



LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE

# *even* MORE



## **Why We Give: Alumni and Donors Tell Stories of Generosity**

February 2018 | Advancement Office  
[lbc.edu/give](http://lbc.edu/give)





Meredith (Wrightson '10) Dassoulas, an alumna of the college, devoted wife, and mother of two, reflects on how her experience as a student athlete at Lancaster Bible College shaped her life.

## IT'S A WIN-WIN

*Why This Former Student Athlete Gives Back to LBC*

**As both an athlete** on the basketball and soccer teams and a sport management major during her time at Lancaster Bible College, Meredith (Wrightson '10) Dassoulas spent a lot of time both thinking about and playing sports. "Being a student athlete really developed me in a lot of ways," she explained.

Of course, there were the lessons she learned in the classroom. "My core classes in the sports management program had the most impact educationally. The assignments were practical, interesting, and useful," said Dassoulas. But there were other important lessons that she learned through athletics that she says continue to impact her. "I learned humility, I learned defeat, I learned how to work with others and lead others who had differing views and abilities than myself," she explained, "And I learned to push myself, work hard and not give up. I had many ups and many downs in my four year athletic career, [but] I developed character. I had to learn the hard way that I was not the best, not always right, and sometimes straight up wrong. I am thankful that I learned these important life lessons in college before I entered the working world." All these lessons, she said, proved to be quite useful on the job.

Following graduation, Dassoulas held several jobs, including working in special education in the public county school system. She credits her education and experiences at LBC as the primary reason she landed the positions. "LBC prepared

me to market myself," she explained. "I discovered who I was in college. I learned my strengths, weaknesses and my passions. Knowing myself and who I was created to be in Christ has had the most impact on me in my every day life and in career opportunities." Now, Dassoulas is busy doling out life lessons to her two young children as a stay at home mother. But her formational experiences at LBC have inspired her to give back to college.

Alumni events and connections with college friends and faculty kept her college experience fresh in her mind. "Through those post-college reunions, I saw LBC growing," said Dassoulas enthusiastically. "I wanted to be a part of that growth." Recalling her own time as an athlete motivated her to contribute to the development of future Chargers. "I spent so much time in the Horst Athletic Center and made so many memories." All those hours spent in the gym during college led her to give to an area that she was passionate about: athletics.

When we asked her what recent graduates should consider when giving to LBC, she said "Find the department, student, event, fundraiser, or the mission trip with which you feel most connected with and were excited about and support it! Then, watch how God use that gift to bless others just as you were blessed."

**To learn how you can make a gift to the college, call 717.560.8211 or visit [lbcgive.com](http://lbcgive.com)**



## WHY GIVING MATTERS

*By John Zeswitz, Executive Vice President of Lancaster Bible College*

**Why?** I hear that question a lot. Why – why give? Why be generous? Why does it matter? After all, God doesn't need our money or resources or time. He doesn't need anything from you and me to accomplish what He plans. In His grace, He prepared works for us long ago, but the accomplishment of His will has zero to do with our cooperation in terms of His ultimate success. After all, Peter denied Christ three times, yet Jesus shaped Him to build the Church. Gideon covered. Sarah and a cooperative Abraham thought they would help God accomplish His promise with their cleverly devised plan. The list goes on and on. Broken people, incomplete in understanding. In God's great patience and steadfast love, He taught, shaped and used each one.

I believe giving falls under the same discipleship umbrella. We tend to focus on the act of giving, but God focuses on the heart of the giver. Ultimately, our giving for the benefit of the organization becomes secondary to our own spiritual benefit.

**The very nature of giving shapes us. Being obedient to God's command to give of ourselves makes us more like Jesus. In essence: giving is a part of discipleship.**

My world was church leadership for the better part of a decade, and we often talked about the reasons why people give. Some give because they like the place where they worship and know that lights on means electric bills, parking lots need to be paved, and seating needs to be purchased. Others resonate with the mission of a church because of the ways it has personally impacted them. Others give out of duty and see it as a matter of obedience. These are all good reasons to start.

The bottom line is that God doesn't want our stuff to own us. That level of devotion and influence in our life belongs to God. Alone. We do not give to get. It isn't a formula. Like everything else in our walk with Jesus, giving is based on His relationship with us. We give because He first gave to us. We love because He first loved us. Our giving expresses our growing love and gratitude as it builds trust in Him and transforms us more and more into His image.

We are so grateful for the many friends, old and new, who include Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School on their journey of discipleship. Your giving is making a real difference in the lives of students who will go out and influence others. In some cases, their families and immediate communities are the extent of their influence and for others, literally thousands of people. Both matter and everything in between. Stop by one of our locations for a cup of coffee and we will be glad to share the stories of your impact. Why give? Because it matters.





## FROM NURSING PATIENTS TO NURTURING HEARTS

*The Story of One Donor Who Left Her Medical Career to Pursue Ministry*

*Sandy Lane ('99), an alumna of the college, sat down with us to reflect on her journey to Lancaster Bible College first as a student, and now, as a donor. She shares why biblical education is still of the utmost importance and why she gives back to LBC.*

**A Lancaster county native,** Lane had a long career as a nurse in area hospitals before the Lord directed her steps to the campus of LBC. She earned her RN at Reading Hospital School of Nursing, and, for much of her nursing career, she worked at hospitals all around Pennsylvania.

Eventually, she felt the Lord calling her to move on from the medical field. "I asked myself, 'What else is the most important to me in the whole world?'" The answer, not surprisingly, was her faith in the Lord and a growing interest in ministry.

To build on her budding passion for ministry, Lane enrolled at LBC. To this day, Lane credits the knowledge and faith that she cultivated at LBC with preparing her for ministry. She served for many years in various capacities in the local church, and was the music director at Union United Methodist Church for nearly a decade. She ministered and taught in her church, all while completing her degree. Lane led a women's Bible study that grew so much that it eventually included many of the women's husbands – and even the pastor! "LBC served me beautifully," said Lane emphatically. "I loved the way the

Word was presented – it was real, pure biblical teaching that sustained me in many ways."

18 years later, Lane still believes, " ... that there is no more powerful a place to give than to a Bible college. That's why I wanted to set up ... a scholarship." She first gave to LBC from the sale of her house and has continued giving back to the college in various ways over the years. When we asked her why she thinks it's important to invest in LBC, she said, "I don't think there is any better impact that I can make than to give to help prepare them for Christian service. That's why I do what I do."

**To learn how you can make a gift to the college like Sandy Lane, call 717-560-8211.**



## FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

**One of the privileges** I have as president of Lancaster Bible College is attending funerals. That may sound unusual but it is true. I attend the funerals of numerous friends and alumni of LBC, many of whom became beloved personal friends through the years. These services celebrate remarkable godly men and women, some of great renown and others little known beyond their family circle.

**I seem to be attending more of these sacred events as I grow older.**

Recently, a well-known pastor alumnus of great impact quietly and suddenly passed away. Some would say it was long before his time. It affected many of us very deeply. Literally thousands of folks gathered for his memorial service. I listened to person after person tell me of this choice servant's mark on their life.

In that same window of time, I attended another funeral for a dear woman of 106. She lived modestly all her life in the same home along a small town's main thoroughfare. She lived quietly, making the most of every opportunity to influence those God brought her way. Her funeral had but a handful of family in attendance. She was just as dearly loved as the pastor, but less known and a lot older.

As I reflect on these two recent deaths, it is intriguing to think of a common trait. Both were generous people investing into others, many of whom they would never meet. Neither boasted astronomical bank accounts. In fact, their net worth would scarcely make the balance sheet the way the world measures wealth. Yet from their meager resources and determined frugality, they were extraordinarily generous with the resources and opportunities God gave them. A scholarship fund has been set up at LBC to honor the pastor, while the woman left her remaining estate to the college.

Isn't that just like God to give opportunity for ministry to others? If we will only seize it. As the old hymn reminds us, "Come thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace."



*Peter W. Teague*

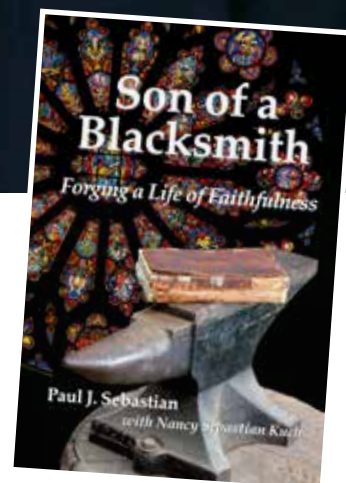
Peter W. Teague, EdD

President of Lancaster Bible College



# A Generous Heart

By Nancy Sebastian Kuch ('84)



Paul J. Sebastian ('52) has served the college in various capacities for nearly seven decades and continues to do so even today at age 93. To learn more about his life and history with the college, read his new book, "Son of a Blacksmith: Forging a Life of Faithfulness." All book profits benefit LBC. For more information, visit [sonofablacksmith.com](http://sonofablacksmith.com)

**Of all the things** that impress me about my father, Paul J. Sebastian, probably the greatest is his generosity. He is not wealthy and cannot give away huge sums of money, but he intentionally and consistently gives where and when the Lord leads. He passionately helps LBC students prepare for God's work. He faithfully contributes to the monthly support of many missionaries. He regularly gives to our local church. But his benevolence goes beyond writing checks and putting money in the offering plate.

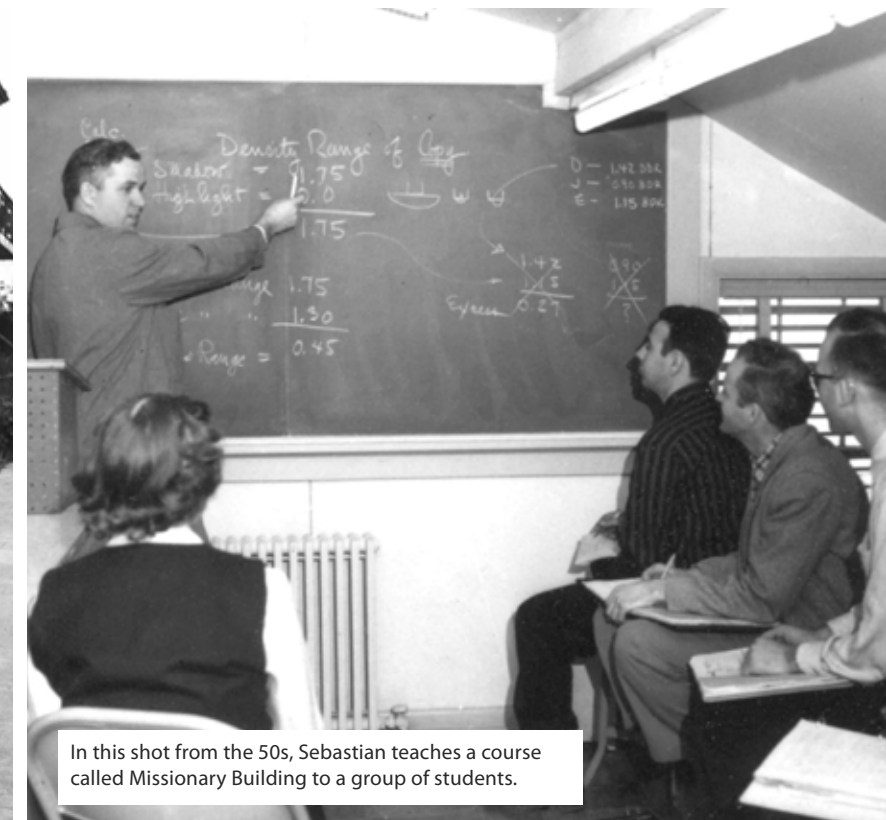
As a youngster, I did not understand why visiting missionaries would enthusiastically turn and hug Dad after shaking his hand upon their departure - until I grew older and realized he was slipping them cash on their way out our door. I have often seen him pull aside restaurant servers to pay the bill for ministry friends dining at another table. He has a huge heart and a willingness to listen to God.

As he and I worked on his autobiography this past year, I stood in awe of all he has contributed to the Lord's work by way of effort, time and dollars - especially to Lancaster Bible College through 67 years of faithful service as a teacher, architect, board member and donor. How thankful I am for his faithful example of generosity. May we all follow in his footsteps of faith.

**If you'd like to make a gift to LBC, call 717-560-8279 or visit [lbcgive.com](http://lbcgive.com)**



Paul Sebastian, in traditional Chinese garb, poses in Shanghai with English missionary Mabel Broadbridge.

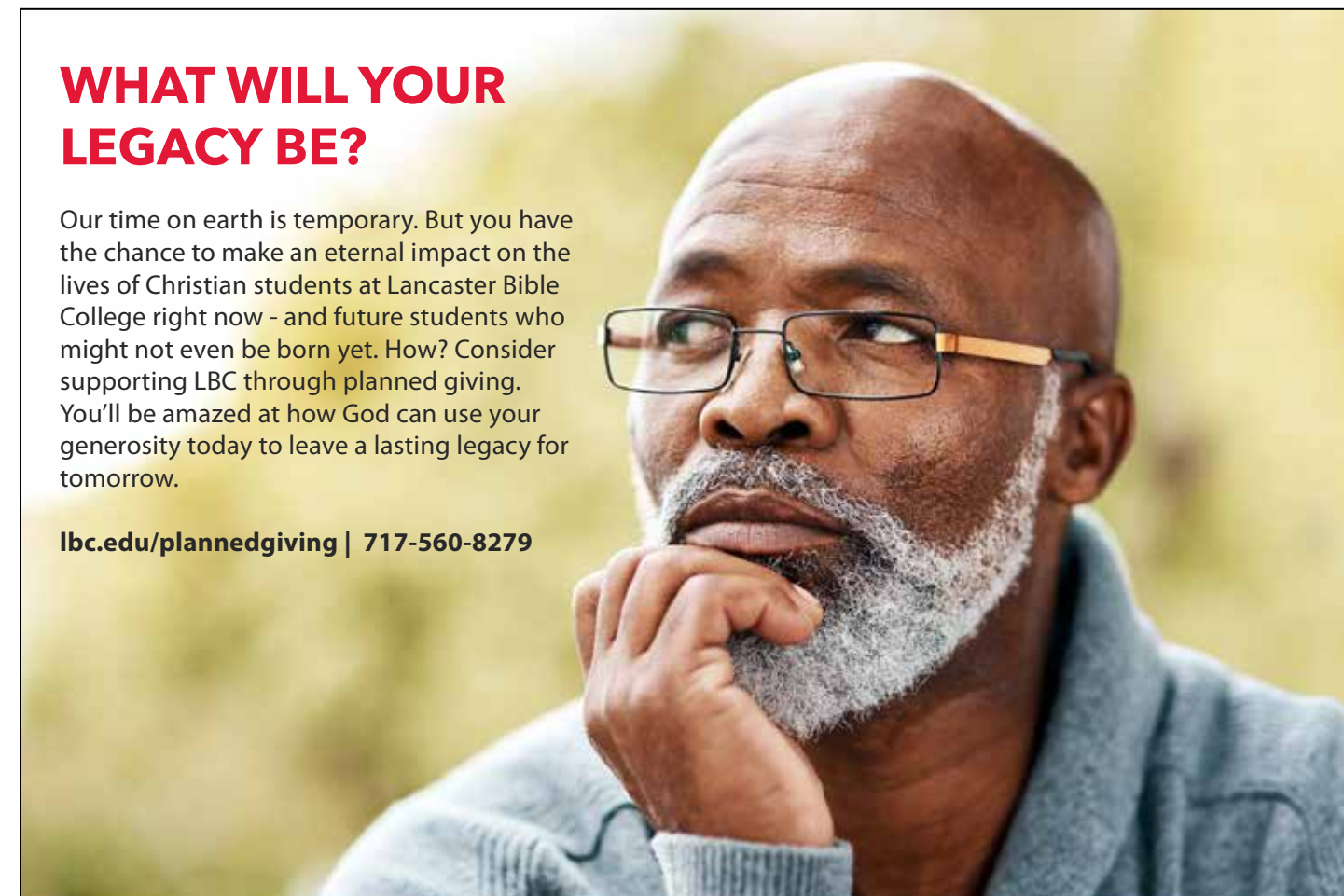


In this shot from the 50s, Sebastian teaches a course called Missionary Building to a group of students.

## WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Our time on earth is temporary. But you have the chance to make an eternal impact on the lives of Christian students at Lancaster Bible College right now - and future students who might not even be born yet. How? Consider supporting LBC through planned giving. You'll be amazed at how God can use your generosity today to leave a lasting legacy for tomorrow.

[lbc.edu/plannedgiving](http://lbc.edu/plannedgiving) | 717-560-8279







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**Sponsor a Student for \$80 a Month**

You could make a lifelong impact on a student at Lancaster Bible College with just \$80. That monthly contribution helps our students fulfill God's call on their life, whether it's helping them to become a pastor who leads others to Christ, a teacher who molds the minds of children or a social worker who will fight for the rights of the marginalized.

Ready to change the life of a student?  
 Make your gift today by visiting [lbc.edu/sponsor](http://lbc.edu/sponsor)

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**On the Cover:**

Dr. George Nichols, a pastor at large, and student Joshua Rotz pause to chat on a bench near the Good Shepherd Chapel.

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