the Atlanta library. His duties as library assistant include providing customer service to students, resource management and classroom support. Michael is completing his third year as a student at PSI, studying marriage and family therapy with concentrations in both child/adolescent and sex therapy. His post-graduate plans include attending the University of Tennessee in 2007 to pursue a doctoral degree in school psychology.

Dr. William E. McGee

Assistant Professor Counseling and Psychology



Dr. William E. McGee, assistant professor of counseling and psychology, was named Volunteer of the Year at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. Dr. McGee has taken an active role in serving the homeless population as both a licensed psychologist and an Episcopal clergyman. Dr. McGee volunteers his time at the community kitchen every Friday, and has done so for more than three years. Jens Christenson, who nominated McGee for the award, said, "He is a powerful and compassionate volunteer—one who asks little or nothing in return for his services."

Congratulations to Dr. McGee for this recognition and for your continued service to the PSI Community!

Rev. Fred G. James Memorial Book Scholarship Established

Min. Freddye G. James, '04 of Atlanta, has established a \$500 book scholarship in memory of her father Rev. Fred G. James. The scholarship is designated for a deserving full-time student to purchase books. The scholarship has been matched by an anonymous donor, therefore allowing \$500.00 in the fall semester and \$500.00 in the spring semester to assist with the purchase of textbooks.



Rev. James was a life-long teacher and coach.

He was a strong believer in fitness of mind and body, and he loved books! In his senior years, he finally accepted a call into the gospel ministry. He was especially proud of his "baby daughter," Ms. Freddye James, M.A., when she enrolled in PSI. Freddye is a 2004 alumna of PSI and is excited to be a part of this scholarship to help the next generation of students. Rev. James knew that PSI was designed to further the Gospel, and that was his heart's desire.

This year's recipient of the Rev. Fred G. James Memorial Book Scholarship is Kita Parker. Kita is a first year student from Lithonia, GA in the MAPC program.

There are many ways to *serve* the Body here at PSI. Why not name a gift or scholarship in honor or memory of someone who's making a difference in your life?

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2006 ALUMNI REUNION FEATURING JOHN ORTBERG



The Rev. Dr. John Ortberg will be the featured speaker at the 2006 PSI Alumni Reunion. The event will take place on Friday evening November 10, 2006 at Villa Christina in Atlanta. A reception will be held from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., followed by Dr. Ortberg's presentation from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. This will be a 3-hour CE event on Human Change Processes and Formation of the Spirit. Dr. Ortberg is the teaching pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, Calif. He is the author of *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them*; *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've got to Get Out of the Boat*;

The Life You've Always Wanted, and other books and articles.

With an M.Div. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Fuller Theological Seminary, Dr. Ortberg's presentation is sure to be of interest to our alumni and current students in training.

- To register please email: jmason@psy.edu or call 404-233-3949, toll free: 888-924-6774
- For directions and information about the venue: <http://www.villachristina.com/directions.php>

New Alumni Association Members

Lisa Andrews
Libby Balch
Janice Bolding
Emily S. Brenner
Barbara Carlin
Marcus Carter
Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Chambers
Barbara Davis
Gracile Dawes
Debbie Emerson
Eric Hoyme
Dennis M. House
Beth Jones
Sonya Kennedy
Jennifer Shea Lassiter
Deanna Poff Lanier
Robin E. Lay
Joannah L. Mason
Celia McGregor
Rita Lynn Moore
Wallace Grant Nichols
Sharon Nix
Mecall Pearson
Gayle Roberts
Marcia Walden
Chris Waters
Gail West

The PSI Alumni Association helps graduates stay connected to their PSI family. Its aim is to help each alumnus foster a network of both professional and spiritual support. The alumni association also connects alumni to PSI, helping to promote our mission, programs, and services. To join the PSI Alumni Association please visit our website at: <http://www.psy.edu/alumni/association.asp> Or you may call 404-233-3949 and speak with Joannah Mason. Founding memberships are \$100 and basic memberships are \$25. Annual renewal fees for both memberships are \$25.

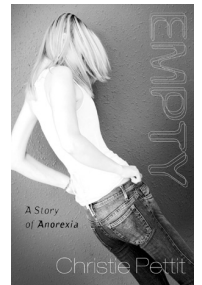
ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

Empty: A Story of Anorexia

By Christie Pettit ('05)

More than five million adolescent girls struggle with eating disorders, and more than 80 percent of American women are unhappy with their bodies. Christie Pettit knows these statistics firsthand. As a college student with a tennis scholarship, she found herself eating less and less, compulsively exercising, and spiraling downward in a dangerous battle against anorexia. *Empty* recounts Christie's gripping story, incorporating new statistics, reflections from her journal, and biblical insight. Her candid retelling of her experience shows the spiritual dimension of eating disorders and describes how Christie turned to the Bible as a source of strength and encouragement to help her overcome anorexia. Pastors, parents, counselors, and those battling anorexia--especially teen girls--will find hope and wise counsel in Christie's compelling story.

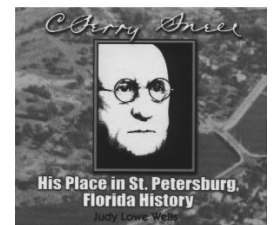
This is Ms. Pettit's second book on anorexia; her first, *Starving*, was released in 2003. She lives with her husband Peter and daughter Shea in Evanston, Indiana.



C. Perry Snell- His Place in St. Petersburg, Florida History

By Judy Lowe Wells ('92)

Truly one of St. Petersburg's most important personalities, C. Perry Snell was a well-known developer in the early 1900s. Snell used his talents and abilities to help lead St. Petersburg away from a fishing village to the beautiful tourist center that it is today. He generously invested his own money to help St. Petersburg develop public parks and facilities.



The author, Judy Lowe Wells is originally from St. Petersburg and grew up hearing about Mr. Snell and his generosity to her community. Over time she had encountered various stories about the Snell family and wanted to find the facts out for herself. Ms. Wells holds masters degrees in both mathematics and community counseling. She received a PSI diploma in Christian Counseling in 1992. She maintains a small private practice in Marietta, Ga While she doesn't consider herself a writer she did say that her experience with writing [this book] and counseling are a lot like detective work... "Often a client will tell you something, and several weeks later you find out something new about that same client..." She very much enjoyed researching this biography of C. Perry Snell and might consider writing again. For now she's busy with speaking engagements and book tours!

If you have an upcoming publication we want to know about it!
Please contact Joannah Mason at 404-233-3949 or jmason@psy.edu.

Seeing In Others What They Do Not See in Themselves: Open Letter to PSI Class of 2006

The following is a letter that Dr. William Doverspike, Adjunct Professor of Psychopathology and Ethics, read to the class of 2006 at the commencement in May. Please continue to remember these graduates as they begin their new careers and those that are still seeking the Lord's provision. They would appreciate your prayer, referrals, and support during this pivotal time in their lives.

Dear Counselor,

May 13, 2006

You may not know me, or you may know me as an ethics professor or an old diagnostician who simply states the obvious. What you don't know is that I have seen in you what you do not see in yourself.

I have seen your many talents, and special skills, and leadership abilities. I have seen your enthusiasm, endurance, perseverance, and dedication to a purpose. I have seen the way you balance your commitments—to your studies and to your work, to your family and your church, and to your clinical training. You are younger, much brighter, more creative, and much more talented than those of us who have been your partners in education. You also have much more to give, and when you give completely, you will discover that there is more of you to give. And when you have nothing left to give, you will discover that the only thing left to give is to give yourself.



As my final charge to you, let me leave you with a paraphrase of the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20: Go ye into all the world—into the majestic mountains and tourist towns of Tennessee, and into the glass towers and sprawling suburbs surrounding Atlanta. Go ye into all the world and be a disciple—preaching, teaching, and reaching others, but more importantly, listening to others—listening to the stories of others. Let God use your words to speak to others, but more importantly, let God use your ears to listen to others, because it is in your listening that healing occurs.

You are not only a counselor; you are a Christian counselor. You are not only a Christian counselor; you are the standard of excellence in Christian counseling. You have not only earned a Master's degrees in counseling; you have earned a degree in both counseling psychology and Christian theology—integrating the sacred and the secular. In the words of the great psychoanalyst Carl Jung, you have learned your books and theories well, and now it is time to put them aside when you touch the miracle of living souls.

Fifty years of psychotherapy research have taught us three things that the Master therapist taught us 2,000 years ago: empathy, authenticity, and unconditionality—the three necessary and sufficient conditions for therapeutic change. “Empathy, the ability to form an emotional connection, and forging an alliance with the client will create a far stronger foundation for positive change than any therapeutic technique validated by a series of randomized clinical trials,” which I quote from one of my Jewish brothers and fellow ethicist, Jerry Koocher (2006), who is current President of the American Psychological Association. Is it not part of the Christian story? Seeing in others what they do not see in themselves and, in doing so, bringing into expression what they are meant to be? In other words, by fully accepting the other as he or she is, rather than how we would want them to be, we allow the other to become what he or she was created to be.

To me, a clinical psychologist and not a theologian, the image of Jesus as a counselor is instructive—not only in its emphasis on the words that he spoke but also in its emphasis on the people to whom he listened. As many of you also do, the Wonderful Counselor taught how to counsel others not only by talking—but also by listening. The itinerant sage of Nazareth listened to the scholarly scribe who came in secret to talk late at night, and he listened to the prostitute when she came uninvited to a dinner. He listened to the cry of the blind man in the dark world of a crowded noisy street. As the original secular humanist, who completely integrated the sacred and the secular, he listened to the pleas of the lepers, and the outcasts, and the condemned—when no one else would go near them. Jesus the Christ listened to a nameless thief hanging next to him when he was dying on the cross.

Some of us are called to die for our faith, but many more of us are called to live our faith—each day, day by day, agape epiousios. I challenge you to be a living witness to the faith that brought you here today, and to be a living testament to the faith that will take you beyond any horizon that you can see tomorrow. You have been given the gift of seeing in others what they do not see in themselves and, in doing so, helping them become what they were created to be. I know this. I know this about you—because you have seen in me what I have not seen in myself, and in doing so, you have helped me become who I was meant to be—your trusted servant.

William F. Doverspike, Ph.D.
Ethics Professor

The fall issue of *Conversations: A Forum for Authentic Transformation* is due out this October. This issue will take a closer look at contemplative prayer and the avenues through which it is expressed.

October is also Clergy Appreciation Month. What a thoughtful way to honor the special men and women that serve the Kingdom by giving them a subscription to *Conversations*. Pastors of all different denominations can pull up a chair to the table and join in the conversation that takes place in each issue. We are happy to offer a reduced rate for gift subscriptions for pastors and other members of clergy. To subscribe or order a gift for someone please visit www.conversationsjournal.com/clergy. An annual subscription is \$15, and Clergy Appreciation gifts are \$12. Back issues also are available.

Founding members of the PSI Alumni Association receive a complimentary subscription.

The PAPA Prayer

Larry Crabb

Note to reader: The following is an excerpt from an article in the upcoming fall issue of *Conversations*. Please enjoy.

But I believe I've sovereignly stumbled on a fresh way to think about prayer that has led me to a new way of praying. It's not a formula or technique. There are no techniques in good conversation with God. There are no means to manipulate Him, no ways to persuade Him to do things our way. He's not open to input on how best to run my life.

What I want to share with you is rather a way to relate to God that lets us hear Him speak. It's not just a way to wait for Him or to listen to Him or to focus on Him. All those are included, but what I want to share with you is a way of coming to God that delights Him and changes us. It's a way to pray that brings us into union with Him, so that it is no longer we who live but Christ who lives through us. It's a way to know God so well that the deepest desire of His heart actually

Good Conversation

becomes the deepest desire of ours, and that frees us to ask God for what we really want, with confidence that He'll move heaven and earth to grant our requests, because what we want now matches what He wants.

It's the PAPA prayer, and it looks like this.

P: Present yourself to God without pretence. Be a real person in the relationship. Tell Him whatever is going on inside you that you can identify.

A: Attend to how you're thinking of God. Again, no pretending. Ask yourself, "How am I experiencing God right now?" Is He a vending machine, a frowning father, a distant, cold force? Or is He your glorious, strong but intimate Papa?

P: Purge yourself of anything blocking your relationship with God. Put into words whatever makes you uncomfortable or embarrassed when you're real in your relationship with Him. How are you thinking more about yourself and your satisfaction than about anyone else, including God and His pleasure?

A: Approach God as the "first thing" in your life, as your most valuable treasure, the Person you most want to know. Admit that other people and things really do matter more to you right now, but you long to want God so much that every other good thing in your life becomes a "second thing" desire.

The PAPA prayer puts relating with God ahead of asking things from God. It stirs me to value knowing Him more than I value getting something from Him. And the better I get to know Him, the more I know I'm in for everything my heart could desire, because He loves to make me happy. When I put first things first, I become more confident that second things are on their way. With delight, I realize that God is running our relationship. It gives Him the first word in our conversation, and the last.

HONORS & MEMORIALS

IN HONOR

Sue Sawrie
Dr. DeAnne Terrell
Phil Rollinson
Ellen Young

IN MEMORIAL

Harriett Caldwell
George Clark, Jr.
Mrs. Steve Sawrie
Walter S. Houseal
Mary Willingham
Clyde Winston

Gifts received from March through August 2006.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

PSI is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), which is committed to helping Christ-centered organizations earn the public's trust through developing and maintaining standards of accountability that convey God-honoring ethical practices.

Donors

We appreciate the generosity of these individuals who contributed to PSI from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

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