

PRIMUS 25 YEARS

UNIVERSITY OF THEOLOGY

Christ first in life and education

CELEBRATING 2001–2026

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Karen Drake: President

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Glendale, Arizona 85306
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www.PrimusUniversityofTheology.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER Dr. Karen E. Drake — Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence

As we move into the closing months of our 25th Anniversary year, my heart is full of gratitude.

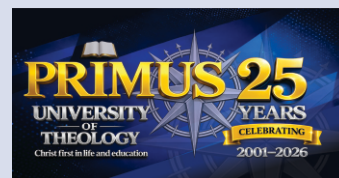
Twenty-five years is not simply a mark on a calendar. More than 390 students graduated with Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees from Primus. It represents thousands of lives touched, ministries strengthened, leaders equipped, and callings affirmed through Christ-centered education. Since our founding in 2001, Primus has empowered students worldwide to pursue Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees by recognizing not only formal study but also ministry experience, Biblical knowledge, lifelong learning, and servant leadership. What began as a God-given vision has become a global community of pastors, chaplains, educators, business professionals, and Kingdom builders.

This year has given us much to be thankful for. We welcome a remarkable group of new students, each arriving with their own calling and their own story. We have also been strengthened by the leadership of our new Board—active, engaged, and deeply invested in the University's future. Their work is already visible across the institution, most notably in our new website.

Our Advisory Board has served us with equal dedication, bringing their expertise to bear on our documentation, branding, website content, policies, and student forms, along with the expertise of Dr. Dawid J. Pieterse. The result is a University that presents itself more professionally at every point of contact. You will read more about both bodies later in this newsletter.

Ahead of us is our Annual Eagle Forum and Graduation Celebration, held under the theme Milestones and Markers — a fitting note on which to close this anniversary year. Full details follow below.

To every student, graduate, supporter, faculty member, and ministry partner who has walked this road with us: Thank you. Together we continue to place Christ first in life and education and the best is yet to come.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)



ABOUT ▾ ACADEMICS ▾ ADMISSION ▾ PROFESSORS EAGLE FORUM DONATE MAKE PAYMENT ALUMNI

About Primus University

Quality and individualized Christian education for leaders, ministers, and world changers.

Our Identity

**Quality and
Individualized
Christian Education**



OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE

Our newly redesigned website is now online at www.primusuniversity.org—a modern, mobile-ready platform built around the student's journey rather than the institution's structure. However, we are still adding information and improving on the content, layout, and functionalities.

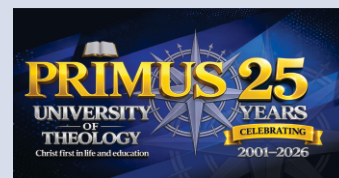
The new site brings real functionality, not just a new look. Prospective students can now check their eligibility online in a few steps, explore how ministry and life experience translate into academic credit, and follow our portfolio and assessment pathway from first inquiry through to conferral. Program information, the ACU alliance, and our accreditation are each given their own clear space. Online giving to the Dr. Richard Drake Memorial

Scholarship Fund is now available directly through the site.

Our new Board Chair, Dr. John Melby, spearheaded the redesign, and further enhancements are already in development. We invite you to visit, explore, and share it with those God may be calling to study.

OUR BOARD AND ADVISORY BOARD

As Primus enters its 26th year, we are honored to welcome our newly appointed Board of Directors—a distinguished group of accomplished alumni who embody this institution's mission and vision. Over the years, these graduates have become respected leaders in ministry, business, education, and organizational development. Today they return as trusted stewards of the University's future, working alongside the President and Co-Founder to



provide strategic oversight, governance, and visionary guidance.

Our Advisory Board has likewise given generously of its time and expertise, strengthening the University's documentation, branding, policies, website content, and student-facing forms. Their contribution has raised the standard of everything we put our name to.

We welcome these exceptional leaders and look forward to a new season of unity and advancement together.



OUR 25th ANNUAL EAGLE FORUM AND GRADUATION

Theme: Milestones and Markers

This year's Annual Eagle Forum takes place Thursday and Friday, 8–9 October, opening with a special Welcome Event on Wednesday evening,

7 October at 6:00 PM. The Graduation Ceremony follows on Saturday morning, October 10.

Dr. Thomas Richburg will serve as Program Director and Master of Ceremonies. We are honored to welcome several esteemed speakers to our Forum this year—more about them elsewhere in the newsletter.

Milestones and Markers could not be more fitting as Primus celebrates 25 years – a journey full of milestones and markers. Our speakers will share how Primus impacted them—their ministries, leadership, businesses, and spiritual journeys—and the defining moments that marked their paths. For many graduates, Primus became more than an institution. It became a catalyst for purpose, affirmation, and Kingdom advancement.

The Forum will celebrate 25 years of milestones while casting a bold vision for the leaders now rising to carry Christ-centered leadership into every sphere of influence.

Alumni, you're invited to join us for a special time of training, connection, and equipping for ministry and leadership. As we gather, we look forward to strengthening relationships, growing in purpose, and celebrating what God continues to do through the Primus University community. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful event and milestone.

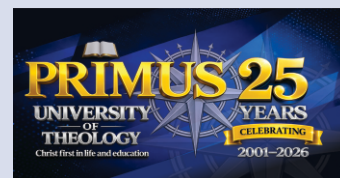
ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



DR. KEITH RUSHING: Keith, a close friend of Primus University founder Dr. Richard Drake, is an ordained minister who has served the Body of Christ for over three decades, including more than twenty years as a pastor in an interdenominational Charismatic church. A U.S. Air Force veteran with a Vietnam tour, he later built a successful insurance and financial planning business before earning his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry, with a concentration in Leadership and Marketplace Ministries. Through Eleventh Hour Ministries F.B.O. and the Eleventh Hour War Room, Dr. Rushing equips believers to discern truth, deepen their walk with Christ, and faithfully represent the King in every sphere of life.



DR. JOHN MELBY: DOCTOR OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP: John owns Fearboss in Phoenix, Arizona. He holds a Doctoral degree from Primus, where he also serves as Chairman of the University's Board of Directors. He brings a unique blend of entrepreneurial leadership and theological grounding to his work, guiding both his business and the University's governance with the same commitment to excellence and purpose. Through his role at Fearboss and his leadership on the Board, he continues to invest in the growth and integrity of institutions dedicated to equipping others for ministry, faith, and service.



DR. EDWARD SMITH: DOCTOR OF MINISTRY: Edward holds doctorates in Ministry, Divinity, and History from Phoenix University of Theology, where he serves as Vice-President, Chancellor, Chaplain, and teacher. An experienced trainer and spokesperson for various ministries and non-profits, he currently serves as a law enforcement chaplain for Dallas County Police through Cedar Valley College PD, chaplain for the Dallas County DA Investigator Division and Grand Prairie PD, and as an RTCA, Disaster Response, and Christian Emergency Network (CEN) Chaplain, as well as Cowboy Church Chaplain at Mississippi's Neshoba County Fair. He lives out Christ's command to "love your neighbor" through these ministries and through Primus University of Theology.



DR. CAROUSEL PIETERSE: Doctor of Ministry, Curriculum and Organizational Development: Carousel is a seasoned executive with over 30 years of experience in international leadership development, executive coaching, trauma-informed program design, and organizational strategy across Non-Profit, corporate, and public-sector sectors. As Program Director for Katy Cares and Abigail's Place, she has built trauma-informed, evidence-based curricula serving single-parent families across greater Houston. Her career spans HIV/AIDS program direction with the South African Police Service, executive leadership training, and Non-Profit operations. An experienced Trauma-Informed Counselor, Social Worker, and Curriculum Development expert, Carousel brings a rare blend of clinical depth, creative strategy, and mission-driven leadership to every audience she serves.



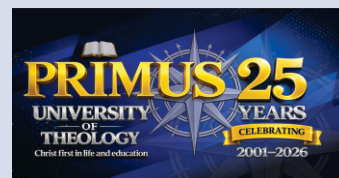
DR. SCOTT BITCON: DOCTOR OF MINISTRY, DEMONS AND DISSOCIATION: Dr. Scott Bitcon, a Phoenix-based pastor, holds a Doctor of Ministry and specializes in inner healing, deliverance, and ministry to those affected by dissociation. A believer since 1989, he entered ministry in 2000 and studied under five leading inner healing and deliverance ministries, uniting their strongest elements into one effective method. Scott helps survivors of trauma and abuse find freedom from the enemy's grip. He has ministered to more than 100,000 people and trained over 6,000, including hundreds of pastors. At Primus, he teaches Freedom from Oppression. His mission: preach the Gospel, heal the brokenhearted, and set the captives free.



DR. DON ENEVOLDSEN: DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES: Dr. Don Enevoldsen has served as an author, pastor, and Bible teacher for more than fifty years. He holds Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Phoenix Seminary and a Doctor of Biblical Studies from Primus University of Theology. A prolific writer, he has authored more than a dozen books, including *The Kingdom, From Creation to the Millennium* and *Why Does This Jewish Thing Matter?* At Primus, he teaches Hermeneutics and Apologetics, drawing on decades of study focused on the Jewish background of the New Testament and a deep grasp of Old Testament history and theology.



DR. GENE SMEED: DOCTOR OF MINISTRY, HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Gene, a recent Primus University of Theology graduate, holds a Doctor of Ministry in Health and Wellness. A former Air Force rescue helicopter pilot and Delta Air Lines captain, Gene and his wife co-founded Wellness Advantage, Inc., a physical therapy and rehabilitation company that served the Arizona Valley for 25 years. A Mayo Clinic Certified Wellness Coach, he developed its senior wellness programs. After retirement, Gene was diagnosed with stage 3 prostate cancer; by God's grace, he is now cancer-free. He is introducing Wellness Abundance, a new course, and speaks on the healing power of the Holy Spirit.



DR. DOUG ANDREWS: Doug Andrews brings a rich blend of academic achievement, public service, and entrepreneurial leadership. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences from Texas Tech University, a Master of Education from Texas A&M University, and a Master of Marketplace Ministry from Primus University of Theology. Over a distinguished 33-year career with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, he served as an agricultural researcher and educator, retiring as Director Emeritus of the Dallas County office. Today, he owns DSA Diversified Services in Dallas, where he continues to integrate faith, service, and sound business practice in the marketplace.



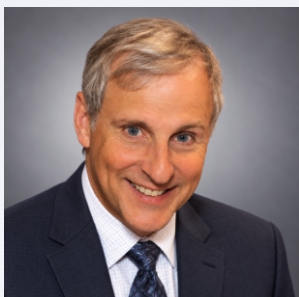
DR. THOMAS RICHBURGH: Doctor of Ministry Management: Thomas brings 28 years of distinguished service as an active member of the armed forces. While deployed in Iraq, he provided pastoral care and personal integration support to soldiers facing the demands of deployment, offering spiritual strength in the midst of hardship. He also served as a Chaplain with the New York State Chaplain Task Force and has more than 20 years of ministry experience. A 2021 graduate of Primus University of Theology, Dr. Richburg holds a Doctorate in Ministry Management, combining military discipline, pastoral compassion, and organizational leadership in service to God and country.



PASTOR MARK BILTZ: Mark is the founder and Senior Pastor of El Shaddai Ministries in Washington State. He is a well-known and popular speaker on the Feasts of the Lord and has authored many best-selling books that have gone global. Mark Biltz has lectured at congregations and conferences worldwide, including in 25 nations across 5 continents. He's been on the cover of several magazines and has been interviewed many times on national radio stations as well as appearing on several different television programs. Pastor Biltz has a local congregation in Washington State and live-streams their weekly service on their website at www.esm.us, as well as on Facebook and YouTube, to over 200 cities in 20 nations. He will receive his Doctoral degree from Primus University of Theology this year.



DR. KENNETH S. CALDWELL: Doctor of Ministry, Leadership and Development: Ken recently retired as Executive Vice President with Alliant Insurance Construction Services Group, capping more than thirty years in construction risk and insurance brokerage, senior technology leadership, and service as a U.S. Air Force officer. He holds degrees from the University of Texas, the Air Force Institute of Technology, and the AEA/Stanford Executive Institute, and has served on the California Water Commission and Boy Scouts of America councils. In 2023, Ken and his wife Kaylynn began transforming their South Carolina land into Caldwell Hog Heaven Camp, a technology-free Christian youth camp welcoming its first groups in September 2026. He will receive his Doctoral degree from Primus University of Theology this year.



DR. ROBERT F. WOLFF: Robert F. Wolff: Robert is the founder of Majestic Glory Ministries and promotes reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles through our identity as One New Man in Messiah Yeshua. Through Kingdom Kinetics, he uses publishing, speaking, and media to build unity in the Kingdom of God. He leads the Many Waters Project, partnering First Nations of America with Israel, and The O.A.T.H. Project, combating human trafficking. His outreach spans denominations, ministries, and messianic organizations. Robert has authored six books on spiritual growth, including Kingdom Calling, UNITY: Awakening the One New Man, and Have You Seen the Lamb? He and his wife, Wendy, live in Malibu.

BEYOND COMMENCEMENT



Dr. Karen Drake visits longtime Primus supporter and alumnus Dr. Dean Landis, bringing along homemade chocolate-covered strawberries. Stepping in on Mother's Day: Karen treats the mother of a Primus family member to lunch in Phoenix. Dr. Karen with Primus Alumnus Dr. Doug Andrews of Dallas, Texas, who helped her find a new-to-her car.

BEYOND COMMENCEMENT: THE HEART THAT KEEPS PRIMUS FAMILY CLOSE

By Deborah Baines and Dr. Dawid J. Pieterse

At most universities, graduation day marks the end of a relationship. Students cross the stage, shake hands with the president, and move on to the next chapter. At Primus University of Theology, the story goes differently. For Dr. Karen Drake, commencement is not a farewell but a continuation. Some of the students she first encouraged a quarter of a century ago still hear from her, still see her, and still count her among the people who show up when it matters.

Ask around the Primus family and you will hear the same thing again and again: Dr. Karen stays in touch. Not through an annual form letter, but in person, in the ordinary moments of life where care is actually felt.

Every Other Weekend, and Often More.

Dr. Dean Landis has been a Primus alumnus and faithful supporter since 2001. Today he lives in an assisted living facility, and Karen is a regular visitor, at least every other weekend and often more. She takes him to church. She takes him to lunch. She takes him to the movies. On one recent visit she arrived with homemade chocolate-covered strawberries.

There is no program requirement behind these visits and no plaque that will ever record them. They happen because Dr. Karen believes that the people who have given to Primus over a lifetime deserve to be remembered, honored, and enjoyed, not only in their strongest years but in every season.

Lunch with Mom on Mother's Day

When Dr. Karen learned that a member of the Primus family would not be able to be in Phoenix for Mother's Day, she did not simply offer sympathy. She asked whether she could take

that mother to lunch herself, and she did. A daughter who could not be there knew her mother was celebrated anyway, by someone who treated the family as her own. It is a small gesture on the calendar and a large one in the heart. It is also exactly the kind of thing Dr. Karen does without being asked.

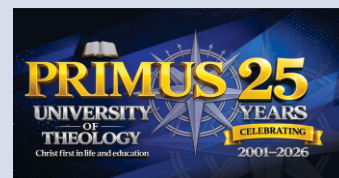
A Two-Way Street

These relationships are not one-directional. The same graduates Dr. Karen has cared for over the years are quick to care for her in return. When she needed a vehicle, Primus alumnus Dr. Doug Andrews in Dallas, Texas, went to work and found her a reliable new-to-her car. That is what genuine community looks like: people who give and receive, serve and are served, because they belong to one another. Dr. Karen has spent years investing in her graduates, and they, in turn, gladly invest in her.

The Primus DNA

This is what sets Primus apart. Many schools can offer a degree. Fewer can offer a family. At Primus, the relationship between a student and the university does not expire with a diploma. It deepens. Graduates remain known by name, remembered in prayer, visited when they are lonely, and celebrated in their milestones, sometimes decades after they last sat in a class.

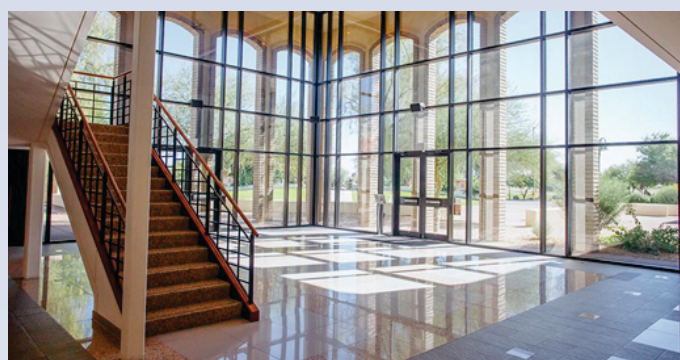
Dr. Karen's leadership reflects the very ministry Primus prepares its students to carry into the world: faith expressed through presence, faithfulness over the long haul, and love that shows up in person. Scripture calls us to "carry each other's burdens," and Dr. Karen models that call not as a slogan but as a habit. It is no wonder so many people love Dr. Karen (also known as Dr. Eileen which means bright, shining light and radiant one) and love Primus. In her, they see what the University has always been about: a place where people matter long after the ceremony ends.



PRIMUS 25th ANNUAL EAGLE FORUM

AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

OCTOBER 8 - 9, 2026 - make your plans NOW to attend!
ONLY \$250.00 PER PERSON



ANNUAL EAGLE FORUM

Room block reservations at:

DoubleTree by Hilton North Phoenix

Address: **10220 N. Metro Pkwy East,
Phoenix, Arizona 85051**

Booking deadline: **September 23, 2026**

Primus guests will receive a special
Group Rate up to the closing date.

Reservation/Booking Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhoen=PHXNTDT&groupCode=CDTPUT&arrivaldate=2026-10-07&departuredate=2026-10-09&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Rooms & Rates:

King/Double Queens beds: \$149.00

Parking is free.

GRADUATION EVENT

Venue:

Rhode Auditorium

Date:

Saturday October 10, 2026

Address:

Arizona Christian University/

Primus University of Theology Campus

1 West Firestorm Way, Glendale, Arizona 85306

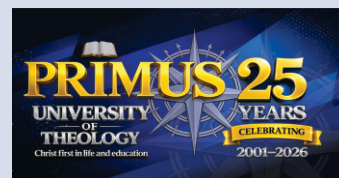
Commencement Ceremony:

10:30am- 12:00pm

Reception on site following Graduation Ceremony:

12:15 pm-1:30 pm

Call (602) 224-1161 to register and receive college credits for Eagle Forum attendance and participation.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH ACU *Mentor Protégé Strategic Alliance Partnership*

Primus University has been modeled after the original university systems at the advent of education, where Bible teaching was required even for medical and law students. Our graduates become our Adjunct Professors. This allows our students to learn from Christian Leaders that are experts in their field, and authors of the books and materials they teach.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH ORU *Educational Partnership Agreement*

Primus University of Theology and Oral Robert's University have entered into an Educational Partners agreement, to expand opportunities for essential career skills, to benefit students as they prepare to impact the world for the kingdom of God. ORU is committed to develop Holy Spirit-empowered leaders through whole person education to impact the world.



Dr. Karen E. Drake
President