EDITOR'S note

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"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-41 (New International Version)

I wish I had a dollar for every time I have asked God to tell me what to do in a given situation. When the Pharisees tested Jesus with this line of questioning and asked Him for the greatest commandment, they received the response I cited above. Since this narrative also is repeated in Mark and Luke's gospels, I am guessing these commandments are the greatest for us as well.

So I have made an early New Year's resolution: I want to be a better lover. I imagine you are snickering, but I really mean it. I really want to love God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all that is left of my mind after sixteen years of raising children. But how often is my heart pre-occupied, my soul tired, and my mind concentrated more on the mundane details of my earthly life than on the Lord my God? More often than I would like to admit.

As if the first commandment was not difficult enough, Jesus gave us the second: *Love your neighbor as yourself.* I am humbled by the loving service my SBU colleagues have given to their neighbors at home and around the globe, and I want to be a better lover in this regard, too.

In this issue, you will read about Minda Cox, Class of 2011, who was born without arms or legs. While Minda could be bitter about her lot in life, she has chosen to be a better lover. Born in India and adopted and raised in the U.S., Minda is an Intercultural Studies major at SBU with the goal of working on the mission field to help amputees and others without limbs. Read about her first mission trip on page 8. Her love for the economically and spiritually impoverished Native Americans of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota will break your heart.

In other feature stories, learn more about the passionate work of alumnus Doug Roller '76 along with SBU faculty members Dr. Tim DeClue and Dr. Kevin Hopkins. They all love the Lord, music, and mathematical pursuits! All of these men are servant leaders, too.

Also, in this issue, is a tribute to President C. Pat Taylor's devotion to loving the students at SBU. Dr. Taylor has just begun his 15th year of service at SBU. Dr. Taylor truly cares for the students at SBU and considers their graduations among the University's greatest accomplishments during his tenure as President. He and First Lady Judy Taylor have served at SBU since October 1996.

As this magazine goes to press, we celebrate reaching the $1.4 million goal for the Mabee Chapel renovation! Reaching this goal assures us the opportunity to receive the $280,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation (See story on the inside back cover). It is through the financial generosity and prayer support of SBU alumni and friends that this goal has been met. God truly has blessed SBU with outstanding alumni and friends.

Peace to you as you celebrate this blessed Christmas season,

Sharina Smith
Executive Editor
Senior Director of Marketing & Communications