

Coley sees Christian education as vital  
By Joy Rancatore

WAKE FOREST, N.C.—Education for the glory of God comprises the heart and soul of Ken Coley's life.

Coley, professor of Christian education administration at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, shared his vision for strong leaders in Christian education in his book, *The Helmsman*, published this summer by Purposeful Design Publications.

The book's purpose, according to Coley, is "to serve as a guide for scholastic leaders, pastors, board members and teachers who want to go into administration." The book focuses on administration in Christian schools.

"The Lord is using Christian schools in a really significant way to partner with Christian parents to develop a Christian worldview in their children; consequently, the leaders of these schools have the significant responsibility as a ship's captain to lead in such a way that the school follows God's purposes so the school does not become lost," Coley said.

The book provides biblically-based descriptions of the tasks a Christian educational leader should perform. He likens the leader to the helmsman of a ship and unfolds his or her responsibilities as administrator, builder, builder of the body and steward.

Coley presents information for anything from the foundations of a school's philosophy and governance to balancing finances and handling various legal issues.

He has committed his working years to the education profession. He taught middle school and high school for seven years before serving as principal of a Christian school for 15 years.

Coley presented the fall faculty lecture at Southeastern in November, touching on these same principles. He primarily focused on answering the question: How should I educate my children?

"This decision, quite possibly, will be the most significant decision that a parent will make on behalf of their children," Coley said. "As a Christian parent, we are to lead our children to the Lord and guide them as they transition into adulthood with a Christian worldview. When your son or daughter leave your house, walk across the stage and receive a diploma, will they have a biblical worldview?"

He continued in the lecture to answer various questions pastors may face concerning education. One of those questions he addressed was "Doesn't God expect Christian children to attend public school where He wants them to witness to unsaved classmates?"

In answer Coley compared a child's education to the training soldiers have before going to war. He called children in Christian homes "God's soldiers for the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Since the publication of *The Helmsman*, Coley has traveled across the country for speaking engagements on the topic of Christian education. His lectures are at one-day seminars put on by the Association of Christian Schools International.

Anyone interested in more information about this association or in ordering Coley's book can go online to [acsi.org](http://acsi.org).