

Venugopal Joins Education Branch

New Provost and Dean of Education Eager to Make Chicago and Moody Home

Dr. Junias Venugopal is no stranger to the Chicago area or to the Moody Bible Institute mission of equipping believers for the work God has called them to. He proposed to his wife, Beth, at Buckingham Fountain in downtown Chicago and they were married 32 years ago in the Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates. They also spent three years in Deerfield, Ill., while he pursued a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from Trinity International University.



Dr. Junias Venugopal and his wife, Beth.

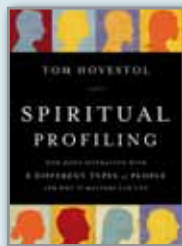
Although they have never lived in Chicago, they are looking forward to the opportunity. “During this season, with our four children nearly grown, we are empty-nesters and are excited to live as close to Moody’s Chicago campus as possible,” said Junias. His road to Moody and Chicago began in 1975 when he committed his life to Christ and learned that it was by faith alone he could have eternal life.

An engineer, Junias spent his early 20s in the marketing department of a computer and calculator company in India. When he failed at a sales position, he questioned his Roman Catholic belief of earning his way to heaven. After a friend shared the gospel with him and he gave his life to the Lord, he came to the United States to pursue a M.B.A. at Cornell University. At a Campus Crusade meeting, he was challenged to examine the eternal value of his life. Finding no evidence of his recent conversion in his life goals, Junias made a career change after he graduated from Cornell and enrolled in the Bible Exposition program at Dallas Theological Seminary to pursue a Th.M.

He became pastor at the Delhi Bible Fellowship in India and later, felt the call of the Lord to make his primary mission the education of fellow believers (his life verse is Colossians 1:28-29). Following this call, he moved his family back to the U.S. and earned his Ph.D. from Trinity. His dissertation at Trinity focused on church planting teams—what made some successful and why others failed. He studied teams in Kenya, Ethiopia,

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Read



Spiritual Profiling: How Jesus Interacted with 8 Different Types of People . . . and Why It Matters for You

Tom Hovestol
160 pages • \$11.99

Jesus “regularly rubbed shoulders with polytheistic and superstitious Romans, with philosophical and sophisticated Greeks, with hearty-partying pagans and with God-fearing Africans ... [and] all of the major religious sects of Judaism,” writes Tom Hovestol in *Spiritual Profiling*. “Is it possible that the kinds of people Jesus dealt with in His world are parallel to the kinds of people we have in our world today?”

Hovestol, pastor of Calvary Church in Longmont, Colo., explores this question to help readers better understand their neighbors and how to best minister to them. Using the Scriptures, historical references and personal anecdotes, this enthralling read dissects the historical background and tendencies of eight “spiritual profiles” that Jesus encountered, and can be paralleled to groups in today’s culture, including Gentiles (the un-churched), Sadducees (traditionalists) and Hillel Pharisees (do gooders).

The “Watch Jesus” section of each chapter dissects His interactions with people from each spiritual profile. These sections are both profound and practical, providing a blueprint for Christians to follow when ministering to others. Each chapter concludes with thought-provoking questions that prompt readers to more deeply examine their relationships with Christ. As Hovestol notes, “The ultimate aim of Jesus, and of this book, is to connect people with Jesus.”

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Poland, Paraguay and Venezuela to better understand how they developed and operated.

This experience proved to be helpful as Junias held a number of leadership roles at universities, including dean of the Asia Graduate School of Theology-Philippines and, most recently, vice president for educational affairs at Columbia International University. "CIU is similar to Moody in many ways," said Junias. "It also has both an undergraduate Bible college and graduate seminary, which is not very common. And, its mission is so similar to Moody's because CIU's founders wanted it to be 'the Moody of the Southeast.'"

While Junias was not looking to leave CIU when Moody approached him to apply for the provost and dean of education position, God confirmed His will many times over. "I believe that God has called me to this position to grow and learn just as much as He has called me to contribute to Moody," he said.

He is looking forward to becoming acquainted with the Moody family and working closely with the faculty to grow Moody's solid reputation during the strategic planning season.

"We are blessed that God has graciously brought us a person of Junias' experience and character."

Currently, Moody's student retention rates are high above the average for U.S. colleges, and it is this excellence that Junias hopes to build upon as the Education branch works to provide the same quality of education across all programs.

Junias has requested that employees pray for a smooth transition as he learns about Moody's culture, operations and strategic plans. Employees can also pray for him and Beth as they look for a new home. Their youngest daughter is a senior in high school and will be staying in Columbia, S. C. with Beth during the academic year. Beth is a nurse and will join Junias in Chicago for one week each month during his first year in Chicago. Finally, they would appreciate prayers for their grandson, Dakota, who was recently diagnosed with diabetes.

"We are blessed that God has graciously brought us a person of Junias' experience and character," said Dr. Paul Nyquist, Moody's president. "We dedicated many hours of prayer to our search for a new provost and dean of education, and it became clear that Junias possesses the diversity of experience, heart for students and love for the Lord required to successfully lead our Education branch in this new season according to God's will."

IN SIGHT

by Dr. Paul Nyquist, *President*

In this final In Sight column on strategic planning, I would like to compare the process to walking through mud puddles—at times it can be very messy. While idealistically most organizations might envision a clean, pothole-free process, that is rarely the case. In fact, strategic planning typically resembles the zig-zag path a car takes to avoid and compensate for potholes, moving relentlessly toward the destination, but not taking a direct route.

As you may have noticed, this is the path we are on at Moody. There have been stretches of open road where we moved ahead quickly as well as periodic delays due to potholes and puddles. There have been moments of great optimism interspersed with times of disappointment. This type of movement can be easily discouraging; however, when looking at the bigger picture, you will be encouraged by our steady progress and good general movement.

If we are to look at the larger strategic planning picture at Moody as if it were a map of our journey, I would say we are nearing the home stretch. We have more work to do, but a great deal has already been accomplished. For that, I am very grateful.

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What complicates the strategic planning journey is the necessity to make fact-based decisions. To do so requires significant research, which entails asking the right questions of the right people. Asking the right questions requires knowing what issues need to be addressed. As you can see, all of this takes time—more time than was initially realized.

I am deeply thankful for the significant time that our various strategic planning teams have already invested in this process. No one on the teams had much, if any, time to allocate to this endeavor—all were already busy people. But, they have willingly given time and energy to drive the process forward.

Soon, as we reach our destination, they will be rewarded for their efforts. The final reports will be completed and their labors will be over. Until then, I ask all employees to keep praying for their work. Pray for stamina, wisdom and courage. When you are driving down a messy, pothole-covered road, it is helpful to know others are supporting you along the ride.

Benefits!

Human Resources Connection

30-Day Deadline & Open Enrollment:

Insurance Changes

In November, every employee has the opportunity to file an application for changes in benefits with the changes going into effect the following January 1. However, if you have a “family status change,” you may make a change in benefits at any time during the year within 30 days from the date of the event.

Examples of family status changes

- Birth or adoption of a child
- Death of child or spouse
- Marriage or divorce
- Spouse employment change that affects benefits (starting or quitting a job)

2010 Open Enrollment changes

MBI PPO and MBI Dental:

- In 2010, if your child reaches age 19 and is no longer a full-time student, he or she is dropped from the PPO. If your child is a full-time student and turns age 23, he or she is dropped from the PPO.
- Effective January 1, 2011, if your child is under age 26, he or she may be added back to PPO coverage regardless of full-time student status.

HMO IL & Blue Advantage and CIGNA Dental HMO & PPO:

- Children of employees on fully-insured plans may retain coverage until age 26 regardless of full-time student status.
- Employees who have not yet added their under-age-26 children back to coverage may do so in November.

How do you make the changes?

- Contact luci.harris@moody.edu or 312-329-2036 to request forms.
- Complete the forms provided and return them within the 30-day period following the event date (or by November 30 for an Open Enrollment change).

Benefit Changes That Can Be Made at Any Time

- Address: visit my.moody.edu>Benefits>Address Change
- Transit Benefits: to make up to two changes per year (stop, start, amount, etc.) contact luci.harris@moody.edu
- VALIC 403(b) deduction amount: e-mail jean.jacobsen@moody.edu or go to www.valic.com
- Doctors or medical groups on HMO IL or Blue Advantage: call 1-800-892-2803
- Dentists on CIGNA HMO: call 1-800-367-1037
- Enroll employee or spouse in John Hancock Long Term Care Insurance: visit <http://enroll.jhcorpchoice.com>; username: moodybible; password: mybenefit



New Admissions Programs Involve Students, Increase Effectiveness

Seeking to connect with more students in a relevant and relatable manner, the Admissions department recently launched three new projects—Student Ambassadors, student-created recruitment videos and a Facebook page. “Our strategy is to create programs that not only bolster our limited resources, but also display our students’ talents in a way that appeals to prospective students,” said Charles Dresser, dean of admissions. “We also want to give qualified students an opportunity to develop their gifts and skills outside of the classroom.”



Student Ambassadors at a Day One event.

The Student Ambassador program, launched in April, engages current undergraduate students as hosts for prospective students and their parents. In addition to participating in Day One events, the Ambassadors serve as admissions tour guides, accompany guests at meals, participate in social media recruitment strategies and host students in their dorm rooms.

In fall 2010, a series of recruitment videos—a short metaphorical film and a series of modular films that explore various aspects of life at Moody—created by undergraduate communications students will be proactively used online to provide a fresh perspective on the Moody experience. Additionally, Facebook has been used by the Admissions team to connect with more students and alert them to important information, answer their admissions-related questions, and build community before students get to campus.

“We have already received positive feedback from students and parents regarding these initiatives,” said Dresser. “And, we are further encouraged because it’s becoming clear that these programs have the potential to build bridges between and provide new resources for a variety of departments at Moody. Together we can use these channels to effectively connect with and transition students to life at Moody.”

Moody Publishers Marketing Department

The world and the way we communicate are constantly and rapidly changing. Not many understand this more than the Moody Publishers Marketing department. To keep a pulse on cultural trends and seamlessly transition from traditional marketing to new models such as social media, the team is always working to learn from each other, industry publications and previously implemented tactics.

“We are a learning company and a learning department,” said John Hinkley, director of marketing for Moody Publishers. “The world in which we operate is constantly fluctuating. We have to be willing to be flexible, think differently and try new things. While our message and mission never change, the way we connect with consumers is always changing.” And, that unchanging mission is to effectively communicate Moody Publishers authors’ messages to millions of people (one reader at a time) so they may experience the power and amazement of a fresh encounter with Jesus Christ.

The 11-member team accomplishes this mission through advertising, publicity, design, copywriting, web communications, conferences, and traditional and social media. In addition to these outwardly focused responsibilities, team members also help drive decision-making on publishing teams, tightly manage the marketing budget and assist each other in accomplishing Moody Publishers’ overall financial objectives.



First row, from left to right: John Matsuoka, Maureen Coady, John Hinkley
Second row, from left to right: Duane Sherman, Carolyn Shaw, Roslyn Jordan
Third row, from left to right: Zack Williamson, Rhonda Elfstrand, Keith Wiederwax, Holly Kisly.

Not pictured: Janis Backing

new Employees



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Assistant Professor of Bible, Undergraduate School

Previously served as a tutor for New Testament at Durham University in Durham, United Kingdom.



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