

MELISA ORTIZ BERRY

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA, 2011–2018

Major: History of Christianity, Religion in North America; Minor: Christian Origins

M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 2008–2010

Concentrations: New Testament and Women's Studies

M.A. Knox Theological Seminary, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 1998–2005

Major: New Testament; Concentration: Church History

M.A. University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1995–1998

Major: United States History; Minor: Greco-Roman History

B.A. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 1991–1995

Double Major: Classical Greek and History

POSITIONS

Adjunct Professor, 2023-Present

Bushnell University

Bible and Theology, History, Writing

Assistant and Associate Professor, 2019-2023

Bushnell University

History and World Christianity

Adjunct Professor, 2014–2019

Azusa Pacific University, CA

History of Christianity

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2013

Claremont Graduate University, CA

Christianity in the First Millennium, Karen Torjeson

Curator and Cataloger, Fall 2010

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

James H. Charlesworth Antiquities Collection

Research Assistant, 2009–2010

Dead Sea Scrolls Project, James H. Charlesworth, Princeton, NJ

Adjunct Professor, 2001–2008

Calvary Chapel Bible Institute, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Koine Greek, History of Christianity, Writing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Israel Study Abroad Co-Leader, Summer 2023

Southwest Oral History Association: Oral History Best Practices, Summer 2022

Hispanic Theological Initiative: Early Career Orientation, 2020-2021

Active Student Learning: Using “Reacting to the Past” Online, March 2020

Grants Academy, Azusa Pacific University, Summer 2019

Student Writing Workshop, Azusa Pacific University, Summer 2019

Teaching with Technology Institute, Azusa Pacific University, July 2018

Wabash Center Teaching Workshop for the Hispanic Theological Initiative, March
2016

Living Stones Oral History Project, Azusa Pacific University, Summer 2014–2016

Abel Beth Maacah Archaeological Dig, Summer 2014

Tel Akko Archaeological Dig, Summer 2012

COURSES PREVIOUSLY TAUGHT

Bible and Theology

1 John

Archeology and the Bible

Koine Greek

New Testament Survey: Component of Women’s Mentoring Program

Scripture and Canon

Why Not Women?

World Religions

Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Arab-Israeli Conflict

Archaeology and the Bible

Component of: World History

Component of: History of Africa

History of Christianity

Apostolic Era to the Eve of the Reformation

Christianity in America

Eve of the Reformation to the Present
History of the Bible
History of Theology

History

1960s
Ancient Near East
History of American International Relations
History of Africa
Historical Methods and Research
History of Western Civilization
Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in American Culture
Racism Around the Globe
Women in United States History
World History

Writing

English Composition
Research and Writing

AWARDS

Bushnell University, Faculty of the Year, 2021
Azusa Pacific University School of Theology Adjunct Faculty Award, 2018, 2019
American Academy of Religion Western Region Paper Award, 2018
Fernandez Prize in Religion, Claremont Graduate University, 2015
Presidential Research Award, Claremont Graduate University, 2012
Church History Award, Knox Theological Seminary, 2005

GRANTS

Wabash Center Grant: “Supporting Holistic Latina Excellence in Theological and Religious Education,” 2021-2022
NetVUE Mini-Grant for History, 2020-2021
Wabash Center Grant: Digital Salon, 2020-2021
NetVUE Mini-Grant for History and Greek, 2019-2020
Hispanic Theological Initiative Scholar, 2012–2017
CGU Dissertation Research Grant, Claremont Graduate University, 2016–2017
Friedman Grant, Claremont Graduate University, 2015

PUBLICATIONS

God Has Named You: 25 Spiritual Identities to Reveal Who You Are. Whitaker House, September 2026
Evangelical Spirituality: Henrietta Mears and Modern Evangelicalism. Working with Baylor University Press, estimation of 2027.

Chapter, “Wives Who Teach and Hold Spiritual Authority: Rereading 1 Timothy 2 as Empowerment for Women.” Invited chapter for *Reflections on Power and Authority in Early Christian Communities, Part 2*. Bloomsbury Publishing, forthcoming 2028.

Chapter, “Gender, Race, and Service: Bushnell’s Legacy of Minorities in Ministry.” *Wisdom, Faith, and Service: Reframing the Bushnell University Saga*. Eugene OR, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2023

Blog, “From Blank Stares to Student Leaders: Using Historical Role-playing Games to Enhance Student Engagement.” *Wabash Center*, June 2022

Blog, “Backward Design Your Life: A Pedagogy of Self-Care.” *Wabash Center*, April 2022

Review of “Mother of Modern Evangelicalism: The Life and Legacy of Henrietta Mears.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, March 2022.

Blog, “That Day I Came to Class Dressed as Athena: The Pedagogy of Fun.” *Wabash Center*, January 2022

Chapter, “How are Women Lost to History? Recovering Nazarene Minister Bertha Mae Lillenas.” *Claiming Notability for Women Activists in Religion*. Books@ATLA Open Press, 2020

Dissertation, *Evangelical Orthodoxy: Henrietta Mears and Modern Evangelicalism*. Claremont Graduate University, 2018

Review of “Madre Matiana: Prophecy and Popular Culture in Modern Mexico.” *Religious Studies Review* 42, no. 3 (September 2016): 219

Review of “Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.” *Religious Studies Review* 42, no. 1 (March 2016): 51

Review of “Palestine Speaks: Narratives of Life Under Occupation.” *Oral History Review* 43, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2016): 204–206

PRESENTATIONS & INTERVIEWS

“Wives Who Teach and Hold Spiritual Authority: Rereading 1 Timothy 2 as Empowerment for Women,” AAR PNW, Newberg, OR, May 2026.

“Evangelicalism as Christian Spirituality: How Women Reveal Its Spiritual Core,” AAR PNW, Newberg, OR, May 2026.

“Henrietta Mears and Her Team,” Azusa Pacific University, Mary Hill Luncheon, March 2025

“Spiritual Entrepreneurs: Henrietta Mears and Evangelical Women,” Azusa Pacific University, Mary Hill Lecture Series, March 2025

“Gender, Diversity, and Evangelical Spirituality,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO, November 2022

“Henrietta Mears,” Interview, Great Tomorrows: The Henrietta Mears Documentary, Zing Productions, July 2022

- “Women, Religion, and Oral History: Stories Moving Through Time, Space, and Virtual Geographies: Evangelical Women,” Oral History Association, Online, October 2021
- “Eclipsed by the Shadow of her Husband: Hymnist and Evangelist Bertha Mae Lillenas,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2019
- “Subversive Evangelism: The Textile Theology of Henrietta Mears,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2019
- “Padre on Shifting Sands: Ramon Ortiz and the Mexican-American War,” American Academy of Religion Western Region, Berkeley, CA, March 2018
- “Winks, Wagers, and Papers: Sacred Moments in Religious Research,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2016
- “Henrietta Mears and Gospel Light Publishing: Evangelical Women and the Dissemination of a Global Evangelical Orthodoxy,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2016
- “The World Deputation Movement: Evangelical Students and Social Justice in Europe after World War II,” American Academy of Religion Western Region, Tucson, AZ, April 2016
- “Suffering Submission as an Ascetic Impulse: Evangelical Women in the Twentieth Century,” Religions in Conversations Conference, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA, February 2016
- “Drawing the Border Lines of an Evangelical Orthodoxy: Henrietta Mears and Christian Education,” American Academy of Religion Upper Midwest Region, St. Paul, MN, 2015
- “Evangelical Women in the City of Angeles: How the City of Los Angeles Impacted the Ministries of Henrietta Mears and Aimee Semple McPherson,” California American Studies Association, Fullerton, CA, April 2015
- “Choosing Second Place: The Self-Subjugation of Evangelical Women,” American Academy of Religion Western Region, Los Angeles, CA, March 2014
- “The Asceticism of Self-Subjugation: How Evangelical Leader Henrietta Mears Both Submitted to and Subverted Patriarchy,” Religious Genderings Interdisciplinary Conference, Chapman University, Orange, CA, February 2014
- “Wild Hats and Hollywood Glam: Fashion as a Textile Theology in the Ministry of Henrietta Mears,” Religions in Conversations Conference, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA, February 2014
- “Nineteenth-Century Spiritualism: Naturalism, Feminism, and Contemporary Criticism,” lecture at Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA, Exploring Judeo-Christian Knowledge, November 2, 2013
- “The Nature of Orthodoxy,” Imagining the Good Life: Apologetics and Human Flourishing, California Baptist University, Riverside, CA, April 2013
- “Gospel Bombs: Henrietta Mears and her Fight Against the Rising Tide of Secularization,” American Academy of Religion Western Region, Phoenix,

AZ, March 2013

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

The Called Initiative, Founder and Scholar in Residence, Women Christian leader's
Mentoring Program, 2026

"PodClass" podcasting series interviewing scholars and ministry leaders

"What's the Word?" Spring, 2025

"Who is Jesus?" Fall 2025

"Theology of Marriage," Scheduled for March, 2026

"What's the Fuss? Women in Christian Leadership" Scheduled for May, 2026

"Leading Together: Women and Men Leading Together in Christian Ministry,"
Scheduled for July, 2026

Israel Study Abroad: Trip organizer and co-leader, 2023

Be the Bridge: Conversations for Racial Reconciliation, Bushnell University, campus
organizer and group leader, 2021-2023

Minority Mentoring Program, Claremont Graduate University, mentor and panel
speaker, 2015–2016, 2017–2019

Religions in Conversation Conference, Claremont Graduate University, board member
and section chair, 2015

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society of Biblical Literature

American Academy of Religion

Hispanic Theological Initiative