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Office of University Communications

October 10, 2013

Michael Dean Chadwick Will Share His Testimony at Dimensions Oct. 15

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Dimensions program at Gardner-Webb University is pleased to welcome Michael Dean Chadwick, an inspirational speaker whose personal testimony will relay a moving message during Alcohol and Other Drugs Awareness Week. The nationally known speaker will share his story on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 9:25 in the Paul Porter Arena, located inside the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center (LYCC).

The addiction to drugs and alcohol is something that Michael Dean Chadwick knows all too well. After first trying marijuana at the age of 15, his life began to revolve around drugs, as he became a heavy drinker, user and dealer. Later in life, after he recovered as an addict himself he helped his son-in-law, baseball star Josh Hamilton, deal with his own addiction struggles and was influential in his return to Major League Baseball.

“Baseball fans are familiar with the drug and alcohol struggles of Los Angeles Angels outfielder Josh Hamilton, but his father-in-law, Michael Dean Chadwick, has a remarkable story of faith amidst personal struggle and tragedy,” said Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister to the University. “I am grateful for the athletic department, student activities, and the alcohol and other drug committee at GWU for working with us to bringing Mr. Chadwick to our campus.”

The road to recovery was not an easy one for Chadwick, who felt invincible as he quickly rose within the ranks of the construction and development community in the Washington, D.C. area, in spite of a substance abuse problem. Chadwick experienced professional success and wealth but his dependency continued to cause problems in his personal life, and he became an absentee father and unfaithful husband. After turning to God, Chadwick’s faith was tested with several events but none more heartbreaking than the loss of his eight-year-old son, Michael, who was killed after being struck by a car.

Now as the CEO of MD Chadwick Homes, LLC and 1st American Realty, LLC, Chadwick builds and develops communities in Raleigh, N.C., where his life and work are based on the idea of “paying it forward.” That philosophy can be seen in his ministry where he inspires people to use their talents and gifts for others. He also helps his daughter, Katie, and Josh Hamilton with their Triple Play Ministries organization. For more information about Michael Dean Chadwick, visit www.michaeldeanchadwick.com.

Gardner-Webb University's Dimensions programs are free and open to the public. The goal of Dimensions is to enhance the spiritual, intellectual and cultural life at the University and also to promote a sense of community. Dimensions programs are held on Tuesday at 9:25 a.m. in the LYCC. More information is available by calling 704-406-4277.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).