

# Victory Vignettes

Teleios, Inc

Interviews with Shannon Walsh

Part 3 of a Series

## *Road Trip to Directorship*

An interview with D. Scott Barfoot, ThM, PhD – Director of Ministry Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, TX

Scott Barfoot could never have imagined where his road trip would take him!

When Dr. Scott Barfoot was a young student at Crandall University (formerly Atlantic

degree, this pastor encouraged him to consider Dallas Seminary for further biblical and theological training. The pastor invited Scott to join him on a road trip back to Texas to check out the Seminary.

*It is a humbling task to undertake teaching students who have already achieved greatly in their vocational ministry careers.*

Baptist University), a Bible college in Atlantic Canada, he was introduced to a pastor and graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) who was visiting the college campus in search of a youth minister.

Barfoot soon joined the church working part-time on the weekends. After a couple years of ministry there and nearing the completion of his undergraduate

The first person Scott met on the Dallas Seminary campus in May of 1994 was then chair of the pastoral ministry department, Dr. John Reed. From that interaction he felt God pulling him toward Dallas Seminary, and applied to become a student in their Master of Theology (ThM) program.

## *About Teleios*



Teleios uses scientific research methods to prove the goodness of the Bible and how it helps people. Teleios also conducts surveys to provide glimpses into current Christian thinking on a variety of interesting topics. Additionally, Teleios highlights worldwide victorious Christian news showing the positive results of a biblical lifestyle.

This series of interviews will provide glimpses of believers actively engaged in sharing the good news of Christ.

Shannon Walsh is a public relations major at the University of Georgia and an intern at Teleios, Inc.



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Dr. Barfoot laughs as he recalls his first few weeks as a student. Feeling lonely and overwhelmed he sought out Dr. John Reed for guidance. Dr. Reed quipped that he needed a letter of intention to become his mentor, so Barfoot quickly typed a letter and presented it to him before he left the library that day—the beginning of a lifelong mentorship!

Years later, in early 2008, Dr. Reed had turned 80 and asked Dr. Barfoot to be his successor at DTS, and Scott now serves as the director of the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) Studies program. His students differ from those in the other programs. In addition to biblical education, the DMin degree is specifically focused on pastoral and parachurch ministry leadership. The program enrolls Christian leaders from across the world who want to deepen their own faith and improve their ministry serve. At Dallas Seminary's domestic and global campuses, students embark in a three to six year educational journey that includes "home-based" studies as well as short "residency-based" learning experiences on the Seminary's Dallas campus. As director, Dr. Barfoot champions the program, recruits and advises students,

collaborates with faculty colleagues in the development of curriculum and teaches in areas of leadership, preaching and ministry research.



Dr. Barfoot explains that students in the DMin program are generally in middle life and have reached success in their own careers. They aspire to push their Christian leadership skills to a higher level. Scott notes that it is a humbling task to undertake teaching students who have already achieved greatly in their vocational ministry careers.

When he was first invited to consider the position, Barfoot said he almost turned it down because he felt too young and inexperienced to step into this role. However, nine years after taking this step of faith he now feels more settled in his work. He hasn't lost the sense of awe that comes from seeing God

graciously at work through encouraging and supporting people of influence.

Barfoot doesn't just teach about leadership, he practices it as well. A former pastor, he preaches regularly at his home church and other local churches. He and his wife, Debbie also practice hospitality by opening their home to their extended family, community and anyone who needs comfort, "even if it's just for food!" And also on the home front, which some describe as the ultimate crucible for refining leadership skills, he and his family recently celebrated the baptism of his two oldest children.

"Want to go on a road trip to Dallas Seminary?" Who could have known how that invitation influenced Scott Barfoot's life?



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