

Joseph Thomas
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Education

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Ph.D., Christian History and Historical Theology
August 2000 – May 2005

Fuller Theological Seminary
Masters of Theology
August 1996 – June 1999

Eastern Illinois University
Bachelors of Arts in History
Teaching Credential
August 1985 – May 1988

Parkland Community College
Associates of Arts
August 1982 – 1985

Areas of Expertise

Teaching: Historical Theology, History of Christianity, History of African-American Christianity, Interracial Relations in American Christianity, History of Holiness-Pentecostalism, World Religions.

Consulting: Developing partnerships with local ministries, organizations and businesses to create new ministry opportunities and enhanced facility construction.

Fundraising: Working with nonprofits and Christian organizations to create strong financial foundations for growth. Fundraising efforts have raised through gifts and pledges \$13 million dollars over the last five years.

Teaching Experience

Urbana Theological Seminary
Assistant Professor of History of Christianity
Fall 2009-Present

History of World Christianity 1 & 2
American Church History
Patristics
Bonhoeffer: Life and Thought
History of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements
Reformation
George Whitefield and the Re-evangelization of America: A Strategic Study for Church

Leadership
Martin Luther King, Jr.: Life and Thought
Echoes of Jesus: The Sermon on the Mount and Social Change

Biblical Theological Seminary
Assistant Professor of Church History
Fall 2005 – Spring 2009
Christian History 1 & 2
The First Christians in their own Words
The Evangelical Long Century, 1792-1910

Carthage College
Adjunct Professor
Fall 2004 – Spring 2005
Understandings of Religion
Communities and Cultures: The Ideal and the Reality

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Adjunct Professor
Spring 2004, 2008
History of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements

Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL
Adjunct Professor
August 2002 – Spring 2005
The History of the African-American Religious Experience (3 years)
United States History

North Park University, Chicago, IL
Adjunct Professor
Spring 2001
History of the Church

Judah Christian School, Champaign, IL
August 1988 – May 1996, 2012-2013
Taught grades 9-12 history, government, sociology, Bible
Taught grades 7-12 physical education
Coached Jr. high and Sr. high boys basketball for a total of 6 years
Athletic Director (1989-94)
Worldviews

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement
1991-1996
Director and Instructor of Perspectives for Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Student Responses

"I have not been a lover of history. However, this class has really helped me appreciate history more. It has been exciting seeing how God has taken His church through history and continues to do so." History of Christianity

"Joe's expertise and balanced attitude toward the material was excellent. His structure was right on and expectations were on target." History of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements.

"I think Joe Thomas is an excellent teacher. Lots of great learning in a very innovative way. I personally learned a lot and had fun doing it. (Great class)." United States History

"This was a truly wonderful class. I love it. Joe was the best instructor I have had in the Reach Program. I hope I will be as great of an instructor as he is!" African-American Religious Experience.

"Excellent teacher. I really enjoyed his teaching style. He made the class more interesting and led great group discussions." African-American Religious Experience.

Publications

Forthcoming Stage Production (2019)

Friends Indeed: The Improbable Friendship of Benjamin Franklin and George Whitefield. Written by Joe Thomas, Doug Peterson and Cameron Cornell

Current Book Projects

The Sermon on the Mount: Social Change during the 20th Century

Bonhoeffer: Leadership in Action (Small Group Study)

Your Daily Vocation: The Challenge and Adventure of Disciple Making
(A Pinnacle Forum Small Group Study)

Book

Perfect Harmony: Interracial Churches in Early Holiness-Pentecostalism, 1880-1909. (Emeth Press, 2014).

Book Contribution

Robert J. Priest and Alvaro L. Nieves, eds. *This Side of Heaven: Race, Ethnicity, and Christian Faith.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
Douglas A. Sweeney and Joseph L. Thomas, "Crossing the Color Line: A Brief Historical Survey of Race Relations in American Evangelical Christianity."

Book Reviews

Thomas Kidd, *George Whitefield: America's Spiritual Founding Father.* Yale University Press, 2016. *Cultural Encounters Journal.* 2017.

Robins, R. G., *A. J. Tomlinson: Plainfolk Modernist*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*. Vol. 27, No. 2, 2005.

Goff Jr., James R. and Grant Wacker. *Portraits of a Generation: Early Pentecostal Leaders*. Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 2002. *Fides et Historia: Journal of the Conference on Faith and History*, XXXVI: 1 Winter/Spring 2004.

Wacker, Grant. *Heaven Below: Early Pentecostals and American Culture*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001. *Fides et Historia: Journal of the Conference on Faith and History*, XXXV:1 Winter/Spring 2003.

Articles

Conscientious Objection in Health Care. *Carle Selected Papers, 2015*.

Hillerbrand, Hans J., Ed. *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*. London and New York: Routledge, 2004. Authored article on Samuel Davies.

Larsen, Timothy, Ed. *Biographical Dictionary of Evangelicals*. Leicester, England: InterVarsity Press, 2003. Authored article on John Winthrop.

Research Assistant

Jonathan Edwards, The "Miscellanies," 1153-1360, ed. Douglas A. Sweeney, *The works of Jonathan Edwards*, vol. 23 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004).

Sweeney, Douglas A. *Nathaniel Taylor, New Haven Theology, and the Legacy of Jonathan Edwards*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Dissertation

"No Jew or Gentile": Sanctified Unity Ecclesiology in the Early Holiness-Pentecostal Movement. This dissertation studies the social, historical and theological factors that led to the practice of "interracial" fellowship during the early years of the Holiness-Pentecostal movement. The aim of *"No Jew or Gentile"* is to explain how these Christian groups managed to rise above the segregationist policies of Jim Crow and integrate their religious fellowships.

Presentations

"Good Friday," 2-hour on Penny for your Thoughts with Brian Barnhart, WDWS, Champaign, IL. 2018, 2019

"Bonhoeffer: Leadership in Action," Iron Sharpens Iron Conference, 2019

"Reformation History," Windsor Road Christian Church, 2019

"The Sermon on the Mount and Social Change," 2-Day talk at Audiofeed, 2019

"Erasmus and the Bible Revolution," Taste of Seminary, Urbana Theological Seminary, 2019

"Bonhoeffer: Leadership in Action," Seven-part series with Men's Small Group. 2018

"Transgressive Spaces: Interracial Contact in the Bible" Windsor Road Christian Church, 2018

"Biblical/Historical Foundation for Multi-Ethnic Church." 4-part radio series on WBGL. Champaign, IL. 2018

"Finding your Pinnacle Pursuit." 3-Part series on finding your calling. Pinnacle Forum, Champaign, IL. 2017.

"Beer, Brats and Luther." Presentation at the 500th anniversary celebration of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses. Riggs Brewery, Champaign, IL. 2017.

"Bible Reformation Tour." Co-Presentation with the University of Illinois Rare Book and Manuscript Library. UI Books and Manuscript Library. 2017.

"Calling in Christian History." Presentation to Leadership Team at Christ Community Church, Urbana, IL. 2017.

"Biblical Justification for the Multi-Ethnic Church." Presentation to Windsor Road Christian Church, Champaign, IL. 2017.

"Erasmus and the Bible Revolution." Co-Presentation with the University of Illinois Rare Book and Manuscript Library for the 500th anniversary celebration of the publication of the Greek New Testament. St. John Divine Church and UI Rare Book and Manuscript Library. 2016

"Religious Freedom." Presentation to Windsor Road Christian Church. Champaign, IL. 2016.

"Healing Power of Faith." Co-Presented with Dr. Audra Thomas to First United Methodist Church. Champaign, IL. 2016.

"Perfect Harmony: Rumors of Interracial Fellowship in the American Church." Seminar on Race and Contemporary America. Elmhurst College, March 11, 2015.

"A New Wind: The Globalization of Pentecostalism." Spirituality Group. Elmhurst College, March 12, 2015.

"Formation of the New Testament Canon." Meadowbrook Community Church. Champaign, IL 2015.

"Reflections on M.L.K. jr.: Where do we go from here?" Pinnacle Forum, Champaign Club, January 23, 2015.

"Reflections on M.L.K, jr: Where do we go from here?" Evangelical Christian Union, University of Illinois, Urbana –Champaign. January 21, 2015.

"Conscientious Objection in Health Care," Carle Ethics Forum, Carle Foundation Hospital, 2013.

"Understanding the Trinity in Church History." University of Illinois Graduate Christian Fellowship. 2013.

"J.R.R. Tolkien and the Writer's Life," J.R.R. Tolkien Conference: There and Back Again, Feb. 2012.

"George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin: A Friendship between Right and Left." Immanuel Bible Institute, Bloomington, IL, 2012.

"A Common Word between us and You" Jewish, Christian, Muslim dialogue, 2010.

"George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin: A Friendship between Right and Left." Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 2008.

"George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin: A Friendship between Right and Left." Urbana Theological Seminary, 2008.

"The Da Vinci Code," Biblical Theological Seminary, 2006.

"'No Jew or Gentile': The John 17/Galatians 3 Paradigm, Interracialism, and the Holiness-Pentecostal Movement." The Woodbridge Forum for Historical Research, February 2004.

THD Doctoral Teaching Fellow and Dissertation Reader (Evangelical Seminary, PA)

Courses: Historiography, History of Christianity (2018-19)

Dissertation Advisor: Brent Brooks (Ongoing)

Doctor of Ministry Committee Member

Reader for Steven Foster – "Building Doctrinal Foundations in Adults: An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of a Catechismal Discipleship Curriculum at Sayre Woods Bible Church"

Reader for Rev. Kurt Teng – "Study of the Current Situation of the Three-Self

Patriotic Movement in China: Its Theological Orientation, Its Political Ideas, Its Ministry Practices and Its Attitude Toward the House Churches”

Advisor for Anthony W. Hurst, Sr. – “The Effect of Founder’s Syndrome on the Gospel Spreading Church.”

Consultant

Consultant to Switzerland Tourism (2005-07)
Develop Christian History tours in Switzerland

History Consultant for Christian History Institute (Worcester, PA), 2005-2009

Popular Publications and Activities

Glimpses #202 – *John Bunyan: A Mender of Pilgrim’s Souls*

Glimpses #195 – *Patrick: The Making of a Missionary*

Torchlighters’ Animated Series (Script Writing, Study Guides and Promotion)

Episode 1 – *The Jim Elliot Story*

Episode 2 – *The William Tyndale Story*

Episode 3 – *The John Bunyan Story*

(Forthcoming episodes on Eric Liddell, Gladys Aylward and Perpetua)

Da Vinci Code Seminar (Presentations at Local Churches)

George Müller: Robber of the Cruel Streets (Historical Research)(Film)

Professional Activities/Certifications

Awarded the Historical Theology Departmental Fellowship, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

The Woodbridge Forum for Historical Research

Co-founder and co-president of student led, historical research forum aiming to encourage publication of ongoing historical investigation

Evangelical Theological Society

The Society for Pentecostal Studies

American Society of Church History

Illinois Teaching Certification in History, grades 6-12

Personal Information

Birth date: 4/20/64, Urbana, IL

Family: Married 32 years, two children

Interests: biking, boogey boarding, reading, travel

Faculty References

Prof. Ken Cuffey, President and Professor of Old Testament, Urbana Theological Seminary, 314 East Daniel Street Champaign, IL 61820. Ph. (217) 365-9005
Email: kcuffey@urbanatheologicalseminary.org

Prof. Doug Sweeney, Department of Church History and the History of
Christian Thought Chair, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 2065 Half Day Road,
Deerfield, IL 60015. Ph. (847) 317-8066
Email: dsweeney@tiu.edu