



COLLEGE of BIBLICAL STUDIES  
**IMAGINE**

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*Organizational Information*

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*for immediate release*

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**CBS Gala Crowd Inspired by Amy Grant, MercyMe's Bart Millard; College Honors Paula and Rusty Walter**

A sold-out crowd of more than 400 guests at the Houstonian Hotel recently experienced an inspiring tapestry of stories and music by legendary artist **Amy Grant** and MercyMe's **Bart Millard**. The *Imagine* gala benefited the College of Biblical Studies.

Dr. Bill Blocker, CBS president, led a lively dialog with Grant and Millard – in their first appearance on stage together in Texas to share their stories. Described as a joyful, inspiring evening of vision, redemption and hope, the gala featured scenes from the popular film *I Can Only Imagine* about Millard's life.

"It was a joy to hear Amy and Bart describe how their faith has grown through the challenges they've faced, and to learn more about their friendship and their professional journeys," Blocker said. Amy and Bart each performed songs that were special to them.

**Doris and Terry Looper** and **Bonnie and David Weekley** served as honorary chairs. The event was co-chaired by **Cheri and Andy Fossler, Jeannie and Greg Frazier** and **Lynda and David Tauber**. Proceeds from this record-setting gala will fund educational programming for the college.

**Paula and Rusty Walter** were honored with a CBS Lifetime Achievement Award. The Walters were recognized for their lasting impact throughout the Greater Houston region, including to biblical education. "The Walters' enduring commitment to each other in all circumstances is an inspiration to friends and the community," Blocker said.

Guests included **Jan Duncan, Carolyn and Dale Hortenstine, Dr. Julie Boom and Dr. Marc Boom, Patti and Jim Fox, Martha and Jim Hunt, Joanie and Don Haley, Brandy and Ron Wilson, Ann and Mike Jobe, Carrie and Matt Meloy, Rosanne and David Oelfke, Patti and Tom Owens, Rhonda and Mike Graff, Dr. Laura Petersen and Dr. Eric Thomas, Mary and Dr. Ivory Varner, Carolynn and Mark Connelly, Matthew and Dr. Ann Barnes, Elizabeth and George Farish, Laurie and Christopher DeClaire** and **Lucy and Skip McBride**.

Grant is a Multi-Platinum, GRAMMY®- and Dove-winning artist whose music has inspired and encouraged listeners for more than four decades. Multi-Platinum artist Millard is the lead singer of MercyMe and writer of the bestselling Christian song "I Can Only Imagine" that inspired the movie *I Can Only Imagine*.

The College of Biblical Studies-Houston (CBS), founded in 1976, annually equips approximately 500 men and women with a high-quality, affordable biblical education. The students, eighty percent of whom are African American or Hispanic, transform the city as ministry leaders, pastors, nonprofit executives, teachers, police officers, business leaders and more. CBS is one of only four U.S. Bible colleges with both national and regional accreditation. For more information about CBS or the recent event, please contact Irby Bair at 832-252-0759 or email [advancement@cbsouston.edu](mailto:advancement@cbsouston.edu).

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