

Six, newly baptized, die in Pakistan blast

AFTER A TERRORIST ATTACK aimed at Christians, Churches of Christ mourn the victims but are 'stronger in their faith,' minister says.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

They loved to sing. And they were good listeners — especially when they heard the Word of God.

That's how Asher Kaleem, a minister in Lahore, Pakistan, described the six Church of Christ members killed in an explosion at a public park on March 27.

Baptized less than four months earlier, the members, ranging in age from 18 to 35, were among hundreds of Pakistanis who gathered in Gulshan-e-Iqbal park in Lahore, a city of 5.1 million souls, the second-largest in the predominantly Muslim nation, to celebrate the Easter holiday.

"The explosion occurred in the parking area ... close to children's swings," said Eric Masih, another minister who works with Churches of Christ in Lahore. "Witnesses said they saw body parts strewn across the parking lot once the dust had settled after the blast."

The suicide bombing — claimed



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ASHER KALEEM

Eric Masih and Asher Kaleem visit and pray with a survivor of the suicide attack.

by terrorists who said Christians were their target — killed at least 69 people immediately, according to a government spokesman. Four members of a Church of Christ in Lahore were among the dead.

An additional 17 church members were sent to hospitals, Masih said. Three days after the blast, two of them died from their injuries, Kaleem told *The Christian Chronicle*.

Earlier Sunday, Churches of Christ
See **PAKISTAN**, Page 15



Days after the bomb blast that killed dozens of people in Lahore, Pakistan, members of the city's Christian community, including ministers from Churches of Christ, prayed for the victims — Christian and Muslim — at a vigil. Four victims' families attended.

Morgan Freeman hears couple's 'Story of God'

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

God doesn't play favorites. Charles Marsalis stresses that message at the Hollygrove Church of Christ, the New Orleans congregation he and his wife, Angela, planted in a high-crime neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina. "I'm just plain ol' Charles," the minister said. "I'm not going to treat anybody differently, no matter who you are."

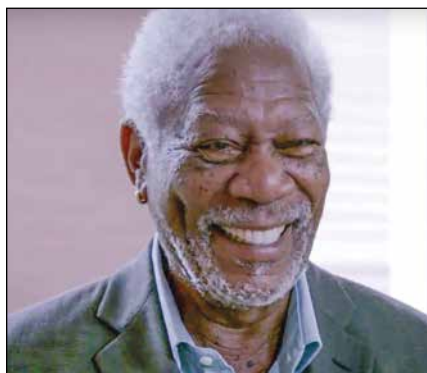
Not even if you're an Academy Award-winning actor named Morgan Freeman — in the Big Easy to interview Marsalis and his wife, Angela, for the National Geographic Channel series "The Story of God."

"Some of the folks, including one of my sons, was watching me to see how I was going to react," the father of four said, referring to Freeman's presence at a Sunday worship assembly. "My son said, 'Pops, you never called this man out one time.'"

Of course, the actor who played God in the box-office hit "Bruce Almighty" and its sequel, "Evan Almighty," was impossible to miss. So were the cameras that filmed the congregation singing "Shelter in the Time of Storm."

Marsalis did address Freeman when the star jokingly took money out of the collection plate. "Boy, you about to get whooped in the church," the minister said he told him.

See **STORY OF GOD**, Page 12



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

"Story of God" host Morgan Freeman smiles during an interview at the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ.

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Blessings flow as Pearl of a church is saved

A Hawaiian honeymoon sounded perfect, so Neil and Carolyn Myers decided to fly for the first time.

Taking off, they were a little apprehensive.

“We just held hands and said, ‘Lord, you may be taking us, but we’re coming together,’” Neil Myers joked.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

Did I mention that — by the time the couple got around to a honeymoon — they were in

their mid-70s and had been married for 57 years?

Their trip came a year and a half ago, but it brought an experience they won’t soon forget. “I’m thoroughly convinced the Lord had a hand in this,” said Neil Myers, a retired preacher who serves as an elder for the West Walker Church of Christ in Carbon Hill, Ala.

What made their island trek so memorable? Not the sand or the waves. Not the tour of historic Pearl Harbor. Not even the travel at 35,000 feet.

Rather, the couple’s introduction to the Church of Christ at Pearl Harbor — a close-knit congregation that has served an estimated 3,000 military personnel and their families over the last 60 years — made a lasting impression.

“We spent the Lord’s day with them,” Neil Myers said. “We were impressed with the worship. It was very spiritual, and the lessons were good.”

See PEARL HARBOR, Page 4

Serving souls who pass ‘through the paths of the seas’

IN ANNAPOLIS, MD., a Church of Christ adopts midshipmen as they navigate the rigorous U.S. Naval Academy.

BY ALAN GROVES AND LAURA AKINS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY CHAD RUNGE

Midshipmen watch a flyover from the Pukin’ Dogs of Strike Fighter Squadron 143 during a graduation and commissioning ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Josh Story remembers his two-month introduction to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. — known as plebe summer — as the most challenging thing he’s ever done.

“Plebe summer is something difficult that you are proud you did,” said Story, a midshipman from Brentwood, Tenn.

It’s also “one of those things you don’t want to do again,” he added.

New recruits, or plebes, wake each day at 5:30 a.m. to the sound of slamming doors as their superiors pace the corridors of Bancroft Hall, the largest single dormitory in the world. Plebes have approximately six minutes to shave, get dressed, make beds and brush their teeth before morning workout.

Nearly every waking minute is consumed with briefings, trainings and

additional workouts. Students get only 30 minutes of free time to memorize the plebe handbook, fold clothes or write letters to family.

Except for Sundays.

“Sundays were everything,” Story said. “It’s your only day that you get some time away from training.”

That’s when Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Jackson, a member of the Annapolis Church of Christ, and fellow Christians arrive “on the yard,” as the lush, green campus is known, to feed and sing hymns with the

students. They encourage the plebes to persevere as they learn to navigate “through the paths of the sea,” words from Psalm 8:8 seen on campus — inscribed on the tombstone of Matthew Fontaine Maury, a Navy lieutenant in the 1800s who dreamed of a school to

See ANNAPOLIS, Page 13



PHOTO PROVIDED

Josh Story with his adopted parents Bobby and Candice Keaton.

Helping church leaders make better decisions

HOPE NETWORK MINISTRIES works with elders and ministers to improve processes and outcomes.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

DALLAS — The church doctors are in. Actually, Jon Mullican and Grady King — co-leaders of Texas-based Hope Network Ministries — prefer to think of Hope’s 18 ministry partners as fitness coaches.

“Mentoring Leaders, Guiding Churches” is how Hope characterizes its work in mentoring, consulting, interim ministry and marriage care.

Lynn Anderson, a longtime preacher and author who served congregations from Canada to Texas, and his wife, Carolyn, founded the nonprofit in 1996.

“We are well acquainted with the challenges of leading a church,” says Hope’s website. “Many of us have lines on our faces and scars on our hearts from years of trusting God in the trenches of church life.”

Mullican, minister of church development for the Highland Oaks Church of Christ in Dallas, and King, senior minister for the Mansfield Church of Christ in Texas, discussed church conflict and communications in a recent interview with *The Christian Chronicle*.

READ THE INTERVIEW, Page 11



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Grady King and Jon Mullican serve as co-leaders of Hope Network Ministries.

PEARL HARBOR: Funds raised to buy church land from military

FROM PAGE 3

Moreover, he and his wife discovered that they knew one of the elders, John Graham, a retired sheriff's deputy with whom they had worshiped on a Montana vacation a decade before. Neil and Carolyn Myers learned that the 150-member congregation — the largest Church of Christ in Hawaii — was facing a major financial challenge.

The church near the U.S. Air Force and Navy bases known as Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam needed to raise at least \$1.1 million to avoid eviction from the Navy property it had leased since 1956, as *The Christian Chronicle* first reported last year. The deadline: May 2016.

Otherwise, the Navy planned to "excess" — or sell — the site that houses the church's main chapel, its parsonage, a classroom facility, a training building and a fellowship hall dubbed the "Aloha Room."

Church leaders had explored the possibility of a commercial loan. However, banks put a high priority on long-term contributions by permanent members.

That was a problem because 80 percent of the Pearl Harbor membership turns over every three years. Military families stationed at bases all over the island of Oahu receive frequent transfer orders.

"I just couldn't imagine the government taking over two-and-a-half acres of land that these brethren had for 60



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Minister's wife Ruth Byrne snaps a photo of a "Love God" symbol she drew in the sand.

years," Myers said.

And he couldn't shake the feeling that God was calling on him to help.

"If you believe that, then you just can't turn your back on it," he said.

So the couple made a personal financial commitment, and Neil Myers shared the story at every Alabama church that would let him. "People have responded," he said. "It's just overwhelming to me."



Carolyn and Neil Myers

In Colorado, Phil and Sara Sykora also rallied support. The Sykoras attended the Pearl Harbor congregation in the late 1970s when Phil Sykora, now an elder for the Littleton Church of

Christ, worked for the Government Accountability Office.

Sara Sykora was baptized there.

"I just think of what a support it was for all the military wives," she said. "So many of the wives had husbands in the Navy, and they were out in subs for six months at a time."

In Nicaragua, missionary Benny Baker and his wife, Donna, likewise felt compelled to give.

"I was one of the 3,000 they touched and kept close to the church by their love and support," said Benny Baker, who served in the Navy from 1968 to 1971. "I do not remember names, just a lot of special people."

Here's the fantastic news: The Myerses, Sykoras and Bakers are just a few of the 395 individuals and

68 congregations that gave. The "lion's share of contributions" came from *Chronicle* readers, minister and elder Steve Byrne said.

With funds received and promised, the church has raised the \$1.1 million needed to buy the land and pay related fees, elders Byrne, Graham and William Wood said.

"For a small military congregation like Pearl Harbor to have raised the vast majority of the needed funds in just over a year's time, all the glory must go to God. We continue to offer him our 'Mahalo,'" Byrne said, using the Hawaiian word for "thank you."

The church plans to celebrate during a 60th anniversary reunion event June 24-26.

Pearl Harbor members sacrificed to give \$450,000 of the total. Women raised money by holding garage sales and selling a potluck cookbook.

"Our paying off the debt early leaves little doubt ... that God has a plan," said Jenni Logsdon, wife of Army Lt. Col. Toby Logsdon, "and no man or seemingly impossible amount of money is going to stop him from blessing and advancing his kingdom. What an exciting privilege it is to be a very, very small part of the amazing picture that is God's plan."

Neil and Carolyn Myers also were excited to be a part of God's plan. Just don't expect them to make a habit out of air travel.

"We survived the flights," Neil Myers said with a chuckle. "I'm not anxious to do it again."

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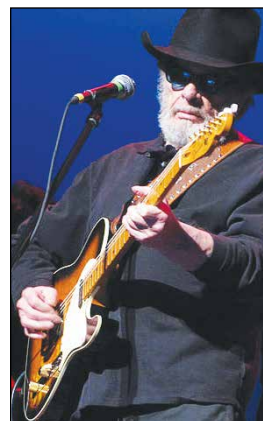
SPOTLIGHT

Merle's 'Mama Tried'

Country music legend Merle Haggard, who died April 6 on his 79th birthday, had Church of Christ roots, according to media reports.

In its front-page obituary, *The New York Times* reported that Haggard's mother, the former Flossie Mae Harp, was "a strict and pious member" of the Church of Christ.

According to CMT.com, his mother's church background "led to her forcing her husband to stop playing the honky tonks."

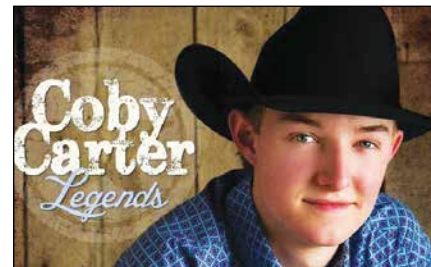


WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Merle Haggard, a country music legend, performs in Athens, Ga., in 2013.

Did Haggard's "Sunday learning" — which he referenced in his No. 1 hit "Mama Tried" — ever kick in?

The singer did not attend a Church of Christ but referred to his "Lord Jesus Christ" in online postings.



COBYCARTERMUSIC.COM

Western swing artist Coby Carter

one. The most recent community date night hosted by the church drew about 150 guests.

"We have an elegant off-site venue with china and high-end decorations," minister Jeff Dunn said, noting that the congregation "saw a need to strengthen relationships through providing an opportunity for couples to have an elegant date."



CHRISTOPHER CONWAY PHOTOGRAPHY

'Love Lights Up the World,' and so do the singing children in Tulsa

Bob Goff, author of the best-selling book "Love Does," joins the Workshop Kids Praise Chorus on stage at the recent Tulsa Workshop in Oklahoma. Goff delivered two keynote sermons on "Love Lights Up the World" at the workshop, which drew about 2,000 attendees, director Shane Coffman said. The children's chorus, directed by Brenda Hughes, included boys and girls from Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas. For the first time, Campus Ministry United merged its annual summer conference with the workshop this year. The Tulsa Workshop is a free annual gathering that began in 1976 and was known for many years as the "International Soul Winning Workshop."

MARYLAND

DISTRICT HEIGHTS — As District Heights Church of Christ minister Willie Hubbard sees it, every congregation could use a Keith Johnson.

Johnson works full time for the federal government, but it's his dedicated service as a volunteer and associate minister that makes such a difference, Hubbard said.

"Brother Keith has been effective in helping us to revitalize our spiritual fervor, mobilizing the congregation into the surrounding neighborhoods," Hubbard said. "We are blessed to work with him and his wonderful wife, Sherrie."

MONTANA

GREAT FALLS — Nearly 150 teens and sponsors from congregations in Montana and Alberta attended a

recent youth rally hosted by the Great Falls Church of Christ.

The youth groups competed to see which could collect the most food for the Mountain States Children's Home in Longmont, Colo. In all, more than five tons of food and supplies were donated. Teens from Medicine Hat, Alberta, collected 4,800 pounds.



SCOTT LAIRD

Alana Sullivan, Kyla Bratt and Virginia Archuleta enjoy the Montana youth rally.

NEW MEXICO

PORTALES — Coby Carter, a member of the Third and Kilgore Church of Christ, was recently named the Western Swing Vocalist of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists.

Carter is a 20-year-old student at Eastern New Mexico University who works full time in the agriculture industry in addition to his music and church activities.

"Western swing is a small sub-genre of country music," minister David Kilgore said. "We are ... very proud of what Coby Carter has accomplished. He is part of our regular songleading rotation here."

TEXAS

SNYDER — This small town has few options for couples' nights out, so the East Side Church of Christ provides

National Lectureship brings out its best

MEMPHIS, Tenn.

These days I don't wear a suit and tie as often as I did in the past. But I wouldn't be caught dead without them at the National Lectureship.

Even in a suit, I often feel under-dressed at this event. As one speaker stated, "When you come before the Lord, you bring your best!"

Of the many church events my wife Joy and I attend each year, one of our favorites is the National Lectureship. The 72nd annual gathering of predominantly African-American churches was led by the SouthEastSide and Norris Road Churches of Christ, both in Memphis, and hosted by DonBurnell Holly. More than 1,400 people attended.

It is, of course, a sartorial delight — beautiful suits and dresses as well as gorgeous ladies' hats abound. (We *love* the hats.)

But there is far more to this lectureship than attractive attire. Great preaching, singing and powerful teaching challenge and inspire the attendees. And the warmth of the fellowship among Christians from all around the country is evident.

I confess that I listened from the hallway to the incredible singing in the Ladies' program. What evidence that the most beautiful instrument is

the human voice!

A special blessing to us was lunch with former Oklahoma Christian University students Bruce McClure, now minister for the Prince George Church of Christ in Landover, Md., and Harold Redd, minister for the Midtown Church of Christ in Memphis. Along with our wives, we had a marvelous time sharing and catching up. I am proud and so thankful for these servants of the Lord, along with other former students such as Dwayne Case, the young preacher for the Northeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma City and David Wilson of the King's Church of Christ in Brooklyn, N.Y. I don't plan to get into a "preach off" with these fine students of the Word.

I visited with many other minister and elder friends: Billy Curl, Jack Evans Jr., David Lane, Kevin Bethea and Andrew Hairston. And Joy spent time with several special women, including our friend Faith Taylor, who operates a popular, custom-made clothing booth at every lectureship.

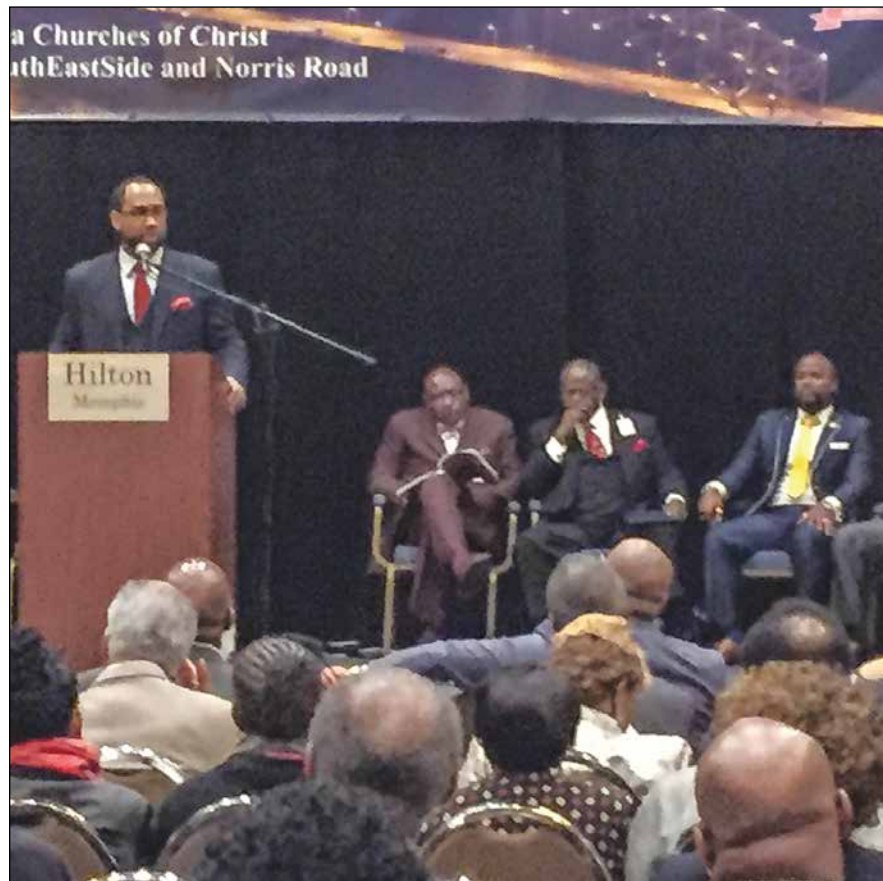
To say that this lectureship includes preaching is an understatement. There are 10 sermons per day — three consecutive ones in the morning, plus classes, three in the afternoon and four consecutive sermons in the evening. Add in gifted song leaders, and one is so inspired by the end of the day you can almost fly to your room.

Organizers use time cards to help preachers from running over their allotted minutes. Sometimes they

Road Notes



Lynn McMillon



PHOTOS BY LYNN McMILLON

"Don't Let the Green Grass Fool You" was the title of a sermon by Dwayne Case, a minister for the Northeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, during the lectureship.

work. After one preacher overran the clock, passionately declaring the death and burial of Jesus, the emcee said, "I couldn't cut him off until he got Jesus out of the grave!" Understanding laughter erupted.

The lectureship began in 1945 at the suggestion of well-known minister R.N. Hogan as a way of "synchronizing" doctrinal teaching among African-American preachers who were denied admission to our Christian colleges. From that sprang the Paul-Timothy model of older preachers mentoring younger men. But a gap remained, which the National Lectureship intended to fill.

to R.C. Wells, minister emeritus for the Harlem Church of Christ in New York. Wells, described by attendees as a man "truly set for the defense of the Gospel of Christ," received the lectureship's second-ever 21st Century Defender of the Faith Award.

The 73rd National Lectureship will be in Atlanta in 2017, led by the West End Church of Christ and hosted by Orpheus J. Heyward. The theme is "This Means War: Effective Strategies for Spiritual Warfare" from Ephesians 6:10-13. Lord willing, we look forward to another inspiring week with our brothers and sisters.



Orpheus J. Heyward will host the 2017 National Lectureship in Atlanta.



Christian women from across the country listen during a ladies' event at the lectureship.

This year featured a special tribute

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Masters of media: Four share church ties at Amen Corner

BY MURRAY EVANS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As Grant Boone attended a press conference before the start of the 80th Masters tournament, he found himself standing next to another Abilene Christian University alumnus, Doug Ferguson, a longtime writer for The Associated Press.

Boone, a member of the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, works full time in ACU's athletic department and serves as the voice of the Wildcats when he's not working on freelance golf broadcasting assignments.

At the Masters, he sat next to another brother in Christ — Billy Ray Brown — as he freelanced for Masters.com, CBS.com and DirecTV. Their setting was perhaps the most famous set of holes — Nos. 11, 12 and 13, known as "Amen Corner" at Georgia's Augusta National Golf Club.

Yet another Christian and ACU graduate, Lance Barrow, is coordinating producer of golf (and NFL) events for CBS Sports.

It's quite the media presence for members of Churches of Christ at one of the biggest sporting events of any year, and it's something none of them take for granted, Boone said.

"It is rather odd how many guys from ACU are involved in golf media," Boone said. "It's just bizarre. It's not like a school like Syracuse or Missouri, which have a great history of pumping out legendary broadcasters. To have a tiny school like ACU, and to have the producer

of the Masters television broadcast, Lance Barrow, and the most widely read golf writer in the world, Doug Ferguson, then me at the Golf Channel and CBS, I can't imagine what the statistical odds would be."

Barrow, who attends The Hills Church of Christ in North Richland Hills, Texas, worked his first Masters for CBS Sports in 1977, the same year he graduated from ACU. He is one of only two men ever to have produced the Masters telecasts. He also serves on the ACU Board of Trustees.

Ferguson and Boone each worked his first Masters in 1996. In 1998, Ferguson — known to players and fellow media members for often wearing Hawaiian-style shirts — was named as the AP's primary golf writer, a job that has him on the road for more than 30 weeks a year. When he's at home, he attends the San Jose Church of Christ in Jacksonville, Fla.

It's Boone's fifth year working at Amen Corner, a stretch of holes that usually play a key role in determining the champion. A *Sports Illustrated* writer gave Amen Corner its name in a 1958 article describing how Arnold Palmer had played those holes en route to the title.

Brown is a former PGA Tour pro who won three events and played in five Masters. He's in his sixth year of working the broadcast side at the tournament. Unlike his fellow church members in the Masters media, he didn't attend ACU, but instead went to the University of Houston. He also works for NBC Sports and the Golf Channel.

"Grant and I have often joked about two Church of Christ guys working at Amen Corner," said Brown, a member of First Colony Church of Christ in Sugar Land, Texas.

Brown said the key to broadcasting — particularly at Augusta National — is to be quiet.

"I learned quickly that you keep your mouth shut," Brown said. "The less said, the better. You really don't have to be concerned with the tidbits. You'll see very few graphics about anything.

"Let the pictures tell the story."



Boone



Ferguson



Brown



Barrow



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SECRET GRANDDAUGHTERS *ministry helps a church's youths forge connections with widows and widowers*

'We are the examples others see'

SNYDER, Texas

Teen girls carefully look over pictures in the church directory as their teacher introduces them to the faces they're seeing — widows and widowers who sit just a few pews away from them every Sunday.

They know a few of the names, but not much more. That will change.

Following the apostle Peter's admonition to "love one another, be compassionate and humble," in I Peter 3:8, the 37th Street Church of Christ launched a Secret Granddaughters program a

Voices



Charlotte Clifton

few years ago. The initiative has served to link and richly bless two seemingly unlike generations of Christians in this 300-member church.

After careful consideration, each girl selects her secret grandparent for the quarter. The class

sends messages to the widows and widowers to let them know that they have a secret granddaughter who will send them weekly notes, pray for them on a regular basis and give them a few hints as to her identity.

As the quarter progresses, excitement builds among young and old alike. It often becomes the talk of the congregation. Entire families get involved in the lives of the girls' adopted grandparents.

The recipients become givers, and notes of thanks to the girls, small gifts and other forms of encouragement begin to appear in the church office with instructions "to deliver to the secret granddaughter of ..."

The grand finale for the quarter



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CHARLOTTE CLIFTON

The Secret Granddaughters ministry has "given me a reason to want to get up and walk to the mailbox," says Ottus Boyd, seen here with secret granddaughter Katelyn Clifton, right, and friends Sarah Wade and Abby Tate, members of the 37th Street Church of Christ.

is a revealing party. Each girl tells a few things about herself. Then the grandparents guess the identity of their adopted granddaughter.

Most of the time, they are right.

The young Christians, through getting better acquainted with their adopted grandparents, have launched a spin-off ministry to honor our congregation's veterans. The youths helped create a bulletin board and joined forces with the boys' Bible class to host a well-

attended reception on Veterans' Day. Each veteran or surviving spouse received a certificate of appreciation for their service to God and country.

After the quarter ends, the girls and their adopted grandparents often stay connected. They share a unique bond, and the widows and widowers are thrilled to be invited to the girls' piano recitals, sporting events and other activities. When the adopted grandparents become ill or miss worship, the girls are very much

aware and eagerly check on them.

One of the most touching tributes happened last June when one of the congregation's widowers, Gerald Johnson, passed away unexpectedly.

When planning his funeral, Gerald's family asked his secret granddaughter, Sarah Posey, to speak at the service. There wasn't a dry eye in the building.

Prior to his passing, Gerald wrote a note to Sarah: "It is encouraging to us older ones to see you ... want to follow Christ's example at a young age. It is a joyful time in our lives as well and constantly reminds us of our duties as a Christian, also. We are the examples others see."

Sarah said that the ministry "opened the door for me to build a meaningful relationship with Mr. Johnson and other elderly members in our congregation. It gave me a reason and a way to get to know him on a personal level and learn from his faith and character."

It is hard to fully describe the positive impact of this ministry, but perhaps one of the widowers, Ottus Boyd, said it best. The encouraging notes he gets from his secret granddaughter, Katelyn Clifton, have "given me a reason to want to get up and walk to the mailbox again," he said.

Katelyn says, "I have a bond with Mr. Boyd that will be with me for the rest of my life. He was married to his wife for over 65 years, and he can't tell me about her without getting tears in his eyes."

"He has taught me about true love, friendship and much more."

CHARLOTTE CLIFTON is a member of the 37th Street Church of Christ in Snyder, Texas. She teaches Bible classes for junior high and high school girls.

Secret granddaughters and grandparents share what they've gained

"You don't know how much you helped me when you chose me for your secret grandmother. After my husband passed away, I was so lonely and felt so alone."
— Mayzell Fenton, to her secret granddaughter

"I thank you and your class for remembering me and those others of the older generation. I know my

heart skips a beat when they speak to me and show an interest in my life."

— R.J. "Pop" Kidd, to his secret granddaughter

"This program has allowed me and even my family to become very close with my secret grandfather. Not only have I been able to serve him and bring him joy,

but I've been able to hear and learn from his stories and wisdom. I am so thankful for this program."

— Sarah Wade, a secret granddaughter

"Words cannot express how much I appreciate all you did."

— Bobbie Taylor, to her secret granddaughter



Church member Lavelle Eicke visits with secret granddaughter Jordan Ruiz.

EFFECTIVE FAITH FORMATION in children is the job of multiple generations, says LifelongFaith's John Roberto

Spiritual grandparenting at its best

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The calamity of Ephraim's children, as detailed in Psalm 78, is something John Roberto prays to avoid:

"The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. They did not keep the covenant of God; they refused to walk in his law, and forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shown them."

People of faith — and grandparents in particular, Roberto says — can play a vital role in "telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength and his wonderful works that he has done."

Roberto, president of Lifelong Faith Associates and editor of the journal *Lifelong Faith*, is the author of multiple books on faith formation, including "Seasons of Adult Faith Formation," "Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century" and "Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating & Serving Faithfully." He conducts workshops and seminars for multiple faith groups, including Churches of Christ and Christian universities.

Roberto's research and teaching emphasizes how a community of believers of all ages can combine the strength of their faith to positively influence the next generation. He and his wife live in Connecticut.

What makes the role of grandparents so important in faith transmission?

We know instinctively that grandparents play a role in the faith-forming of their grandchildren (and their parents), but now we have research that reinforces our belief.

Vern Bengston and his colleagues have conducted the largest study of religion and family across generations. They have followed more than 350 families composed of more than 3,500 individuals whose lives span more than a century — the oldest was born in 1881, the youngest in 1988 — to find out how religion is, or is not, passed down from one generation to the next. In **"Families and Faith: How Religion is Passed Down**



LYNN McMILLON

John Roberto speaks during the Intergenerational Faith 2016 Dialogues at Oklahoma Christian University.

Across Generations," Bengston and colleagues report their findings.

One of the four most significant conclusions in the study is that grandparents have an increasing influence on religious transmission, support and socialization in the 21st century. Grandparents provide religious influence by modeling faith, teaching the tradition and faith practices and immersing their grandchildren in religious experiences, often at church. Grandparents can support and reinforce parents' religious socialization of children. In some cases they may substitute for parents' religious socialization, when parents feel that faith or church involvement is not a priority for them, but that it could be a value for their children.

What are some of the specific things a grandparent can do to enhance faith in their grandchildren?

There are several ways that grandparents can be faith formers of their grandchildren. First is by being models of faithful Christian lives and

by being actively engaged in a church community. Many grandparents bring their grandchildren to Sunday worship and to church activities (and hopefully attract their own children to join them — at least occasionally).

Second, parental warmth is the key to successful religious transmission. A high-quality parent- and grandparent-child relationship — close, warm and affirming — leads to higher religiosity. Sounds like the job description of a grandparent! When it comes to faith growth, the quality of the relationship is essential.

Third, grandparents can teach faith practices to their grandchildren: praying, reading the Bible, serving those in need and more. Grandparents bring decades of rich experience in living their faith. Their experience is a great asset in teaching these practices to their grandchildren.

Fourth, grandparents can join their grandchildren in church activities. Grandparents can find intergenerational programs and experiences in which faith can be experienced. This is an area where every church should provide more intergenerational activities that immerse the generations in faith forming experiences. How about an intergenerational vacation Bible school for grandparents and grandchildren?

How can grandparents who live a great distance from their grandchildren influence their faith?

In years past, distance made the role of grandparents as faith formers much more difficult. Not today!

Grandparents can connect with their grandchildren online using Skype or FaceTime and post thoughts, photos and video on Facebook or Instagram or other social media. Imagine the possibilities for reading a children's storybook or a story from a children's Bible in a one-to-one conversation online. Imagine watching a video together online and then talking about the

video. There are so many ways for grandparents to close the distance gap using technology.

A second way for grandparents to close the distance gap is to invite their grandchildren to vacations at grandma's or grandpa's house. These can be times for grandchildren to experience faith firsthand by joining with their grandparents in Sunday worship and home faith practices. Grandparents might time the vacation to coincide with vacation Bible school (or other engaging programs for children) at their church.

A third possibility is to plan a road trip adventure. Road Scholar has pioneered intergenerational programs for grandparents and grandchildren over 10 years old. Grandparents and grandchildren could plan together and organize their own faith adventure — domestic or international — that can include religious programs and activities, museums, historic churches and cathedrals and more.

Are there common mistakes that grandparents make?

There are several things that grandparents need to keep in mind when they become active faith formers of their grandchildren. First, parents are the primary influence on the lives of their children. So grandparents need to support parents, offer to assist them in faith formation, provide alternatives and resources and more. But grandparents cannot replace parents. They can take on many faith-forming roles — with the implicit or explicit approval of the parents — but they can't do things in opposition to the parents.

Second, grandparents can only invite their grandchildren to experience faith, to live and learn the faith tradition. They cannot force faith or Sunday worship on their grandchildren. This will never work because it contradicts God's message of

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Brent (918) 652-4467
Send resume with at least two references to:
Brent Jenson
203 W Main, Henryetta, OK 74437

Youth and Family Minister

The North Tampa Church of Christ is searching for a youth/family minister with limited pulpit responsibilities.

Visit our website for more information:
www.ntcofc.org.
Send resumes to:
ntpacofcfamily@aol.com or
3611 E County Line Road
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Seeking Full-Time Minister

The Groton Church of Christ, in Groton, Conn., is seeking a full-time minister with a knowledge of God's grace and an open heart to His Word.

Please submit resume, cover letter and two sermons (CD or web link) to:
Groton Church of Christ
1018 Route 12, Groton, CT 06340
Attn: Mike Thompson or
Joe Migliaccio
preachersearch@grotonchurch.org

Youth Minster

The Plymouth Church of Christ is looking for a full-time Youth Minister. The Youth Minister will work to coordinate spiritual and social activities that encourage, empower and equip the students (K-12) as they strive to live as people of God. If interested, please send cover letter, resume, references and any questions to:

Search Committee
bulletin9301@plymouthcoc.net
Full job posting:
www.christianchronicle.org/classifieds

University Minister

Sunset Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, is seeking a full-time university minister to coordinate and head a thriving university ministry that serves Texas Tech University, Lubbock Christian University, South Plains College, and other university age students.

For more info go to www.sunset.cc or contact Jeremy Smith at jeremy@sunset.cc

Full-Time Minister

The Saint Mary's County Church of Christ in California, Maryland, is searching for a full-time minister. Our outgoing minister came to us over seven years ago, and together we have grown in knowledge, spirit, and number. He is leaving us to accept a very fine appointment at a well-known congregation in Middle Tennessee. The general duties will be to preach from the pulpit, teach classes, and represent the congregation as appropriate. Our average attendance is about 165, and our membership comes from all areas of the country.

This opportunity is appropriate for a preacher at any experience level, but we expect that our successful applicant will have specific preacher training, possibly a college degree, be comfortable with classroom teaching, and project well from the pulpit with organized sermons that have an understandable point. We will provide an acceptable salary, a generous relocation allowance, and family benefits. Saint Mary's County is a growing, bustling community located on a scenic peninsula in the area known as Southern Maryland, about two hours south of the cultural, shopping, and sporting centers of Washington, D.C., Annapolis (the state capital), and Baltimore. The region is served by three major airports, all less than two hours from the church location. The major employer in this area is the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

We are a diverse congregation, with people of many interests and ethnicities, and all levels of educational achievement. Our age range is from infant to 90+. This congregation is active in its outreach to the community, and we maintain a wide-reaching benevolence program. We have three elders and five deacons. If you are interested in moving to Southern Maryland you can find out more by visiting our website: www.stmaryscountychurch.com.

Please forward a cover letter and résumé including salary history, and accompanied by a DVD, CD, or a site link to one or more example sermons. For questions and to submit your documents e-mail to: blessedfeet@stmaryscountychurch.com. You may also send your résumé documents by mail.

Saint Mary's County Church of Christ
Attn: Preacher Search Committee
44850 St Andrews Church Rd.
California, MD 20619

Full-Time Minister

The Church of Christ in Lake Orion Mich., is searching for a full-time minister. Duties would include preaching, teaching, visiting and outreach.

Lake Orion is a growing community in northern Oakland County with excellent schools. We are an active congregation with an average Sunday attendance of between 80 and 125 members.

If interested please contact:
Randy McClure
(248) 310-4456
rmccclure1958@gmail.com

Full-Time Evangelist

The Natick Church of Christ is seeking full-time evangelist to help our congregation of 60+ members. We have two elders who are supported by two deacons.

See our full job listing at:
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Michael Hammonds or Robert Plachy
(508) 653-9678
Natickchurchofchrist@gmail.com
Natick Church of Christ
324 North Main Street
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

GRANDPARENTING: 'Decades of faithful living' have great value

FROM PAGE 9
unconditional love and acceptance — and freely accepting the gift of faith into our lives. Grandparents are in a great position to influence this process because of the quality of their relationship with their grandchildren and because of their decades of faithful living. These are the great assets that grandparents bring to nurturing faith in their grandchildren.

What if one or more grandparent is antagonistic to faith?

Oftentimes we think that having a non-supportive grandparent is a huge impediment for nurturing faith in their grandchildren. In these cases, instead of focusing on grandparents' antagonism toward faith, encourage them to focus on their love for their grandchildren. Make the case that even if faith is not important to them, it could become a life-giving force in their grandchildren's life.



WWW.LIFELONGFAITH.COM

'Participating in religious activities and church life can be life-giving, challenging and fun.'

John Roberto

We encourage children to experience activities like sports, music, art and dance, because we believe it is life-giving and challenging and fun. Participating in religious activities and church life can be life-giving, challenging and fun. Churches can provide intergenerational activities that connect grandchildren to other grandparents and families who are role models of faith — becoming a non-kindred family for the children.

FIND RESOURCES for faith formation at www.lifelongfaith.com.

COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS EXPLAIN *how Hope Network Ministries helps improve ‘church fitness’*

When even the conversation is difficult

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

DALLAS

Some Christian leaders find it easier to run multimillion-dollar businesses than to make decisions in church elders’ meetings.

Why is that? And what’s the solution?

Jon Mullican and Grady King, co-leaders of Hope Network Ministries, shared their insights in an interview with *The Christian Chronicle*.

What is the reason for the decision-making problem? And how can a church solve it?

King: Being a part of an elder group is like no other form of leadership. In essence, no other organization in the world asks a group of men to come together and make decisions where power is not invested in a final decision (like a CEO, board, president, etc.).

The challenging part is learning to trust one another with great diversity — varying philosophies of leadership, biblical interpretation matters, theology, personalities, etc. It’s hard work, and most elder groups do not have processes for functioning well.

Mullican: This comes to decision-making processes, what I would call governance: how those responsible choose to exercise control over the church. The word “control” is a good word, since those responsible must accept that responsibility. What often happens is poor group dynamics make a group of extremely competent individuals an incompetent group.

We take for granted that men can come together and make decisions. One elder once told me, “We are so stuck we can’t even make a bad decision!” Knowing the scope of the elders’ role and what they will retain to themselves and then properly delegate to the rest to staff and lay leaders is the way through.

So often, however, elders cannot let go of the “stuff” and the decisions surrounding it. Rather than lead the church, they manage the mess — or attempt to — and find themselves



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Jon Mullican, left, and Grady King, right, of Hope Network Ministries sign a cooperation agreement with Missions Resource Network’s president, Dan Bouchelle, center.

stuck, frustrated and beat down by the sheer tension of the stalemate.

How prevalent is conflict between ministers and elders in our fellowship? What causes such conflict, and what can be done about it?

King: I would say that minister/elder conflict is more prevalent than most want to admit. The basic conflict comes about due to lack of role clarity, expectations, good processes for clear communication and working together. Clear role definitions for both elder and ministers, working agreements and expectations for both are essential. The bottom line is when trust is absent, nothing goes well.

Mullican: It’s significant yet lessening for several reasons: 1. Elders and ministers are learning how to share responsibility for the church based on roles rather than fighting for power. 2. Ministers who are tired of fighting are quitting ministry and going to more compatible churches. 3. Ministers are planting churches where the polity model better suits

their gifts. 4. Elders are finding ministers who better suit their chosen polity model, i.e., selection processes are providing better “fit” between elders and ministers.

You suggest that in many cases, we in Churches of Christ don’t even know how to have a conversation about certain issues, be it gender roles or worship styles. What do you mean by that?

Mullican: We begin from a management perspective vs. a theological or leadership perspective. The first questions asked when a major issue comes up are “How do we keep the peace?” and “How do we keep all our people in the church?” Better first questions are “What is God calling us to at this time in our history under these circumstances?” and “How does the Gospel inform this current situation in which we find ourselves?”

Rather than move immediately to answers to any issue, we can slow down and ask the right questions. If immediate relief is given to the church regarding an issue by giving them an

answer, then growth is stunted, and all are robbed of a chance to mature through a process of discernment.

Leading the church through an issue’s conversation means tolerating discomfort in our congregation as the conversation is had.

King: In essence, it is fear and pain avoidance. We are a right-teaching and right-preaching people. That is, we have to get things right. When a group of people have to get things right and hold that we can get it right, there is little room for conversation. It is simply a matter of hearing the right position.

The obsession to get everything right or else hinders honest conversation and our capacity to engage Scripture with freshness, and more importantly, not write off others who have honest disagreement or another perspective.

You see the role of Hope Network partners as “church fitness coaches.” Tell me more about that concept.

Mullican: Dreaming of the church’s future allows the church to move in directions of vitality rather than continually fighting the alligators of “issues” that inevitably loom nearby. What is the best use of the gifts on the leadership team? How are day-to-day items being delegated and carried out? Who are the possible next-generation leaders, and how are they being readied for their role as leaders? What new opportunities are appearing to us? What ministries have run their course and need to be celebrated and closed out?

King: We strive to be, first and foremost, good listeners and respectful of the ministry context we are in. We do not throw around the words “conservative” and “liberal.” Rather, what does it mean to be the church envisioned by Christ?

Fitness is about health. I like to say four words: healthy leaders, healthy churches. So, the end of the spear for us is working with leaders and instilling good processes for moving forward.

STORY OF GOD: Katrina survivors share faith with Morgan Freeman

FROM PAGE 1

At the family's home after the service, Angela Marsalis served Freeman and his entourage baked chicken and macaroni and cheese. She admitted being a bit starstruck, even though she described the actor as extremely friendly and easygoing. "I really was speechless in some parts, even though I know he's human," she said with a laugh.

As *Christian Chronicle* readers may recall, the Marsalises survived Katrina in 2005 by escaping to the balcony of their home congregation, the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ.

Last summer, a representative of Freeman's production company, Revelations Entertainment, contacted the *Chronicle* to see if the couple might share their story on camera. The newspaper passed along that request, and the couple reluctantly agreed.

"We almost didn't do it," Charles Marsalis said. "The producer ... wanted to go to the river and act like we were baptizing someone. I told them, 'I don't play with the Lord like that. We don't fake a service.' I told them, 'This is reality to us. It's not a reality show.'"

Angela Marsalis said she and her husband hoped their interview would bring glory to God.

"I know God uses us as vessels," she said. "It's not about us at all. To God be the glory."

The National Geographic Channel describes Freeman's documentary-style "Story of God" as taking viewers "on a trip around the world to explore different cultures and religions on the ultimate quest to uncover the meaning of life, God and all these big questions in between." The six-part series began airing on Sunday nights in early April.

The Marsalises, who appeared in the April 10 episode, told Freeman how they relied on their faith as floodwaters kept rising during Katrina.

The couple described singing on a bridge filled with desperate survivors — some selling drugs and carrying guns.

"I mean, I felt that the devil was at work," Charles Marsalis said. "I told my wife, 'Nuh-uh, it's time for us to get busy.' And so we just started



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

Morgan Freeman interviews hurricane survivors Charles and Angela Marsalis at the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ in New Orleans.

singing, and then the next thing we know, in the darkness, you can hear people saying, 'Sing this song! Sing that song!' And I can't remember, how long did we sing?"

"All night!" Angela Marsalis replied, as Freeman joined the couple in laughing at the memory. "We just knew that God would get us out of there."

"Not even Katrina could shake that faith of God," Charles Marsalis added. "No way."

In the TV segment, Freeman noted that the Marsalises "did get out in the end" and later returned to New Orleans to rebuild their lives.

"The experience of getting so close to the end and so close to God drove them to start their own church," he told viewers.

That's not the entire story: The Marsalises are quick to thank leaders of the Carrollton Avenue church — about a 10-minute drive from Hollygrove — for partnering in the church plant.

And they're grateful for their supporting congregation, the Park Plaza



BOBBY ROSS JR.

In 2006, Charles and Angela Marsalis pose in the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ balcony, where they fled as floodwaters rose after Hurricane Katrina.

Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla.

But fellow Christians say they couldn't be happier to see the Marsalises receive national attention. "Charles and Angela Marsalis are

such an incredible inspiration," said Jenny Garrison, wife of Carrollton Avenue minister Kirk Garrison. "They weren't just a light in the darkness after Katrina as they sang hymns on the overpass — they continue to be a light in the neighborhood around Hollygrove Church of Christ.

"They inspire me every day," she added, "with their unwavering faith and joy in the Lord."

Freeman told the *Washington Post* he believes man invented God, even though he doesn't consider himself an atheist. At the end of his interview with the Marsalises, he suggested that Buddhists "say every ending is a beginning."

Charles Marsalis responded that what happened during Katrina was "God's will."

"God saw this before we saw this," the minister said of his family's experience. "We just have to allow ourselves to let God use us to be a part of that will."

SEE VIDEO of Freeman's interview with the Marsalises at www.christianchronicle.org.

ANNAPOLIS: A ‘family away from home’

FROM PAGE 3

rival the Army’s West Point.

The plebe summer worship service is one aspect of the 100-member church’s USNA Outreach ministry.

The congregation, which meets in nearby Arnold, Md., was launched in 1949 by church members who served on the Naval Academy’s faculty. The church’s first mission: to reach out to the nearly 4,600 midshipmen who spend time on the yard, in cooperation with the academy’s chaplain office. About 10 families volunteer as student sponsors. Jackson, who coordinates the ministry, once was himself an adopted midshipman.

“My sponsor family thought they were only getting me for four years,” Jackson said. “They’ve had me for 20 years. We still go to church together and eat lunch together every Sunday.”

During the course of two decades, Jackson has seen the program positively affect his life and the lives of countless students.

“We receive the joy of building strong relationships with our midshipmen,” said Jackson. “And it’s very rewarding to see a young adult start out as a plebe and grow to be an officer in our military.”

‘SHINE OUR LIGHT IN THEIR LIVES’

During his plebe summer, about 15 students worshiped with the Annapolis church members, recalled Story, who attended the Berry’s Chapel Church of Christ in Franklin, Tenn., before enrolling at the academy.

But the church’s ministry doesn’t end with plebe summer. Members teach Bible classes for the students throughout the school year and take them on an annual hike at Harpers Ferry National Park in West Virginia, culminating in a mountaintop worship service.

Story, now a second-year midshipman, is the adopted student of Bobby and Candice Keaton, who have sponsored eight midshipmen so far. Story is their first from a Church of Christ background.

Though some families prefer to sponsor students who come to Annapolis from Churches of Christ,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Midshipmen serve the Lord’s Supper during Sunday worship in Annapolis.

“my husband and I don’t care,” Candice Keaton said. “We’ve had a Buddhist, an atheist, a Catholic — it doesn’t matter to us. We feel as though it’s our responsibility to shine our light in their lives.”

For sponsor families, shining that light often means sharing their homes. The church requires sponsor families to live 20 miles or closer to the academy. They must be willing to make frequent visits to the academy to pick up students, who aren’t allowed to have their own vehicles on campus until their third year.

When midshipmen have their own wheels, the Keatons give them keys to their house. Often, the couple arrives at home and finds students cooking in their kitchen, doing laundry or watching TV.

“The Keatons give me a place to get away from school and not think about the Naval Academy for a while,” Story said. “They are my family away from home.”

The benefits are reciprocal, Candice Keaton said. The midshipmen are a positive influence on their 18-year-old son, Taylor, who is considering degrees in psychology and theology, perhaps to serve one day as a Navy chaplain.

The friendships the Keatons form through the ministry go beyond the students’ years “on the yard.”

“I’ve had students call on Mother’s Day, when babies are born,” she said. “We’ve been invited to weddings.”

The Keatons also attend ceremonies celebrating their midshipmen’s milestones at the Naval Academy.

When asked if they are proud parents, Candice Keaton replies, “No, we are proud supporters.”



Jackson

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Total
1561	1544	914	2061	1166	57,737.00
1073	2154	690	2385	1097	55,125.00
1036	1250	960	2746	1180	50,900.00
745	1437	722	2153	1191	51,000.00
1072	1392	830	1964	1090	50,000.00
700	1250	710	1425	1144	51,000.00
1424	1595	1222	2188	1178	50,000.00
1283	1720	864	2536	1171	50,000.00
1318	1883	1075	3079	1171	50,000.00
1326	1967	751	2444	1220	50,000.00
648	1660	800	3217	1071	50,000.00
1070	1190	834	1817	1209	50,000.00

Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Total	
770	1120	664	2631	712	55,951.00
1010	1153	952	1942	937	55,764.00
709	1301	905	3000	984	55,525.00
881	1118	735	3043	942	55,795.00
981	1349	668	3215	965	55,540.00
1020	1309	630	3370	962	55,504.00
801	1183	630	3448	952	55,881.00
723	1562	626	3497	981	56,114.00
984	1158	684	3497	1071	55,993.00
1080	1084	658	2379	1077	55,888.00
742	1179	688	2587	1077	55,888.00
982	1380	577	3526	1220	55,411.00

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BRAZIL

RECIFE — More than 530 Christians gathered to praise God and break bread during the final day of the Northeast Christian Lectureship, known as “Congresso.”

“This four-day fellowship feast is held in a different city of Northeast Brazil each year with a different local congregation hosting it,” said missionary Mike Pruitt. The 100-member Peixinhos in Recife’s northern suburb of Olinda hosted this year’s Congresso, the 30th. Antonio Silva preaches for the congregation. “Being Like Jesus” was the theme.

CROATIA

CRIKVENICA — More than 100 people — from Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria and the U.S. — gathered for the 21st Retreat for Spiritual Renewal in this city on the coast of the Adriatic Sea, said Mladen Dominic, minister for a Church of Christ in Varzdin.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Barrett Coffman of the Southside Church of Christ in Lexington, Ky., speaks at the retreat. “All the people said that the joy of Holy Spirit was present all the time,” Dominic said.

MYANMAR

YANGON — What is Christianity?

Speakers of Lisu — a language heard in parts of Myanmar, China, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and India — will soon be able to ponder that question in their native tongue.

Steve Williams’ book, “What is Christianity” recently was translated into Lisu and printed for distribution in Yangon, thanks to support and logistics arranged by the Barrier family, according to a news release from Heritage Christian University in Florence, Ala., where Williams teaches Christian theology.

NEW CALEDONIA

NOUMÉA — “This is the first time in my life I have heard such a clear explanation of God’s Word. It’s as if a light has been turned on.”

That was the reaction of an elderly



PHOTO PROVIDED

Believers from across Africa set SAIL at lectureship

Young Christians sit on the stage of Heartfelt Arena in Pretoria, South Africa, near flags representing their home nations — Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Lesotho — at the opening ceremony of the annual Southern Africa International Lectureship, or SAIL. About 3,475 members of Churches of Christ from 10 countries gathered for the event, hosted by the Tshwane Churches of Christ.

woman after attending a seminar conducted by Barry Baggott, a long-time missionary to French-speaking nations and director of French World Outreach. Baggott and Christophe Muller, a member of a Church of Christ in Strasbourg, France, traveled to New Caledonia, a French territory in the South Pacific, east of Australia, to follow up with contacts and conduct Bible studies.

“While our previous trips have not yet resulted in a faithful congregation in the territory,” Baggott said, “the repeated trips there have helped us to develop relationships with people who in turn lead us to others with whom we can share the Gospel.”

Daniel Frérot, minister for the Strasbourg church, and his family continue to work with three Christians and other contacts on the island, Baggott said.

For more information, see www.frenchworldoutreach.org.

SPOTLIGHT

Working and waiting in Windhoek

WINDHOEK, Namibia — Self-described “Mississippi boy” Nathan Holland and his wife Umoyo, a native of Zambia, are both living in a foreign land — and making it home.

The couple works with a mission team in the southern African nation of Angola.

After learning that their first child was on the way, they moved south to neighboring Namibia at their doctor’s recommendation to be closer to medical care not available in Angola.

As they wait for their baby, the

Hollands work with 3Measures, a ministry focused on building

faith communities among young adults, addressing physical, social and spiritual needs. Nathan Holland also teaches classes for the Wanaheda Church of Christ.

“This small-but-diverse congregation has members from Zambia, Zimbabwe, South

Africa, Ghana, Angola, and of course Namibia,” he said. “It has been a blessing to be able to serve with them.”



WWW.ANGOLATEAM.ORG

Umoyo and Nathan Holland

PAKISTAN: Christians killed found hope in a hopeless situation

FROM PAGE 1
gathered for Sunday worship as usual — albeit “under very strict security” from police due to threats of violence by militants, Kaleem said. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, which claimed responsibility for the Easter attack, had also claimed responsibility for two church bombings in March 2015. The congregations worshiped on Easter Sunday without incident, Kaleem said.

BUILDING BRICKS OF FAITH
For the new believers, Christianity offered hope in a hopeless situation. The six killed were part of a “brick clan,” as Asher described the group baptized in early December. In need of money for medical bills — or in an effort to escape poverty — poor Pakistanis take loans from the owners of brick kilns and agree to work to pay back the debt. The meager pay they receive for their hard labor forces them to live in conditions of near-slavery. Many slide deeper into their employer’s debt, according to news outlets including CNN, which has documented the



At a hospital, Asher Kaleem visited and prayed with a boy who lost a leg in the attack.

plight of Pakistan’s bonded brick workers along with social media site Humans of New York. In recent years Pakistani activists have worked to shed light on the problem and help the laborers erase their debts. Following Christ gave the brick workers hope — and subjected them to persecution. Pakistanis who claim

Christianity as their faith make up less than 2 percent of the country’s population of 182.1 million. Religious minorities endure threats and violence from militant Islamist groups including the Taliban, according to reports by Human Rights Watch and other organizations. Many Christ-followers have fled

Pakistan for other countries. In Thailand, members of a Church of Christ have assisted — and baptized — refugees from Pakistan. In Lahore, church members are arranging and funding funerals for the Christians killed in the blast, Masih said. They also are reaching out to assist survivors and their families. At least nine families impacted by the attack live in an area near brick kilns — where Christians recently planted a new congregation, the minister said. “Almost all the hospitals are full, and we are visiting all the people (from) time to time,” Masih said. “People need medicines and blood urgently. ... Every Christian is helping, but the need is big and urgent.” The attack has done little to shake the Christians’ faith, Asher added. “The congregation now is stronger in their faith after facing these deaths,” he said.

THE WOODMONT HILLS Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., helps support work in Pakistan. To assist or for more information, contact missions@woodmont.org or see woodmont.org.

Brussels attacks rattle church members, cut short FHU program



Members of Freed-Hardeman University’s study abroad program pray with family members after their safe return.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE
Ik ben veilig!
Those words, Flemish for “I am safe,” flashed across the social media feed of Paul Brazle, a longtime missionary in Belgium, just hours after terrorist attacks in the European nation killed 31 people and wounded about 270. “We want you to know that we are safely well out of any harm’s way,” said Brazle, who lives with his wife, Carol, in Antwerp, about 30 minutes north of the scene of the attacks, Brussels. The couple spent the day “listening to the news carefully and waiting for news of any in our network who may have had reason to be in the airport ... or near the one metro station in the Europa district where bombs went off.” Rebecca Anderson, a 20-year-old sophomore at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., was on an airplane from Greece bound

for the Brussels airport when bombs exploded there. “We were maybe an hour or two away when a voice came over the intercom and announced something in Greek, and then in English that the airport in Brussels was closed and that we were being rerouted to Dusseldorf, Germany,” Anderson told *The Jackson Sun*. “This was scary because we didn’t know what was going on until we actually landed.” Anderson was part of a group of 19 Freed-Hardeman students, faculty and staff based in Belgium during a study abroad semester. After terrorist attacks in Paris in November, school officials developed protocols for securing the students — who were spread across the continent at the time of the March 22 attacks in Brussels. One group of students was visiting London and students from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. — another university associated with

Churches of Christ that sponsors a Lipscomb in London study abroad program. When the Freed-Hardeman students were unable to return to Belgium, the Lipscomb students offered them a place to stay, Lipscomb officials told *The Tennessean*. Richard and Barbara England, chaperone professors for the group, quickly located the students and coordinated with FHU officials as they considered next steps. On March 29, the group returned to Tennessee. Freed-Hardeman President Joe Wiley shed tears as he welcomed the travelers home at the Nashville airport. “Our prayers are that someday things will change and you will be able to travel back ... but we felt it was more important that you be here,” he told the students. “While evil exists everywhere, the situation was such that we felt the risk was too great given the warnings, so we made that decision.”



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Canadian churches embrace Syrians

TWO CONGREGATIONS ADOPT

a refugee family displaced by a civil war that has claimed half a million lives.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

BEAMSVILLE, Ontario

As war ravaged their homeland, a Syrian family of eight fled for their lives. The Muslim father, mother and six children — among 4 million Syrians who have escaped to neighboring countries — ended up in a refugee camp in Lebanon.

There, they lived in a barn for four years. Conditions became so dire that the family — including a daughter with cerebral palsy — contemplated returning home, despite the 5-year-old civil war that has claimed an estimated 470,000 lives.

“Inhumane” is the single word that an Arabic interpreter used to translate the Syrians’ lengthy description of the camp.

Enter two Churches of Christ south of Toronto — their hearts touched by the plight of strangers abroad and resolved to show the love of Jesus to a suffering family.

“When I saw the images on TV, I thought, ‘Where would we go? Who would accept us?’” said Linda Minter, a member of the Tintern Church of Christ in Vineland, Ontario, which joined with the nearby Beamsville Church of Christ to sponsor the family’s resettlement to Canada.

The Beamsville Church of Christ in Ontario stands to sing.

brought together the Syrian refugees — the mother and daughters wearing traditional Muslim hijabs — and their Christian supporters.

Church members prepared Syrian dishes such as baklava and showered the family with gifts that included handmade quilts.

“The 8-year-old boy was running around with



DAN MCGREGOR

the other boys after a while,” minister Noel Walker said. “The 4-year-old girl was playing with some girls that came to say hi.

“It was such an amazing night, and it galvanized our affections for them,” Walker added. “Now, they are a part of our family, and we are a part of theirs.”

Belal el Hassan, a 49-year-old Canadian citizen who was born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, helped translate for the family and shared details about their journey.

“Thank you for saving their lives,” el Hassan,

who is Muslim, said he told the church. “Because definitely, who knows what would have happened if they would have gone back into Syria again?”

Sponsorship rules preclude the church members from identifying the Syrian family or asking them to submit to media interviews or photographs.

But el Hassan spoke on their behalf.

“I would like to emphasize how much the Syrian family appreciates and thanks the Church of Christ for bringing them over, and they will never forget

CONTINUED



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PHOTO

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets a young Syrian refugee at the Toronto airport in December. Canada's Liberal government promised not to compromise health or security requirements as it resettled 25,000 refugees between November and the end of February.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Some of the Canadian church members who worked to sponsor a Syrian refugee family include, front row from left, Linda Smith, Marcia Cramp and Jim Dickie. In the back row are Jori Warren, Earl Warren, Linda Minter, Bruce Minter, Noel Walker and Julie Walker. In all, the committee of Tintern and Beamsville church members includes 24 people, chaired by Tintern deacon Roger Perry.



NICHOLAS RALPH, WORLD VISION

A 13-year-old Syrian girl holds her younger brother at a refugee camp in Lebanon. Their family fled the civil war a year ago.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Minister Noel Walker reads handwritten thoughts from church member Judy Dickie about the blessings that have resulted from the sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family. "Prayers were answered immediately from the adjustment the first day to the present," Dickie wrote.



MAP: ERIK TRYGGSTAD

Canadian church numbers lag behind U.S.

The U.S. population is about nine times as large as Canada, but America has 82 times as many Churches of Christ — at 12,300. The United States' northern neighbor has 150 congregations with less than 7,000 total members. In a 2009 interview with *The Christian Chronicle*, Geoffrey Ellis of the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society noted: "For 150 years, if not longer, the Canadian culture has been very much opposed to evangelical or sectarian movements. Consequently, our growth rate is perhaps one-tenth of (U.S.) growth." Read articles from the *Chronicle's* 2009 series on Canadian churches at www.christianchronicle.org. Click the "Extras" tab and find the Canada stories in the "Archives" section. Look for an updated story in a future edition.



CONTINUED

that favor to them," he told *The Christian Chronicle*.

CANADA WELCOMES 25,000 SYRIANS

Concerns over potential terrorists posing as refugees to infiltrate borders have made headlines in the United States, parts of Europe and even here in Canada.

However, a majority of Canadians supported new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's decision to welcome more than 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of February, according to national polls.

Those refugees included the family embraced by the Tintern and Beamsville churches.

"Canada is doing the right thing by providing refuge for those so desperately seeking safety," Trudeau said after personally greeting a planeload of weary Syrians at Toronto Pearson International Airport.

A nation of 35 million people, Canada has roughly 150 Churches of Christ. Combined membership totals less than 7,000.

Although small in number relative to the overall population, many of those Christians are mobilizing to help Syrian refugees.

In the historically French Catholic prairie town of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, the Church of Christ bought 14 microwave ovens to benefit refugees in the city of Moose Jaw.

"We will see what other ways we may be able to assist as time goes on," said Lorna Bell, wife of Gravelbourg church elder Gerry Bell.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, South Burnaby Church of Christ members Gumaiz Mahmoud and his wife, Amal Kago — themselves refugees of war-torn Sudan — work with a nonprofit immigrant resettlement agency.

"They're very heavily involved ... helping the large number of refugees here in Vancouver to find food and housing," South Burnaby minister Kirk Ruch said.

For years, volunteers from the Stoney Creek Church of Christ in Hamilton, Ontario, have prepared meals for the Micah House, which provides shelter for people seeking asylum from danger, terror and persecution.

Now the congregation is cooperating with two neighboring churches in hopes of sponsoring a Syrian refugee

family, minister Brent Olson said.

"In the Bible, where social justice comes up, it's about taking care of widows, orphans and the strangers in your midst," Olson said.

While most Stoney Creek members believe the government is taking proper precautions to screen out potential terrorists, a few have voiced fears.

"We had one family that was really concerned with it and chose to go somewhere else," Olson said.

TODDLER'S DEATH STIRS ACTION

Back in September, a 3-year-old Syrian boy named Aylan Kurdi drowned after a 15-foot boat ferrying him to a Greek island capsized.

Pictures of the toddler's lifeless body on a beach horrified millions around the globe and spurred the Tintern and Beamsville churches to act.

"As a mother, I just couldn't imagine it," church member Jori Warren said. "You don't just put your kids in a boat with their life on the line if their life wasn't already in jeopardy."

Rather than undergo a lengthy paperwork process, the churches partnered with the Mennonite Central Committee — a refugee placement organization already recognized by



Bell

the Canadian government.

Led by Tintern deacon Roger Perry, a committee of 24 men and women formed to tackle the family's needs — from housing to medical care to transportation to schools for the children and English language classes for the parents.

The Mennonite Central Committee provided helpful advice on moving forward, church member Marcia Cramp said.

"That was everything from being a blessing to watching out for burnout because it really is time consuming," Cramp said. "(They said), 'It's going to take a lot, so make sure you have lots of people involved to support you through that process of getting people acclimated to a new Canadian culture.'"

By sponsoring the family, the churches agreed to support them financially for at least a year. Members' contributions and pledges exceeded \$40,000 Canadian — nearly double the amount needed to fulfill that commitment.

"We raised enough that we really can sponsor two families," Cramp said. "But we chose to start with one, do it well and learn from it."

Brian Dyck coordinates the Mennonite Central Committee's

national migration and resettlement program in Canada.

Last year, that program brought 1,300 refugees to America's northern neighbor — two-thirds of them Syrians.

"The first job is getting people here," said Dyck, who is based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. "But the big job after that is making sure that they have housing, that they can learn English and French

... and that they have friends here.

"And that's the strength of our private sponsorship program," he added. "It not only helps people find a job and a home and things like that; it builds a

community around them."

On a recent weekday, Cramp went to the two-story townhouse that the churches rented for the Syrian family.

The Christian volunteer was taking the mother and children to see a pediatrician, but she arrived early to let them know a local IKEA store wanted to supply items for their home.

"The mother began to cry, which of course made me cry," Cramp said. "She said, 'Love, love, love.' So we hugged,

and I said back, 'Yes, love, love, love. The church loves you, and Canada loves you, and we are so happy to help.'"

The church members hope to introduce the family to the Gospel of Jesus.

For now, they're content to build the relationship slowly and learn more about the Syrians' own faith.

"It's been a really interesting journey," Cramp said. "If I was really open and honest ... I was probably quite racist and biased against Muslim people. They would not have been people (to whom) I would have gravitated to seek out a relationship."

"And it's just been such an eye-opener for me to engage with a family that is loving and humorous and caring and empathetic in the same way that all of us are," she added.

Walker, the minister, expressed similar sentiments.

"My eyes have been totally changed toward the Muslim community," he said. "They were caricatures of human beings before."

But now, when he conjures images of Muslims, Walker pictures a loving father and mother who shuttled their son and five daughters away from bombs — and barely can contain their delight at a fresh start in a safe place.

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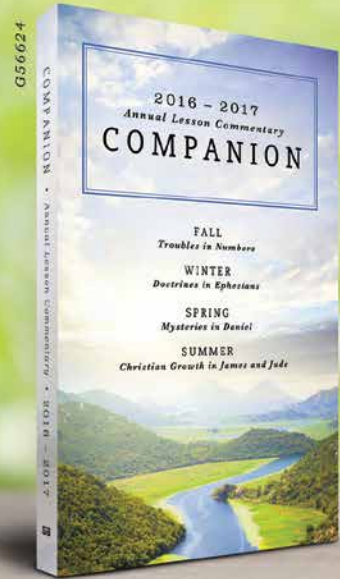
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WORLDVIEW
LECTURER DICK SZTANYO

CAMPING

GANDER BROOK CHRISTIAN CAMP

RAYMOND, Maine — A fire blamed on a lightning strike heavily damaged the director’s cabin at Gander Brook Christian Camp, a mainstay of Churches of Christ in New England for six decades.

Insurance should cover some — but not all — of the rebuilding cost of roughly \$80,000, leaders said. The uninsured portion could reach \$20,000 to \$30,000, said Park Linscomb, vice president of Gander Brook’s board and longtime minister for the Manchester Church of Christ in New Hampshire. Camp leaders set up a web page for donations. See www.christianchronicle.org for links and expanded coverage. Search for “Gander Brook fire.”

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES



PHOTO PROVIDED

Tornado damage at Foster’s Home for Children.

FOSTER’S HOME FOR CHILDREN

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — A tornado that swept through this central Texas town touched down on the campus of Foster’s Home as 48 children were asleep in bed.

“We are very blessed to say that there were no physical injuries,” said Glenn Newberry, president. “A number of structures were damaged, most heavily being the administration building.

“We were blessed in our community with an army of volunteers who descended on the campus within minutes of the tornado. After we evacuated our kids and caregivers to Camp Crucis in Granbury (who housed our kids for three days free of charge), work began on cutting up trees and twisted metal for removal. Our kids ... came back days later to a largely clean campus, free of danger.”

DISASTER RELIEF

DISASTER ASSISTANCE CoC

CLARKSDALE, Miss. — Hundreds of homes in northwest Mississippi were damaged by a recent flood — and many are uninsured, said Mike Baumgartner of Disaster Assistance CoC. The relief ministry has prepared and delivered thousands of meals to affected

residents — including those displaced and living in hotels — and conducted Bible studies with those interested.

“This cleanup and rebuild is going to be a long process because there aren’t very many volunteers here helping,” Baumgartner said. For more information, see disasterassistancecoc.com.

HIGHER EDUCATION

YORK COLLEGE

YORK, Neb. — A dozen of the 340 inmates at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women were the first to receive letters of acceptance from York College President Steve Eckman. The women will study in a new program, overseen by corrections officials, to earn associate’s degrees from the 413-student college, associated with Churches of Christ.

“We believe in the power of transforming lives through Christ-centered education,” said Terry Seufferlein, associate professor of Bible. “These women have shown a strong desire to improve their lives ... and we are thrilled to be part of that.”

One of the students, Jennifer Kerby, told the *York News-Times* that part of her reason for pursuing a degree was “to make amends to society.” After graduation and her release, she hopes to train as a disaster rescue and recovery specialist.

“I really want to show society ... my victims ... that I am truly contrite,” Kerby said.

MEDIA MINISTRY

GOSPEL ADVOCATE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Randy Duke, an elder of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee, has purchased the Gospel Advocate Company from Neil W. Anderson, who recently completed his 50th year in Christian retail and publishing.



Duke

“It’s an awesome responsibility,” Duke said of overseeing the company, which dates back to 1855 when Tolbert Fanning and William Lipscomb began publishing the *Gospel Advocate* magazine. The work has grown to include one of the largest publishing houses serving Churches of Christ.

“I want the *Gospel Advocate* to remain committed to being the always reliable source of support for Christians around the world,” Duke said, “while developing resources for multiple generations.”



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Lady Chaparrals are champions

Caitlyn Buttram and Kellyn Schneider of Lubbock Christian University’s Lady Chaparrals celebrate their NCAA Division II women’s basketball championship after defeating Alaska-Anchorage in the national title game in Indianapolis. The 78-73 win capped an undefeated, 35-0 season — the team’s first season as a full Division II member. Only four of the team’s games, including the final, were single-digit victories.

READ MURRAY EVANS’ REPORT of Lubbock Christian’s victory and remarkable season and see a related video at www.christianchronicle.org.



The Lady Chaparrals, with trophies, at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.



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Submit introductory letter, curriculum vitae and contact information to Dr. Bruce Bryant, director of educational leadership, at bbryant1@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12261, 915 E. Market Ave., Searcy, AR 72149.

Seeking full-time faculty position in the area of special education. The successful candidate will have a doctorate in special education or closely related area and should have special education teaching experience in a K-12 school setting. Experience teaching in higher education and research and statistics is preferred. Experience working with accrediting agencies such as CAEP and CEC would be helpful. Candidates should hold a current teaching license. Responsibilities include teaching, advising, serving on committees, and performing other assigned tasks.

Submit introductory letter, curriculum vitae and contact information to Dr. Cheri Smith, chair of teacher education, at csmith19@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12254, 915 E. Market Ave., Searcy, AR 72149.

CARR COLLEGE OF NURSING. Seeking full-time faculty member in the area of clinical teaching women's health for the undergraduate program and teaching distance education courses in the graduate program. The successful candidate should maintain an active, unencumbered nursing license; be eligible for RN or APRN licensing in the state of Arkansas; have nursing practice experience in women's health/obstetrics; and have an earned doctorate in nursing or a related field or be enrolled in a doctoral program. Teaching experience is preferred. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, teaching undergraduate and graduate nursing and working collaboratively in shared governance and accreditation compliance with the College of Nursing administration and faculty.

Submit letter of interest to Dr. Susan Kehl, dean, at skehl@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12265, 915 E. Market Ave., Searcy, AR 72149.

CARTER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. Seeking full-time faculty member. Preference will be given to a Ph.D. in a business field with at least 18 graduate hours of economics with consideration given to applicants with a J.D. or a master's degree and at least 18 graduate hours in economics.

Submit letter of application, curriculum vitae, three church references, three professional references, and a transcript of the highest degree awarded to Dr. Jim Shelton, associate dean, jgshelton@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 10774, E. Market Ave., Searcy, AR 72149.

Full-Time Minister

The Wilburton Church of Christ is seeking a full-time minister. We are an active and diverse congregation focused on working with young families, the community and the local college ministry. We offer a competitive salary and a housing allowance or parsonage. Nominations and applications of all qualified persons are encouraged. Job start date is June 2016. If there are any questions or if you are interested please contact or send a cover letter and resume to wilburtoncofc@yahoo.com.

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THE LANDMARK CHURCH OF CHRIST is seeking well-qualified applicants for the Connection Minister position. We are particularly interested in candidates with significant experience in the field of connecting members into areas of ministry, small groups and caring for the church family. The Connection Minister position is designed to create environments where members can mature spiritually through the use of their God-given gifts to serve the church and community. We believe people grow in their relationship with Jesus when they find community through small groups and serving.

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- Follow up with new members to ensure they are connected in ministry and small groups.

Connection to Small Groups

- Assist Senior Minister with annual formation of small groups.
- Connect new members into small groups.
- Lead a small group.

Connection to Shepherds

- Develop relationships with members through phone calls, hospital visits, serving the church, lunch appointments, discipleship groups and serving the community.
- Identify specific member needs and coordinate weekly shepherding calls in response to prayer requests.

Applicants for the Connection Minister position are required to submit ALL of the following materials: a cover letter indicating interest in the position, a curriculum vitae, and a list of at least three professional references with telephone and email contact information. Employment is conditional upon a satisfactory background check.

Landmark Church of Christ gives preference in hiring qualified candidates who are members of the churches of Christ. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Curriculum vitae must be submitted to:
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Christians peruse exhibitors' booths at the Memphis School of Preaching lectureship.



The Forest Hill Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn., hosted the lectureship.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Memphis School of Preaching

PHOTOS BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.

'Preach the Word" was the theme of the Memphis School of Preaching's lectureship, which featured no fewer

than 70 speakers and class teachers.

The event also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the school, which was inspired by N.B. Hardeman, a renowned educator, debater and preacher among Churches of Christ and co-founder of Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.

Late in his life, Hardeman said, "If I could start over, I would have a school in which only the Bible would be taught," according to Roy J. Hearn, director of the Memphis School of Preaching from 1966 — the year it was founded — until 1983.

Hardeman was not opposed to secular education for Christians but was interested "in the purity of the church and the propagation of sound doctrine," the school's website states. The school's first class included 15 men from seven U.S. states.

The school now offers a two-year ministry degree and an Ongoing Spiritual Training Program. The school does not charge tuition and receives support from its overseeing congregation, the Forest Hill Church of Christ, and other congregations and church members.

The greatest highlight of the lectureship is "the opportunity to hear the Word of God preached," said B.J. Clarke, the school's director. The event also is a delight for "anyone who delights to hear the saving message of the Gospel."

WEBSITE: www.msop.org



Melvin Sapp, evangelist for the Kingsbury Road Church of Christ in Sumter, S.C., speaks on "Preaching Predestination?" during the Memphis School of Preaching lectureship.



Garland Elkins, dean of public relations for the Memphis School of Preaching, speaks to about 350 people on the topic "If We Fail to Preach on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage" during the school's annual lectureship.



Robert Jefferies, a minster for the Southaven Church of Christ in Mississippi, speaks in a youth class on "What is a Christian Leader?" during the lectureship.



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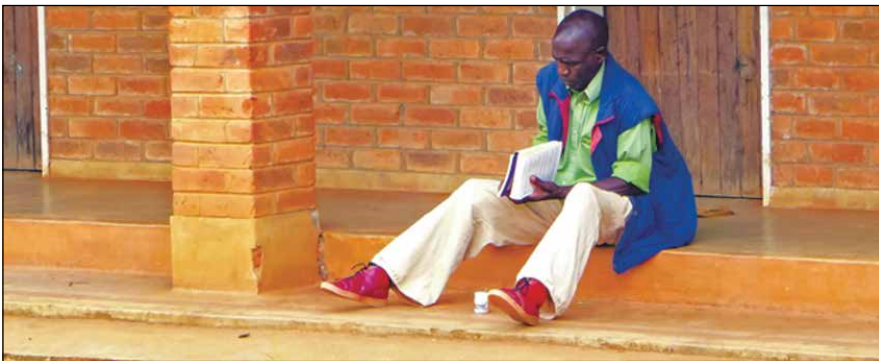


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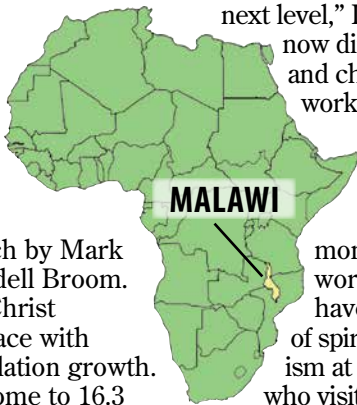
A student reviews class material at Mzuzu Bible College in Malawi's Northern Region.

***In the ‘Israel of Africa,’ Bible college
refocuses, partners with Bear Valley***

MZUZU, Malawi

The Israel of Africa.” That’s how minister Priestly Nkhonjera once described his native Malawi, a tiny country in southern Africa. In 2000 an estimated one out of every 50 Malawians was a church member, according to research by Mark Berryman and Wendell Broom. But Churches of Christ are failing to keep pace with Malawi’s rapid population growth. The country, now home to 16.3 million souls, could reach a population of 26 million by 2030, according to demographers. Multiple faiths — including Islam — are growing. “That’s why missions are still needed,” said Mike Linkous, an elder of the Thomaston Road Church of Christ in Macon, Ga., which has overseen the Mzuzu Bible College in Malawi’s Northern Region since the 1990s. The school was lauched in the 1960s by James D. “Jimmy” Judd. The missionary and his wife, Clydene, initially agreed to serve in Malawi for three years but stayed there for more than 45. Their son, Randy, continued the work.

In recent years, conflicts over the college’s trust and property have threatened to stifle that work, said elders of the Thomaston Road church.



In 2014, Randy Judd invited British missionaries Marc and Christine Veary “to become involved in the mission work and to take it to the next level,” Linkous said. Marc Veary, now director of the college and chairman of its board, has worked to resolve conflicts at the school and within the Jomo Road Church of Christ in Mzuzu. “Over the past 16 months, Marc’s tireless work ethic and leadership have established a high level of spirituality and professionalism at the school,” said Linkous, who visited the work recently. In addition to updating the curriculum and reestablishing gospel campaigns to the villages of northern Malawi, Veary helped form a partnership between the school and Bear Valley Bible Institute, a Denver-based ministry training school that has 18 extensions in 15 nations worldwide. This year the college has 62 students studying in its two-year program — up from 19 in 2015, Linkous said. The Vearys recently launched a program to translate material for Malawian Bible class teachers, preachers and elders into the local language and a vocational training program to help Christians earn income through carpentry, tailoring, welding and maize mill maintenance.



Marc Veary

FOR MORE INFORMATION, and to learn about supporting the work in Mzuzu, contact the Thomaston Road Church of Christ at www.trccfamily.org or see mzuzubiblecollege.org.

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The **Eastside Church of Christ in Terre Haute, Ind.**, is a diverse and vibrant congregation, 235 strong. Our spiritual family has many of the most loving, giving and serving saints in the Lord's Church, and we are seeking a man of God to disciple our youth and teach them to be followers of Jesus in each of their roles and functions of daily living.

The applicant must be grounded and schooled in the scriptures--preferably through a Christian university or a missions program--exude passion and enthusiasm for the Lord's work and possess at least two years of prior youth ministry or missions background within the Churches of Christ.

A status of married is preferred, but not required. Salary is commensurate with experience.

To be considered for this position, forward your resume and three letters of recommendation with their phone and email information to:

Eastside Church of Christ
c/o Matt Carver, Minister/Evangelist
4025 College Ave.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
mcarver1184@hotmail.com
www.eastsidechurchofchrist.us

Family Minister

The Family Minister for the Mt. Comfort Church of Christ will work, under the oversight of the elders, with families, deacons, and ministry leaders. His primary concern will be to assist the congregation in developing strong young families. He will help us to equip young adults and husbands and wives to grow spiritually and will assist parents in raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In doing so, young adults and families will have a strong sense of identity and purpose within the body and will be equipped for discipleship and outreach.

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<http://mcchurchofchrist.org>

'Are you going to baptize my da-da?'

"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them."

— Isaiah 11:6, English Standard Version

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.

If you are a member of the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, then chances are you've heard the name Rivers Clark.

Rivers is a 4-year-old girl full of energy and love for Jesus. For most of her life, she has come to church with her grandparents, Bob and

In the Word



Stuart Cash

Jacquie Barringer.

A little more than a year ago, she began asking her father, Ron Clark, if he would read her a Bible story before bedtime every night. Even though he himself wasn't going to church, he agreed. Night after night of reading Bible stories to her, he began to think about his life — about things like peace, joy, happiness and of course, purpose.

After a few weeks, Rivers asked her "da-da" if he would come to church with her. He didn't really want to, but he loves his daughter. So he did.

He took Rivers to Bible class and then sat in the back of the auditorium, doing his best to avoid any conversations. Truth is, he felt guilty for even being in church. He thought that, in order to attend a church, you have to have your life in order. You couldn't have a past. You had to have all of the answers. He knew that he didn't.

But week after week, he started to notice that others there also struggled with temptations. They didn't have it all together or have all the answers. They, too, had a past, just like him.

Slowly he started to talk with people, build relationships, attend classes and study the Scriptures with one of the ministers. One Wednesday night in the 4-year-old-class, Rivers asked the teacher the



PHOTOS BY CHUCK MONAN

Rivers Clark, age 4, watches as her father, Ron, gives his life to Christ in baptism.

most beautiful question anyone has ever heard, "Are you going to baptize my da-da?"

A year after Ron started coming to church with his daughter, he made the decision to put Christ on in baptism for the forgiveness of his sins. He realized that his life was in need of a Savior. He found the purpose he'd always been searching for.

Just like Ron, we all have a story. We all have a past, things we aren't proud of. Thank you, Jesus Christ, for going to the cross! Because of you, we have life. Because of you, we have hope.

Congratulations, Ron — and thank you, Rivers, for your example and influence.

STUART CASH is involvement minister for the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark.



After her father's baptism, Rivers Clark gets a wet and heartfelt hug.

NEWSMAKERS

AWARDED: Lipscomb University students at the Southeast Journalism Conference in Clarksville, Tenn.: **Nicole Anderson**, third place, Public Relations; **Brianna Langley**, seventh place, Best Feature Writer; **Anna McClure**, second place, Radio News Reporting; **Leslie Newman**, third place, Best Television Hard News Reporter; **Becca Risley**, fifth place, Best News Writer; **Stephanie Schiraldi**, sixth place, Best Arts and Entertainment Writer; **Erin Turner**, first place, Best Multimedia Journalist, second place, News Photography, fifth place, Best Press Photographer and College Journalist of the Year; **Veronica Williams**, third place, Public Relations.

HONORED: **Bill Burton** as Educator of the Year by the National Christian School Association. Burton is the administrative vice president for the Greater Atlanta Christian School in Norcross, Ga.

NAMED: **Phil Ellenburg**, vice president for alumni relations at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. **Mark Miller** to the council of advisers for Hope for Life, a Herald of Truth ministry. Miller is a deacon of the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. **Marty Spears**, provost, and **Julie Hixson-Wallace**, vice provost for accreditation at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

NEW MINISTERS: **Ethan Bilbray**, minister for the Richfield Church of Christ in Minnesota. **Charlie Thomason**, preacher for the Aledo Church of Christ in Texas.

RETIRING: **ZoaAnn Turner**, after 45 years at Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas.

Milestones

Showcasing the moments of your life and the lives of loved ones.

Birthdays

95th: Madison Holroyd, Cedar Vale, Kan. **95th: Bertha Roland**, Midland, Texas. **95th: Julian Wickham**, Midland, Texas. **93rd: Fred Moulton**, Thayer, Kan.

Anniversaries

60th: Johnny and Gloria Pistole, Hosston, La.

Memorials

William Britton
1924 — 2016

William Britton, former longtime elder of the Highland Park Church of Christ in Muscle Shoals, Ala., passed away April 3, 2016.

Among William's many interests and accomplishments, he was especially noted as a promoter and supporter of missions worldwide, but especially in Bangladesh and Nepal.

We honor him for his character, his leadership, and his faith.



Tom Burton
1946 — 2016

Longtime Christian children's services advocate Tom Burton passed away in February at the age of 70.

A 1968 graduate of Lipscomb University and Vietnam War veteran, Tom began his career working with mentally disabled adults as director of The House of Friendship in Nashville, Tenn. In 1974, based on the recommendation of Agape's founding executive director, Tom began work as a social worker at the Children's Home of Lubbock. During his time in Texas, Tom realized his true passion was for the love and care of children.

Impressed with his leadership and organizational skills, Agape's board of directors invited Tom to return to Nashville and serve as executive director in 1982.

From a donated space on Westwood Drive in Nashville, he began his work at Agape. In June, 1982, there were 14 children in foster care, three maternity clients and a new counseling program that already served 72 families during the first six months of that year. Under Tom's direction, Agape outgrew its offices, resulting in two subsequent moves to larger facilities.

In 1992, with Tom's vision and leadership, more than \$2 million was raised to build the then state-of-the-art Justiss-Kirby Center where the agency's home offices are now located. Tom was very proud that Agape did not have to borrow any money to build the new facility, and it remains debt-free to this date.

Tom was a member of Harpeth Hills Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tenn., where he served as a deacon and an elder. He also was a member of numerous local, regional and national child and family services organizations, including the Tennessee Association for Childcare, the Christian Child and Family Services Association, the Christian Adoption Resource Exchange, the National Association of Social Workers and the Child Welfare League of America.

In 2010, Tom received Lipscomb University's annual Mary Morris Award recognizing those who demonstrate a high level of service to community and church and who expand, embrace and share Christian principles in unconventional ways.

Tom retired at the end of 2012 after serving more than 30 years as executive director for Agape. His wife Chris, who served by his side for almost his entire career, retired in 2013. Chris passed away in the summer of 2015.

To make a gift in memory of Tom, please visit www.agapenashville.org.

Austin H. Emery

1931 — 2016

Austin H. Emery, age 85, of Mena, Ark., died Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at the Rich Mountain Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

He was born on Friday, Feb. 20, 1931, to Austin Hallett Sr. and Anna Seaton Emery in Pawtucket, R.I.

Austin served his country proudly in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict and met Barbara Harrison at a USO Club. They were married on Aug. 11, 1950, in San Antonio.

He soon started preaching and teaching in several Churches of Christ spanning more than 50 years.

Austin received his highest honors in life when he received his doctoral degree from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

He and Barbara moved to Mena in 1995, where Austin started preaching and teaching for the Northside Church of Christ. He served the church for 18 years until his retirement.

Austin served 14 years on the Mena Hospital Commission. He enjoyed studying the Word of God and spending time with his family.

Austin was a loving, compassionate husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one son, Mark Emery; and one sister, Marian Scribner.

Austin is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Emery of Mena; son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Rita Emery of Texas; one daughter, Robin Emery of Iowa; brother Richard Emery of New York; seven grandchildren; several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.



continued on Page 28

Entries should be submitted to milestones@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5070.

Rates and guidelines are available upon request (credit card preferred).

April 21 Eastern European Missions Event. Amarillo, Texas. (512) 968-5565, bmereness@eem.org, www.eem.org.

April 21-22 Gardening Workshop Healing Hands International. Nashville, Tenn. (217) 898-0425, cburkybile@hhi.org.

April 21-24 Christian Women: Trophies of Grace. Birmingham, Alabama. (910) 583-6449, www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org.

April 22-24 Xperience 2016 Youth Rally. "Witness." Poteau, Okla. (918) 721-3848.

April 30 Battlefield Heroes — Protecting Purity. Huntsville, Ala. (256) 895-8717.

April 30 50th Anniversary - Lylewood Christian Camp. Indian Mound, Tenn. (931) 436-8242, lylewoodchristiancamp@gmail.com.

April 30-May 1 Arlington Church of Christ 75th Anniversary. Arlington, Va. (703) 528-0535, arlingtonfamily.org.

May 1 200th Anniversary Celebration. Stony Point Church of Christ. Florence, Ala. (256) 764-8856.

May 2-6 Senior Quest 2016. Pettijohn Springs Christian Camp. Madill, Okla. (580) 795-5015, manager@pettijohnsprings.com.

May 6-8 New England Lectureship: "Adding to Your Faith." Holiday Inn, Taunton, Mass. Contact Maurice Davis, (617) 274-2409.

May 23-26 35th Annual Sermon Seminar. Austin Graduate School of Theology, Texas. Contact Renee' Kennell, (512) 476-2772, www.sermonseminar.com.

May 28-30 Southside Church of Christ Homecoming. Orlando, Fla. (407) 296-0155, sscocorlando@outlook.com.

May 29 Campaign For Christ Rally. Memorial Church of Christ, Houston. (713) 464-0271, bbaugh@thearray.org.

June 6-9 National Hispanic English Youth Conference. Lubbock, Texas. (806) 720-7219, terriwarren@lcu.edu, www.lcucamps.com.

June 7-9 Abundant Living Seniors Ministry Conference. Searcy, Ark. (501) 279-4055, gowen@harding.edu.

June 8-10 43rd National Jail-Prison Ministry Workshop. Corpus Christi, Texas. (361) 855-3372, www.nlbm.org.

Milestones *continued*

Marilyn A. Fletcher 1931 — 2016

Marilyn A. Fletcher (nee Higginbottom), 84, of North Ridgeville, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly and went to be with the Lord on Tuesday Dec. 22, 2015, in Boston while visiting her daughter and son-in-law. She was born July 10, 1931, in Lamar, Colo. She was a resident of North Ridgeville for the past three years and had resided in San Diego for many years prior.



Marilyn was a graduate of the University of Denver, where she majored in elementary education and piano. She was an elementary school teacher for more than 20 years teaching in the San Diego City and Lakeside Union school districts.

She was an active member, education coordinator and teacher for the El Cajon Boulevard Church of Christ in San Diego for many years. She was also a teacher for World Bible School, corresponding with adult students from all over the globe for many years. She was a longtime member of the Associated Women for Pepperdine University and of the San Diego Christian Foundation. Her passions included Bible study, classical and folk music, hymns, great literature and good works.

Mrs. Fletcher is survived by two daughters, Cynthia Alston (Roy) of Framingham, Mass., and Julia Lando (Robert) of Avon, Ohio; two granddaughters, Rebekah and Rachel Lando; and by one brother, Dr. Harold Higginbottom (Patricia) of Wilbraham, Mass. She was preceded

in death by her beloved husband of 55 years, W. L. Fletcher III in 2014, and by her parents, Powell and Jettie Higginbottom. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the San Diego Christian Foundation.



Maye Coil, 86,
Florence, Ala., Mar. 16.

William W. Grasham 1930 — 2016

William Wesley Grasham, 85, of Abilene, Texas, passed away on Saturday, March 19, 2016.

Bill was born on Aug. 2, 1930, in Phoenix. He preached for more than 60 years in Texas, California, Arizona, Germany and Scotland. He received a bachelor's degree in 1962 and a master's in history and Bible in 1968 from Pepperdine University. He studied at Fuller Theological Seminary and received a doctorate from the California Graduate School of Theology in 1970.

He also received a Master of Divinity from Abilene Christian University in

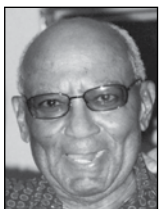


1975. He was awarded a doctorate in 1985 from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland upon completion of a dissertation that examined the nature of the Qumran community, the writers of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

For more than 15 years he taught Old and New Testament and biblical theology courses at the Center for Christian Education in Dallas. Bill also taught courses at both McMurry University and Abilene Christian University. He authored the two-volume "Truth for Today" commentary on the book of Genesis.



Jasper Goin, 86,
Dahlgren, Ill., Mar. 16.



Arthur "Arturo" James, 96,
New York, Mar. 21.



Lorlene Patterson, 91,
Fort Worth, Texas, Mar. 16.

Sandra Lane, 60, Trenton, Ga., Mar. 6. **Gwyn Montrose, 89,** Abilene, Texas, March 4. **Donald R. Myers, 83,** Enid, Okla., Mar. 11. **Dewey Smith, 88,** Dunlap, Tenn., Feb. 29.

Memorial/Honor Gifts

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in memory of Jack Boustead, Wyatt Jones, Jack Harris and Mrs. Billie Rowlett.

*Entries should be submitted to milestones@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5070.
Rates and guidelines are available upon request (credit card preferred).*

Ad deadline for the next two issues:
May 3 and June 7

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Send us your camp's information.

Contact Tonya Patton at tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR CHRIST

Conventions inspire a new generation

DALLAS

I love Leadership Training for Christ.

I love seeing odd costumes and props throughout the hotel. I love watching groups of teens walk around looking for friends from faraway churches (that was totally me 16 years ago).

And I love hearing the choruses, watching the dramas and checking out the artwork.

But mostly, I love seeing children get excited about Jesus.

This year's convention was especially thrilling for me. I watched my third-grade daughter, Reese, participate in LTC for the first time.

Views



Laura Akins

Our congregation attended the Dallas Hilton Anatole convention along with 89 other Churches of Christ. Reese was one of 2,300 children and teens at our location

and one of 4,670 participants who attended the three North Texas LTC convention sites.

During the 24 hours we were at the convention we rushed from Bible quiz to chorus to puppets to drama. We fought crowds, made quick costume changes and waited 15 minutes every time we needed to take the elevator.

I watched my daughter recite memorized lines and sing for the Lord. Like I said, it was thrilling.

When she had completed her events, we left the hotel — and our LTC bubble — completely exhausted. As we sunk into our seats in the car, I looked back at my daughter and caught her quiet words right before she fell asleep. “I can’t wait to come back next year.”

I think it’s safe to say she loves it as much as I do.

CONTACT laura.akins@christianchronicle.org.



Madeline Smith of the Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas based her artwork on the crossing of the Jordan River in Joshua 4:1-7. The woman represents God’s children, Smith wrote, and the hearts represent God’s blessings — “divine hope, love, strength and refuge.” God “will always be there to provide.”



Sculptures at the North Texas LTC include “God is our Refuge,” left, by Jaelee Kerr of the Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, and “Building the Monument” by Teagan Pineda of the Prairie Hill Church of Christ in Comanche, Okla.



EDITORIAL

Plague of pornography demands urgency

The world recognizes the epidemic of pornography. So should we.

In a recent cover story, *Time* magazine notes that easy access to explicit images and videos has emasculated an entire generation of young men. Now, the magazine reports, former users are speaking against porn’s devastating effects.

The church is not immune, as *The Christian Chronicle* has reported for more than a decade. Too, too many terrible stories in our fellowship begin with wandering eyes and the click of a mouse.

Recently, Steve Holladay, founder of the Ultimate Escape ministry, which is associated with Churches of Christ, joined hundreds of attendees at the Set Free Global Summit. Organized by Josh McDowell Ministries and Covenant Eyes, which offers Internet filtering and accountability, the event featured presentations about the neurological, psychological and spiritual effects of pornography, Religious News Service reported.

According to findings presented by Barna Group at the summit, young adults and teens see pornography as less immoral than littering, and two-thirds have engaged in “sexting,” receiving a sexually explicit image in a text message.

It’s past time, as Holladay sees it, for Churches of Christ to develop a sense of urgency about the porn problem.

What to do? **Let’s talk and teach about the problem** — in our pulpits, in our Bible classes, in small groups. Provide opportunities for fellow believers to confess this sin like any other. Develop accountability partnerships and groups for Christians to receive the support they need.

Let’s take advantage of technological tools, such as filtering software, but use common sense. Know that giving a child a smartphone — without proper guidance and oversight — is asking for trouble.

Let’s refocus on God’s vision for healthy sexuality and spend much more time devouring the Scriptures than we do browsing the Internet.

We have a pornography problem, but we serve a God bigger than all our problems.

FIND COVERAGE of Ultimate Escape and other ministries battling porn addiction at www.christianchronicle.org.

‘You are the trophy’

THE REAL PRIZE at *Lads to Leaders* is a lifetime of faith.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.
My 11-year-old son was disappointed at not placing in his speech competition at the Lads to Leaders convention.

He rocked his speech! He delivered it the best he had ever done. He felt really good about it. He enjoyed the lesson, put his heart out there, and felt like he would get a trophy.

He understood it wasn’t about the trophy, but he felt he had done a great job and delivered the speech well. He worked so hard.

Views
We were discussing this with him in the hotel room. My parents were telling him how much better he did than I did when I was his age — how I was so nervous and shaky they didn’t even know if I would make it through the speech. (Of course, I never won a trophy or made it into the finalist category.)

It was at the completion of this story that my mom said this powerful line that captures the purpose and good of Lads to Leaders.

“You are the trophy that has come from your dad doing it years ago,” she said. “He never won a trophy, but from the seeds that were planted you have come today, participating in preaching the Bible, leading a song and competing in Bible Bowl. If he would have won a trophy, it would be in an attic gathering dust, but you and your siblings are the trophy ... and that is what matters!”

Sometimes Lads to Leaders gets a bad rap because of its emphasis on competition, but the competition is only to accomplish the purpose of training and motivating. It is not the goal, but only a part of the process. The real trophy is the faith that comes out of it.

JOSH KETCHUM preaches for the Seven Oaks Church of Christ in Mayfield, Ky. Read this piece and more at his blog, www.joshketchum.com.

LADS TO LEADERS

Ten years of speaking about God

LEXINGTON, Ky.
We just got back from what is maybe my favorite weekend of the entire year — Lads to Leaders.

All of the emotional and physical exhaustion that follows has set in hard, but I am so happy. This weekend was the last time I will ever be a participant in Lads, and I want to share everything that this program has meant to me.

For the past 10 years, I have spent each Easter weekend at the convention, participating in Bible bowl, speech, songs of praise, puppets and celebrating the year-round work of my youth group and brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have made friends with the girls in my grade level as we have grown up competing together — not seeing each other as opponents but as sisters. I have memories of nights with my favorite people, doing each other’s hair and makeup and cheering each other on.

I have experienced God’s love through the smiling faces of moms who have encouraged and supported me just as much as they do their own daughters, and through the judges who have not been harsh, but kind.

Views
The first time I went to Lads was in third grade. I had no idea what I was in for, but it turned out to be one of the best times I’d ever had. All I knew then was that I loved to be with my friends and win trophies.

What I didn’t know was how much God was working through Lads to make me grow.

My parents made shy little third-grade me give a speech. I was mostly terrified, but I did it. A few years later, I led a song in girls’ songs of praise for the first time — something I thought I would never do. I kept making speeches, and I kept leading songs. Though



Amelia Rogers stands with her trophies — at left, after participating in her first Lads to Leaders convention as a third grader and at right after her final year as a participant at the Louisville, Ky., convention. She plans to return as a judge.



PHOTOS VIA THECOLLEYHOUSE.ORG

the nervousness was still there, I became more and more comfortable with getting up in front of people. And I realized that I enjoy public speaking — and I love to speak about God.

The past few years, I have been blessed with opportunities to speak at ladies’ classes and lead devotionals for girls. I love Lads to Leaders because I never would have been able to speak in front of people without the practice and the encouragement that I received there.

Bible bowl, with its endless multiple-choice questions, seemed a little too much like school when I first started. But looking back, I am so grateful for how much this event has gotten me into God’s Word, with incredible teachers and persistent reason to dig into and learn from books of the Bible that were chosen each year.

At Lads to Leaders, you often hear the phrase, “Everyone is a winner.” This year, I was up on stage with people that I’ve grown close to just because of participating

in Lads together, and we were all happy for and cheering for each other — no matter how we placed. That is how everyone is a winner.

I will always treasure my years as a participant in Lads to Leaders.

Now, on the other side for the first time, I see the ways the program will continue to be a part of my life. I will come back to support the younger girls in my youth group. I will be a judge and have the opportunity to share God’s love by encouraging participants with kindness. Maybe someday I will bring my own children to Lads to Leaders and watch God work in them as they grow and experience the same joy I did.

“O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare your wondrous works.”

— Psalm 71:17

AMELIA ROGERS and her family attend the North Lexington Church of Christ in Kentucky. This post appears on her blog, Searching for Lovely, at searchingforlovely.wordpress.com and The Colley House at thecolleyhouse.org.



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

acu.edu

College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Gregory Straughn, Dean
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The **Department of Art and Design** invites applications for a nine-month, tenure-track position as assistant or associate professor beginning Fall 2016 to serve as program director and teach in its CIDA-accredited interior design program. Candidates are expected to have a terminal degree in interior design or architecture. Proficiency in computer design technology and demonstrated potential for teaching and scholarly endeavors is expected. Applicants must have strong communication skills and interest in the development of students. Preference will be given to applicants who have professional design experience, involvement in professional organizations, and who are NCIDQ credentialed. A portfolio of student and/or professional work may be requested. Information about the department is available at *acu.edu/art* and *blogs.acu.edu/artanddesign*.

The **Department of Engineering and Physics** invites applications for a talented **engineer** to fill a tenure-track faculty position offering excellent opportunities to contribute to and substantially shape ACU's dynamic engineering program. Applicants should have especially strong skills in teaching, scholarship and mentoring students. Ideal candidates will have a Ph.D. in mechanical, electrical or another engineering discipline, demonstrated potential to teach effectively in our program's curriculum, and experience in research and scholarship activities appropriate to the discipline. Experience in leading or contributing to the senior design experience will further distinguish a candidate. Candidates having a B.S. and M.S. degree and a license or certification in an engineering discipline and significant experience in industry or consulting also will be considered. Previous involvement with ABET accreditation would be helpful. Expected start date is Fall 2016.

The department also seeks a talented **physicist** to fill a tenure track faculty position offering excellent opportunities to contribute to and substantially shape ACU's internationally renowned physics program. Applicants should have especially strong skills in teaching, scholarship and mentoring students. Ideal candidates will have a Ph.D. (or similar terminal degree) in physics or a related field. Candidates should have demonstrated potential to teach effectively in our program's curriculum, and experience in research and scholarship activities appropriate to the discipline. Expected start date is Fall 2016. Information about the department is available at *acu.edu/engineering* and *acu.edu/physics*.

The **Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice** invites applications for a tenure-track position in criminal justice beginning Fall 2016, offering excellent opportunities to contribute to the growing

criminal justice program at ACU. The department and its pre-law program have a history of teaching, scholarship and service spanning more than 40 years. A master's degree in criminal justice or a related field is required, and a terminal degree is desired. Applicants should have strong skills in teaching, scholarship and mentoring students. Information about the department is available at *acu.edu/politicalscience*.

College of Biblical Studies

Dr. Tim Sensing, Associate Dean
ACU Box 29416, Abilene, Texas 79699-9416

ACU's **College of Biblical Studies** invite applications for positions as adjunct faculty for online M.Div., M.A.C.M., and M.A.G.S. degrees offered by the Graduate School of Theology. The area of specialization is open (e.g., biblical studies, world religions, theology, missions, Christian history, biblical languages, etc.). The candidate should hold an earned doctorate in one of the major theological disciplines and should exhibit potential as an excellent online instructor. Information about online programs is available at *acu.edu/academics/gst/prospective/online-and-distance/index.html*. Available openings are from one to four possible courses per year. The first courses will begin May 9, 2016. In-depth information can be found at *acu.edu/academics/provost/-availablepositions/abilene-based-positions.html* (click on Dallas Based Positions). Information about the college is available at *acu.edu/bible*.

See *acu.edu/academics/provost/positions.html* for complete descriptions of these positions. In a letter to the appropriate dean or chair, applicants should address their qualifications for the position. They should include in the application a statement of how faith informs their teaching; a discussion of their spiritual journey; a curriculum vita; transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work; and names, addresses and phone numbers of five references. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations of and applications from qualified women and minorities are especially encouraged.

ACU is affiliated with the fellowship of the Churches of Christ. All applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and deeply committed to service in Christian higher education. The mission of ACU is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities.

The Good Book still provokes and inspires

I was raised a Catholic, and in those days Catholics weren't really Bible people ... Bible reading, I understood then, was something the Protestants went in for, and look where it got them."

So goes the pithy beginning of a chapter of **"The Good Book: Writers Reflect on Favorite Bible Passages,"** by *The New York Times'* Charles McGrath.

That quote represents the perfect dichotomy of the entire book: the essays within it neither praise nor slam the Bible or the people who read it. Instead, the writers offer honest feedback and experience from outsiders — not the choir. This is valuable to those of us who would like to bring the outsiders in.

You won't find any big names from the past that might reel you in with curiosity like say, Hemingway, Twain, Austen or Poe — or perhaps even better, Donald Trump. All the authors are accomplished people of the pen in some contemporary genre.

But you will find thoughtful observations from myriad viewpoints on the one book it seems we have all

been reading for thousands of years. Some parts are almost unreadably sarcastic and small, but many are encouraging, novel even, for the long-time Bible reader. That being said, even the most glaringly acerbic responses bear reading, if only to note how the Bible provokes everyone in some way.

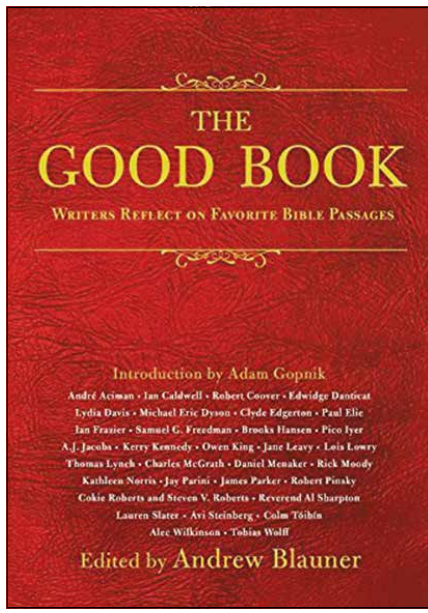
Many parts, however, are quite readable, as might be expected from a part secular, part agnostic, part believer authorship.

Consider Lois Lowry, the two-time Newbery Award-winning author and pioneer of the seemingly endless teen dystopian genre ("The Giver" quartet), who describes herself as "an agnostic, raised a perfunctory Protestant." She relates the story of her son's wedding in Germany. During the service when a woman sang the words of Ruth's pledge to Naomi, she writes "I found myself, inexplicably, weeping."

Rev. Al Sharpton pitches in a few pages on Psalms. He writes beautifully about the African-American experience, which he finds paralleled to the Psalms. And he interestingly compares the Psalms to



In Print
S.J. Dahlstrom



★★★★☆
Andrew Blauner, editor. **The Good Book: Writers Reflect on Favorite Bible Passages.** New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015. 320 pages. \$27.

the blues. "We have always been a musical people ... rooted in the relationship we insisted upon having with the tortured rhythms of our unaccomplished deliverance," he writes. This is a fresh, defen-

sible spin on the experience of Babylonian captivity, which anchors sections of the Psalms, such as the wonderful 137th.

The surprising, "inexplicable" quality of the Bible is on full display in this collection. Despite the unique and varied interpretations these authors derive from the Bible, a central theme develops in the readings — this book matters to people, still. It cuts them open. This sword remains sharp enough to divide soul and spirit.

I found myself recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah while reading, *"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty; but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*

I find this encouraging. It makes me thankful in a renewed way that we have God's Word. It sits on shelves and waits, and invites all to come. There is a great confidence we can take from this. The Bible is special. It is bigger than us.

It is not just another good book.

S.J. DAHLSTROM is creator of *"The Adventures of Wilder Good,"* a novel series for young adults. He and his family attend the Quaker Avenue Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas.

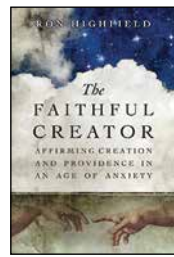
NEW AND NOTEWORTHY: AUTHORS FROM CHURCHES OF CHRIST

BIBLE STUDY
Glenn Pemberton. **The God Who Saves: An Introduction to the Message of the Old Testament.** Abilene, Texas: ACU Press, 2015. 384 pages. \$44.99.



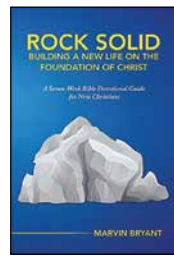
Intended as a textbook for undergraduate Old Testament courses, this book, written by the chair of the Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry at Abilene Christian University, also will help Bible class teachers or serious students of the Word. Its overarching theme is that God is powerfully in love with all of his creation — both his chosen people of ancient Israel and the pagans of their day.

PHILOSOPHY
Ron Highfield. **The Faithful Creator: Affirming Creation and Providence in an Age of Anxiety.** Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2015. 392 pages. \$35.



Highfield, professor of religion at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., presents three ways of understanding God: creation, providence and the problem of evil. The book is appropriate for graduate-level classes, yet it is highly readable. Reaffirming classical theism — the belief that God is transcendent and immutable — Highfield discusses the belief in light of modern times and criticizes recent departures from this perspective.

WORKBOOK
Marvin Bryant. **Rock Solid: Building a New Life on the Foundation of Christ.** Bloomington, Ind.: WestBow Press, 2015. 115 pages. \$11.95.



Written by the preaching minister for the NorthWest Church of Christ in San Antonio, this book is a devotional guide for new Christians.

Each of the book's devotionals presents a Bible reading with questions to consider and space to journal. New believers get exposure to foundational teachings of Christianity. The book includes 50 days' worth of devotions and a mentor's guide. It is suitable for individual or group use.

CHURCH LEADERS
Chris McCurley, editor. **Rest in Green Pastures: Encouragement for Shepherds.** Dallas: Start2Finish Press, 2015. 117 pages. \$12.99.



Nine elders from Churches of Christ across the southern United States, along with one elder's wife, contribute chapters to this collection. The elders have a combined 70 years' experience serving New Testament churches as overseers.

Topics include the training and qualifications of elders, the seen and unseen jobs of elders and the honor and responsibilities of serving as an elder.



Residential Counselor Job Opening

Couples needed for live-in positions as residential counselors, providing front-line treatment and care for up to eight adolescent males, ages 13-18. Good interpersonal, team and conflict resolution skills are required. Must be willing to undergo extensive training in behavior management techniques in a therapeutic environment. Must be able to adapt to a two-weeks-on-one-week-off schedule. Residential counselors are part of an interdisciplinary team consisting of case managers, credentialed counselors and support staff.

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To apply, call **Dana Lawson, 486-2274 x225**, or visit us online at **www.tennesseechildrenshome.org**.



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Apply to:
Board@CopperBasinBibleCamp.org

Historical Congregation Replanting Opportunity

Historical congregation founded by Oregon Trail members needs to be replanted. Located in the orchards of Washington State along the Columbia River, Pateros is a small town with few job opportunities. The congregation has dwindled in recent years as members have moved for work. The area includes several small towns in a short driving distance, and this church location would be ideal for a English/Spanish mission point. The building is owned by the few remaining members.
If interested please contact **Dave Dowlen:**
(509) 631-4280
william.dowlen@yahoo.com



Central Texas Children's Home

Seeking House Parents

Our children need you!

Come and be house parents for our boys who range in ages from 5-17. Serve the Lord as you serve our boys! CTCH has been operating near Austin, Texas, since 1969, caring for children who are lost and hurting. Please help us help the children! We are looking for caring hearts and minds to do mission work. You will earn a competitive salary (based on experience), have ample time off, enjoy supportive staff, and get other strong benefits.

To find out more about the mission work at the Central Texas Children's Home or to send your resume contact:

Ray Crowder
Executive Director
Jon O'Keefe
Residential Svc. Dir.
jon@ctch.org
(512) 243-1386

Is God calling you to serve as a foster parent?

We are excited to announce a new opportunity to serve children in foster care on our campus! Is God calling you to serve as a foster parent? We can provide the support you need to answer the call. Housing, utilities, training and 24/7 on-call support are provided, in a community of believers who share your commitment to serving children. Foster parents must be stable and mature, members of the church of Christ, willing to work as a team, able to meet your household's financial needs, and must pass a background check.

For more information, contact:

Jennifer Bristow, Director of Residential Programs
(918) 343-0003 x226
Jennifer.Bristow@hopeharborinc.org

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Benefits include: Housing, utilities, vehicle, relocation expenses, vacation, medical and short and long term disability.
Interested couples will send their cover letter of interest and resume(s) addressed to:

Executive Director, Everett White.
Email: sroberson@acch4kids.org

Job description available upon request.
Look us up on our website!

Acch4kids.org

From furloughs to newsletters, advice for churches and the missionaries they support

When I was 16 and studying Latin American history, I decided I wanted to be a missionary in Mexico. It isn't too far from the United States and seemed challenging.

As way leads on to way, I never lived in Mexico, but my love for missions never decreased. That is one reason *The Christian Chronicle* became important to me. I have great respect for people who dedicate themselves to learning another language, culture and society so they can teach people the truth about Jesus and his church.

Churches large and small should commit to God that they will help implement the Great Commission.

Here are a few points of advice for sending churches and the missionaries they support:

• **Oversight:** A common practice in Churches of Christ is to have mission committees that do most of the coordinating with missionaries. I have chaired such committees and respect them, but if I were moving to a foreign country, I would want to be directly connected to the eldership so that my work would be on their minds as well.

• **Selection:** All the evidence teaches that a prospective missionary should be prayerfully and thoughtfully screened. Psychological testing can help elders know how a missionary will adjust to a new culture.

• **In-service:** Ideally, each elder should have time to know the missionary. That process will be possible if the missionary serves the church for a year before moving to a mission point. This allows the missionary time to concentrate on language learning. It also means that the missionary can learn about the ministries of the congregation.

• **Commitment:** Elders and mission committees should develop clear policies for their workers. It would be really good for churches to provide support for the full career of the missionary. It's important to have a four- or five-year plan with clear goals. That plan should be reviewed regularly by both missionaries and elders.

• **Furlough:** Missionary families

should have a furlough every two or three years. The furlough should be fully funded by the church, and missionaries should have time to vacation, relax and see family members. The furlough also allows time for reviewing strategies and plans and for renewing connections with the congregation.

• **Visits by elders:** During the years I served as an elder, six times I visited missionaries (three at my own expense). I learned so much from those

visits, and I especially enjoyed meeting the church members, many new Christians who were interested in someone like me, a believer who had been married 40 years. The visit of an elder — at least annually — should be an essential part of all mission plans.

• **Involvement with members:** Church members should write regularly to missionaries. It is also encouraging for Christians to plan vacations to visit missionaries. The supporters see the work firsthand, and the missionaries are encouraged. Everyone wins.

• **Communication:** Missionaries accepting support from a church should be committed to knowing that church, reading bulletins, studying minutes of mission committee meetings and elders' meetings, and reading email from members. Missionaries' reports should introduce people who are attending worship as well as those who have been baptized. A report I recently saw included introductions to several people with requests for prayers.

American churches and international missionaries can be great teams to help spread the Kingdom. American churches have financial resources and experienced Christians to support and encourage those inspired "to go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.



Bailey McBride

Full-Time Pulpit Minister

The Church of Christ in Rolla, Mo., is seeking a full-time pulpit minister who has a deep knowledge of God's Word and possesses strong leadership and interpersonal skills. More information available at: <http://seekgrowserve.org/index.html>. Please send a cover letter, resume, e-sermons and references to:

Search Committee
Rolla Church of Christ
PO Box 291, Rolla, MO 65402
Phone: (573) 364-3488

Full-time Minister

The **Creede Church of Christ** located in Creede, Colo., in the San Juan Mountains, is looking for a full-time minister. Please submit your resume and CD with a lesson and sermon to:

Creede Church of Christ
Box 147
Creede, Colorado 81130

For more information call:
Larry Franklin
(719) 480-9567

The **East Hill Church of Christ in York, Neb.**, is seeking a full-time minister. East Hill is a congregation of about 400 in a small Christian-college town with eight shepherds, several deacons, a worship and family minister, and a youth intern program. The congregation includes many young families, with more than a third of its membership under the age of 19, and has a strong and active partnership with mission work in Ecuador. Nominations and applications of qualified individuals are encouraged. Review of applications and nominations will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. The expected start date is in the summer of 2016. Applications received by May 1 are assured of full consideration. All submissions will be treated in confidence and should be sent electronically (PDF or MS Word) to:

easthillchurchofchrist@windstream.net

Please see: <http://www.easthillcfc.org/> for full job description.

Full-Time Executive Minister

Richardson East Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas, is seeking a full-time Executive Minister, who will provide leadership for the development of church ministries to fulfill the vision of the church. The Executive Minister will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of Richardson East's mission and vision, planning and implementing strategies, coordinating activities, and mobilizing and aligning ministers, staff, elders and members. Primary Responsibilities include: supervision of staff and operations, managing human resources, and building teams, while modeling the values of integrity, spiritual disciplines, servant leadership, and positive relationships.

Send information to:

Drew Gaylor, Richardson East Church of Christ
1504 East Campbell Road Richardson, TX 75081
dgaylor@carechurch.org

Applications are being accepted immediately and until the position has been filled.

The **Broadway church of Christ** in Paducah, Ky., is seeking a full-time worship minister who will develop our worship ministries to further accomplish our mission of inspiring all generations towards a growing love for Christ and others through organizing and growing our acapella congregational worship experience.

Qualifications:

- A heart of worship and service to God that manifests itself in a dynamic prayer life, a whole life surrendered to Christ, and a vibrant walk with Him and a life that is above reproach.
- A biblical worldview that is committed to the authority of the Bible as God's uniquely inspired Word and a capacity to demonstrate how a biblical worldview affects worship ministry.
- A demonstrated musical skill in a variety of genres that speaks to multiple generations.
- A humble heart of servant leadership that seeks to develop a team to assist in ministry tasks.

This person will serve as both leader and ministry coach and would welcome working with others to plan, implement, and evaluate programs and goals.

Contact: Gary Enlow: (270) 559-1159, genlow860@netzero.com

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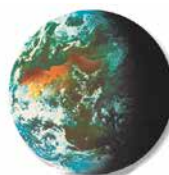


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Adopting a refugee family

How two Canadian churches are showing the love of Jesus to Syrians who fled their war-ravaged homeland. **17**



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