

# 2012 ALUMNUS OF POINT LOMA AWARD Recipients

BY CHRISTINE SPICER

## COL. Jeffrey Ashley, AN, Ph.D. (85)



COL. Jeffrey Ashley, AN, Ph.D., is passionate about nursing. He is one of only a few members of the Army Nursing Corps (ANC) to hold the rank of colonel and have a Ph.D. As an ANC officer, Ashley has the opportunity to command an entire hospital organization, yet he prefers to lead nurses.

In September, Ashley became a senior nurse scientist at the Center for Nursing Research & Clinical Inquiry at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in

Washington, D.C. Previously, he served as Deputy Commander for Nursing at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. In this position, he was responsible for all nursing care at one medical center, one health center, and six clinics in Belgium, Germany, and Italy. Ashley's team cared for every Wounded Warrior evacuated from the theater of war (Iraq and Afghanistan) on their way back to the U.S. for treatment.

During his career, Ashley has served in places as diverse as South Korea; Honduras; Afghanistan; Ft. Benning in Georgia; Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii; and Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, Texas. One of the greatest challenges and privileges of his career has been supporting individuals and families "in the transition from life to the life after." He has spent profound moments in prayer and song with people living their last moments on this earth.

In addition to his BSN from PLNU, Ashley has an MSN in critical care trauma from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (1999), a doctorate in nursing from UCSF (2005), and a Master of Strategic Studies (MSS) from the U.S. Army War College (2009).

Among his accolades are five Meritorious Service medals, six Army Commendation medals, and the prestigious Joint Service Commendation Medal. He belongs to the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, and the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

"I have had great opportunity to see the game of healthcare played from many different locations in the stadium," Ashley said. "During my first two years at PLNC, Reuben Welch was the chaplain, and he wrote a book titled *We Really Do Need Each Other*. I have come to believe in that phrase and quote it often. In order to provide our patients with the best possible care, we need to understand that the game we see must be informed by other views from various levels of the stadium (up and down) and from sections across the stadium (around) in order to make decisions that are best for the patient. I have a great career and am glad to have been on this journey doing what I do."

## Brian Postlewait (96)



Brian Postlewait is CEO and executive director of Mission Possible (MP) in Vancouver, Canada. MP helps people challenged by homelessness and poverty achieve a renewed sense of dignity and purpose through meaningful work.

Situated in a 10-block neighborhood in downtown eastside (DTES) Vancouver, where 12,000 people live in poverty, MP creates jobs through the development of social enterprises in addition to providing basic, street-level care such as meals, crisis counseling, and clothing. Currently, MP's social enterprises include MP Maintenance, which provides commercial and residential property maintenance services and was named Best Emerging Social Enterprise in Canada by the Trico Foundation in 2011; MP Recycling, which employs at-risk women to recycle gently used hygiene items from local hotels and distribute them to local shelters and people in need around the world; and MP Neighbours, which provides a community approach to safety that acts as a bridge between the community and businesses.

As director, Postlewait gives vision and leadership to the overall program, works with the board of directors, manages the staff, forms relationships with donors and supporters, builds community partnerships, and engages in business development for the social enterprises. In 2011, Business in Vancouver recognized him as one of Vancouver's top 40 CEOs under 40 years of age.

"We work really hard to use the abilities, talents, gifts, and capacities of people in our community to build a stronger web in the neighborhood and community," he said. "The best kind of transformation happens from the bottom up and the inside out."

Postlewait graduated from PLNU in 1996 and spent time doing missions work in Ukraine before moving back to his hometown of Kansas City to attend Nazarene Theological Seminary. While he was in seminary, he lived in an intentional community of seven men committed to practicing simplicity, hospitality, nonviolence, and connection with the local church in a struggling community.

In 2001, he graduated from NTS and married his wife, Rebecca. He pastored at Trinity Church of the Nazarene in Kansas City and then moved to Washington, D.C. in 2006 to pastor at Community of Hope. From there, his family moved to Vancouver in 2007 when Postlewait became Mission Possible's CEO.

"I love signing paychecks," Postlewait said. "When I arrived in 2007, I would sign my own paychecks and two other people's. Now I sit down and sign nearly 40 paychecks every two weeks. That gives me a lot of satisfaction that we are having an impact in our community. I love it when people get jobs and the sense of accomplishment it instills in them that someone believed in them and gave them a shot."

Postlewait and his wife, Rebecca, have two children: Madeline, 9, and William, 6.

## Rhian Gastineau (96)

Born in Zambia to missionary parents and raised in Zambia and Kenya, Rhian Gastineau has made a career of serving people in remote and often war-torn parts of the world. The work and life are not easy—in fact, some of what Gastineau has seen and heard has been truly heart-wrenching—but it has certainly been inspiring.



Gastineau returned to Africa after earning her degree in history/political science from PLNU. Though she had no medical training and was only 22 years old, an organization called Christian Mission Aid gave her a chance to work with people in need in South Sudan.

“I think they figured since I was raised in a war, working in a war wouldn’t be too different,” said Gastineau. “I learned a lot, and I grew a lot. From there I thought, I don’t want to give it up.”

And she hasn’t. Gastineau has served in South Sudan with Christian Mission Aid (1997), the International Rescue Committee (1998), and the World Food Program (1999); with the Billy Graham Foundation (2000) and Samaritan’s Purse (2001) in Mozambique; and throughout Africa with Doctors Without Borders (2001 to the present). She also earned her master’s degree in international relations from the University of Bristol between assignments.

Her current job involves working in one location for about nine to 12 months, negotiating with government officials and rebel leaders to ensure the safety and efficacy of her teams, often at great personal risk. She also works on special projects and in disaster relief.

The people she serves and partners with have continually inspired her with their resilience and hopeful attitudes. Once, while she was working on a sleeping sickness project in the Republic of Congo with staff from Rwanda, Gastineau listened as the men discussed their plans to have only two children each. Because many Africans prefer big families, Gastineau was surprised. One man, a new father, explained, “You can only run with two children.” When his community had been forced to flee during the genocide, he had carried one of his neighbor’s four children as he ran. But even with his help, they were only three adults, and one child had to be left behind in order for the others to be saved. He never wanted such a thing to happen to one of his own children.

“These men were so passionate about giving back despite the fact that they had suffered through the genocide,” Gastineau said. “It just knocks you back to realize you can have horrible things happen to you, but you can rise above it and still give yourself to others.”

Though Gastineau downplays the hardship and danger she herself has encountered, she does acknowledge that she may not live this life forever. What she will do is continue to find ways to serve others. And, for now, she loves her challenging and meaningful career.

## Tim Dabney (80)

In August 2012, Tim Dabney retired as the ninth chief of police in the Lompoc Police Department’s 113-year history. Of his many contributions there, first as captain and then as chief, colleagues point out Dabney’s role in establishing the Lompoc Citizens’ Police Academy as particularly significant. He also worked hard to fight gangs in the city and was instrumental in implementing numerous youth education programs. Additionally, Dabney helped expand the department’s chaplaincy program to provide first responders with support, counseling, and prayer.



Among community leaders, Dabney’s strong Christian faith is well known and admired. Though he was raised in the Church of the Nazarene with strong Christian parents and grandparents, his salvation wasn’t personal to him until late in his PLNU experience when a professor invited him to an early morning Bible study and challenged him to really surrender his life to Christ. Being a committed Christian hasn’t protected Dabney from pain, but it has sustained him in successes and failures, blessings and tragedies.

In 1982, Dabney joined the Lindsay Police Department. He married Susan (Kerr) (81) in 1988 after a long courtship. The Dabneys were blessed with the birth of four children: Michael in 1989, twins Johnathan and David in 1990, and Kelsey (2013 PLNU transfer student) in 1992. David was diagnosed with a terminal pulmonary disease, and the Dabney family struggled with David’s survival for nearly five years before God called him home in July 1995.

In the meantime, Tim was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and began his master’s program. In August 1996, Dabney transferred to the Lompoc Police Department at the rank of captain, where he served as second in command over a staff of nearly 100 full-time and part-time employees.

Dabney has also served as adjunct faculty and police academy coordinator for Porterville College and Allan Hancock College. In addition to his biology degree from PLNU, he has a master’s degree in public management from Cal Poly Pomona and is a graduate of the 209th class of the F.B.I. National Academy, Supervisory Leadership Institute. He was the valedictorian of the 22nd class of the California POST Command College.

In 2002, the Dabney family began to engage in short-term mission projects to a Tibetan refugee children’s home in Nepal and among Karen refugees in Thailand. Tim has found that his law enforcement career has opened international doors and favor with local officials.

“Looking back, God designed our lives and placed us strategically where we are for His glory. We have had the privilege of seeing God’s hand miraculously provide for the Tibetan children’s home,” Dabney said.

The Dabneys have been a part of the Christian children’s home’s growth from 24 youth to 86 at last count and have helped bring more than 65 westerners to serve there. Their 13th mission, which will focus on providing medical and dental care to Tibetan refugees in Nepal and Karen Refugees in Thailand, is currently in the works.