



## Thirsty souls

**WITH RESIDENTS ANGRY** and frustrated over their city's lead-tainted water, Christians in Flint, Mich., work to meet physical and spiritual needs.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A man walks past the North Central Church of Christ in Flint, Mich. The 150-member church has distributed more than 150,000 bottles of water since the city declared a state of emergency in mid-December. Other Churches of Christ are helping, too.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

### FLINT, Mich.

**F**ather, we know the water saves us," North Central Church of Christ member Robert McDaniel prayed on a recent Sunday.

The living water of Jesus Christ washes away sins, McDaniel declared as 150 men, women and children bowed their heads.

But people depend on water, too, to quench physical thirst, he said.

Amid a crisis involving lead-tainted drinking water in this economically depressed city of 100,000 souls, McDaniel's words resonated.

Twenty-four-pack cases of water were stacked high inside the church building and its nearby



CHURCHES OF CHRIST DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT

The picture shows tap water samples from a Flint household. The samples were taken after the Michigan city switched to the Flint River as its water source.

storage facility. Outside, the congregation's marquee sign invited residents to pick up free water between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

Since this city 65 miles north-

west of Detroit declared a state of emergency in mid-December, the North Central church has distributed between 150,000 and 200,000 bottles of water, organizers said.

Church members Javaris Burks and James Greer, joined by fellow Christians, volunteer all day before going to their regular jobs.

"I always want to hear, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant,'" said Burks, a team leader at a General Motors truck assembly plant. "We're in the middle of a community that can really use our help."

"We just want to make sure we're reflecting Christ," added Greer, a lineman for a cable company. "Because sometimes we are the only Bible that people see."

See **FLINT**, Page 10

## Jesus is stronger than meth

**CHRISTIANS CALL** for a faith-based response to an addiction plaguing communities in rural America.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD AND LAURA TWAGIRAYEZU  
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Across rural America, "Breaking Bad" is a reality show that can't be canceled.

The subject of the TV crime drama, crystallized methamphetamine, or meth, fills small-town jails and rehabilitation centers from California to Maine. Cooked in kitchens using fertilizer and cold medicine, the drug is instantly addictive.

It rots teeth and ruins lives.

"It ages people. They look worn and haggard," said Jim Weaver, a member of the Oakcrest Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. The drug creates "tension, paranoia. It really is slavery."

Jimmy Kimberlin stole from his family — without a second thought — to finance his meth addiction.

"I have been in and out of jail, on probation, did drug court twice," Kimberlin

told students at Oklahoma Christian University during a recent town hall on addiction and faith. "When I got put in jail and my family left me there to sober up, that's when I just felt God calling to me."

He's been clean for 21 months.

Weaver sees the ravages of meth addiction in his work with Rural America Ministries, or RAM, a nonprofit he founded to help rural churches reach and revitalize their



Weaver

See **METH**, Page 24



## Graduate School of Theology

### For *His* Glory

Graduate theology students carefully examine replicas of ancient Greek codices in FHU's graduate Bible reading room.

Freed-Hardeman University offers three graduate degrees in Bible – the Master of Arts in Ministry, the Master of Arts in New Testament and the Master of Divinity. If you are a preacher, Bible class teacher, church leader or simply a Christian seeking a deeper understanding of God's Word, FHU's graduate degrees in Bible can provide practical evangelistic training, as well as scholarly academic study. All courses are available via web conferencing, and courses are offered to students in the classroom and online simultaneously.

**Freed-Hardeman University develops Christian leaders for His glory.**



**FREED-HARDEMAN**  
UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON | MEMPHIS | DICKSON  
[WWW.FHU.EDU](http://WWW.FHU.EDU) | 1-800-FHU-FHU-1

## Sierra Shields' loved ones keep praying

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich.

**O**ur sweet Sierra, come home."

That's the message on the whiteboard outside Chris Shields II's office at Rochester College on a recent weekday morning.

The 34-year-old father of three serves as campus

minister at the Christian college north of Detroit.

In normal times, Shields comforts and prays with students who experience trauma. Lately, those

### Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

same young people can't help wrapping their arms around him.

"It's been a tremendous thing to watch students try to explore and express faith through this unknown time," says Shields, who also works part time as the worship minister for the nearby Rochester Church of Christ.

"That's the thing with most grief situations," he adds. "Nobody knows what to say. Nobody knows what to do."

And nobody seems to know what happened to the minister's sister: Sierra Shields, a 30-year-old New York City flight attendant, disappeared Jan. 14.

The known facts are sketchy: Sierra left her badge and flight manual with a supervisor after asking to speak to a union representative. She was last seen walking out of LaGuardia Airport. She reportedly didn't have her

See **SEIRRA**, Page 4



PHOTO PROVIDED

## In Pakistan, former Hindus give lives to Christ

Minister Asher Kaleem baptizes one of 25 new souls into Christ in a rural village of Pakistan. The new Christians are part of a Hindu tribe, the minister said, and are the focus of recent evangelism efforts by a Church of Christ in Lahore, Pakistan. "We are holding regular Bible classes and, hopefully soon, a proper congregation will be set up," Kaleem said. "Many people are ready for baptism, but we want them to learn Bible's teachings before being baptized."

## House to House tops 200 million copies

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

JACKSONVILLE, Ala.

**T**he way Allen Webster sees it, God gets more glory when ordinary people do extraordinary things.

Take *House to Heart* to *Heart*, the evangelistic publication Webster started in 1994 while preaching for the Tiptersville Church of Christ in Mississippi.

Webster maintained the direct-mail ministry after moving to the Jacksonville Church of Christ in 1995 — and the Alabama church recruited more congregations to join the effort.

"Then it grew from there, and

we brought in extra workers," said Webster, the general editor who now works with 14 full-time staff members.

Published six times per year, *House to House* is an eight-page, full-color magazine used as an outreach tool by 1,100 Churches of Christ nationwide. Each issue goes to about 2.5 million households.

With the first issue of 2016, the publication reached an all-time total of 200,132,287 copies distributed.

"We have worked with churches in



Webster

## #iampraying for persecuted Christians

ON SOCIAL MEDIA and in a university auditorium, believers petition God on behalf of those in danger for their faith.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Prayer and selfies — in that order. Jeff Abrams encouraged both on the campus of Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.

The minister wanted believers to let the world know

— through social media — that they were spending time during the university's annual lectureship petitioning God on behalf of those who are ostracized, mocked and even killed for their faith.

Several hundred Christians gathered in Freed-Hardeman's Loyd Auditorium and offered prayers for the persecuted — and the persecutors, said



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Kelsey Quesenberry and friends take a selfie with the #iampraying hashtag at Freed-Hardeman.

See **#IAMPRAYING**, Page 15

all 50 states and Washington, D.C., and 60 foreign countries," said Matt Wallin, who signs up churches for *House to House*. "We print each issue in English and Spanish and occasionally in French and British English."

In northern New Hampshire, the six-member Northern Valley Church of Christ mails *House to House* to more than 1,000 neighbors every other month. Minister Tom Jackson, who supports himself by farming, said the publication plants seeds in the community.

"It's a way to reach areas that normally could not be reached because of the lack of workers," Jackson said.

See **PUBLICATION**, Page 8

# SIERRA: Rochester College graduate's whereabouts still a mystery

**FROM PAGE 3**  
personal belongings with her.  
In her last phone conversations with family members, Sierra sounded stressed. Out of sorts. Not her typically bubbly self.  
“The tone of her voice, I just knew something was wrong,” mother Donna Shields told WABC-TV in New York City. “I didn’t know what.”  
Older sister Joy Shields and father Chris Shields, an elder of the Park Forest Church of Christ in Matteson, Ill., rushed from Chicago to New York to check on her. By the time they arrived, she had gone missing.  
I ask Chris Shields II to tell me about his sister.  
“She was the kind of person where if she was in the room, it wouldn’t matter who else was in the room, because she would be the one that would draw everyone together,” he replies. “She is the one that would make people comfortable in their own skin. “Very boisterous. Very happy. Very bubbly. Always likes to laugh and joke,” he adds. “She’s always that breath of fresh air for folks. ... She is a phenomenal girl.”  
How — I wonder — does one make sense of her disappearance?  
“It’s the thing that keeps me awake at night, just trying to make sense of it,” he says, his voice soft and reflective. “It’s a really



Sierra Shields



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Campus minister Chris Shields II discusses the disappearance of his sister Sierra Shields.

big mystery.”  
As Sierra’s parents and four siblings — Joy, Chris II, Crystal and Alyse — grapple with that mystery, Christians across the nation shower them with love and prayers.  
The hashtag #FindSierraNYC trended on Twitter after her disappearance. In mid-February, many joined the family in a special day of prayer and fasting.  
“It is very humbling to see and witness the amount of love that’s shown for Sierra and us,” Chris Shields, Sierra’s father, said in a video posted on YouTube. “We not only see the love that you have for us, but through you, we see the love

that God has for us. That gives us strength. That gives us the ability to keep stepping forward. Because he’s an awesome God.”  
In a moment requiring plenty of tissues, Rochester College’s chorus sang “You Followed Love Home,” written by Crystal Shields in tribute to her missing sister and arranged by music department chairman Joe Bentley.  
“I will water your path with tears of love. I will guide you here with faith, hope and love,” the song goes. “I will sing you through the night until morning’s first light.”  
When *The Christian Chronicle’s* Laura Akins posted a video of

the song online, Crystal noted: “I recorded my version in the middle of the night, with tears falling and a heart breaking. I can’t wait to sing it in celebration of her return.”  
Sierra Shields was a 2009 graduate of Rochester College, where she majored in ministry and business.  
After college, Sierra didn’t want a 9-to-5 job. That wouldn’t fit her personality, her brother recalls.  
Working as a flight attendant did. “She had a passion for traveling and seeing the world,” Chris Shields II says. “She went to Uganda as part of an internship while she was a student here with (former Rochester College professors) John and Sara Barton.”  
If you’re reading this, here’s what Sierra’s brother asks: Please keep sharing her story on social media. And please don’t stop praying.  
“I don’t know where this faith journey will end,” he says. “But prayer is important — absolutely so.”  
Amen.  
“Our sweet Sierra, come home.”  
**CONTACT** bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org. See videos of Chris Shields II discussing his sister’s disappearance and the Rochester College chorus singing “You Followed Love Home” at [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org).  
**CORRECTIONS:** A story on Page 3 of the February issue about the upcoming film “Greater” had an incorrect date. After publication, the film’s producers moved the release to this summer. Also, a photo caption on Page 5 of the February issue contained an error. Drue Clark is a graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.



**The Christian Chronicle**  
Our mission: Inform, inspire, unite

A subsidiary of Oklahoma Christian University

[www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org)

Phone: (405) 425-5070; Fax (405) 425-5076  
Mail: P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100  
Delivery: 2501 E. Memorial Road, Edmond, OK 73013

 [facebook.com/ChristianChronicle](https://facebook.com/ChristianChronicle)  
 [twitter.com/CofNews](https://twitter.com/CofNews)

President and CEO: Lynn A McMillon  
[lynn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org](mailto:lynn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org)

Editor: Erik Tryggstad  
[erik@christianchronicle.org](mailto:erik@christianchronicle.org)

Chief Correspondent: **Bobby Ross Jr.**  
[bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org](mailto:bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org)

Advertising Manager: **Tonya Patton**  
[tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org](mailto:tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org)

Reviews Editor: **Kimberly Mauck**  
[kim.mauck@christianchronicle.org](mailto:kim.mauck@christianchronicle.org)

Administrative Assistant: **Lynda Sheehan**  
[lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org](mailto:lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org)

Administrative Assistant: **Joy McMillon**  
[joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org](mailto:joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org)

Editorial Assistant: **Laura Akins**  
[laura.akers@christianchronicle.org](mailto:laura.akers@christianchronicle.org)

Advertising Assistant: **Matthew Ware**  
[matthew.ware@christianchronicle.org](mailto:matthew.ware@christianchronicle.org)

Editor Emeritus: **Bailey McBride**  
[bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org](mailto:bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org)

**TO SUBSCRIBE:** See [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org), email [joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org](mailto:joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org) or call (405) 425-5070.

**LETTERS:** [letters@christianchronicle.org](mailto:letters@christianchronicle.org)

*The Christian Chronicle*® encourages feedback that promotes thoughtful and respectful discussion. Letters and comments should be 150 words or less and may be edited for length and clarity. Comments to the print or online editions are considered to be letters to the editor and may be published. Please include name, city and state of residence, as well as home congregation.

*The Christian Chronicle*® is not a teaching or doctrinal publication but a newspaper with news and opinion content in sections clearly labeled. Signed columns and reviews reflect the opinions of the authors.

Advertising contains commercial messages from those who purchase the advertising space. News coverage, opinion columns, reviews, letters to the editor and advertising do not necessarily represent the views of or constitute endorsement by the editors, the staff, the Board of Trustees of *The Christian Chronicle* or Oklahoma Christian University. *The Christian Chronicle*®

is published monthly and is served by a national Board of Trustees that is charged with the responsibility for policy and governance. All trustees, editors and staff are active members of Churches of Christ.



Commitment to Transparency  
Recognized by Intelligent Philanthropy



BBB  
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

**TRUSTEES:**  
Deon Fair, chairman  
Abel Alvarez • Ed Biggers • Sylvia Branch  
Dwain Chaffin • John deSteiguer • Emily Lemley  
James Moore • Robert Oglesby Sr.  
Mike O'Neal • Barry Packer • Kevin Ramsey  
Harold Redd • Harry Risinger • Milton Sewell • Gary Tabor



GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## Georgia cross tower dedicated

A recently dedicated cross tower and baptismal pool provide a new focal point at Greater Atlanta Christian School in Norcross, Ga.

"When people step onto our campus and see the cross tower at its center, it is our desire for them to know immediately to whom we belong," school President David Fincher said. "It's a beautiful way to daily express that Jesus and the cross are the very heart of GAC."

Engraved Scriptures on the stepping stones were selected by students from each school level as well as grandparents Andy and Jane Adams, who were instrumental in making the cross tower a reality. One family in particular, J.C. and Harriet Rash, was led to make a commitment to help make the project a reality, school officials said.

### IDAHO

**RUPERT** — Four baptisms on a Sunday night were the most one member had ever seen in 25 years at the Church of Christ in Rupert.

The recent baptisms occurred as five congregations in central Idaho — Buhl, Wendell, Twin Falls, Rupert and Albion — prepare to conduct an evangelistic campaign using the resources and assistance of Hope for Life, a Herald of Truth ministry.

A first step in that preparation was the hosting of an areawide seminar called "Sharing Our Story" conducted by Steve Ridgell, Hope for Life's director of ministry. The event took place on a Saturday and was attended by 60 members from all the churches. The seminar was designed to help participants use Bible stories and personal stories to teach people about Jesus.

The baptisms occurred the next night. "Expectations continue to grow as local members tell their friends about Jesus and focus on an evangelistic campaign in the fall," said Bill Brant, president of Herald of Truth, based in Abilene, Texas.

### MONTANA

**BELGRADE** — "Shepherds Network: Northwest Connection 2016" drew nearly 200 participants from 30 congregations in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Hosted by the Belgrade Church of Christ, the recent event was a cooperative effort of local congregations and Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn.

"The seminar is designed to provide networking, encouragement and equipping for current elders and their wives along with prospective elders and their wives," said Scott Laird, minister for the Great Falls Church of Christ. The weekend reminded shepherds, wives and congregations that they "are not alone in service to God."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SCOTT LAIRD

Leaders from seven states and three Canadian provinces attended the "Shepherds Network" event.

### SPOTLIGHT

## Children like BIG FISH

**WALLED LAKE, Mich.** — Watch out for the BIG FISH at the Walled Lake Church of Christ.

BIG FISH — standing for Believers in God, Faithful in Serving Him — is the name of the church's newly reorganized children's church program.

Led by new youth ministry director Zack Schewe, the program features a unified curriculum, singing, games and crafts, minister and elder Roger Woods said.

"Zack does the bulk of the teaching, and no volunteer serves more than three weeks in a row," Woods said. "Even I'm taking a turn teaching while Zack preaches to the adults."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ROGER WOODS

Zack and Sarah Schewe and daughter Mirembe.

### OHIO

**COLUMBUS** — Words of praise were translated into three languages — English, Spanish and Twi, which is spoken in Ghana — as Columbus-area congregations joined together recently to worship God in song.

"One God, Many Nations" was the theme of the singing hosted by the Northland Church of Christ. Christians from North America, South Africa and Africa were among the 200 people who attended.

"Although different languages can be a barrier to many activities, it is not so in the worship of God," Northland elder Jeffrey McVicker said.

### OKLAHOMA

**OWASSO** — The Owasso Church of Christ has a membership of less than 300, but it counts among its flock nine men with a combined 328 years of preaching experience.

That experience ranges from 10 years to 66 years of preaching God's word.

The men — Chris Brill, Howard Bybee, Sidney Ellis, Ron Hass, Ralph Hunter, Allan Lay, Dan Schnell, Jeremiah Schnell and Brad Smith — trained at preaching schools and Christian universities. They served the Lord in 17 states and five foreign countries.

# Former nun, ‘Change of Habit’ author Joanne Howe dies at 80

BY RACHEL PATE | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Before she was a sister in Christ, Joanne Howe was a Sister.

The Pittsburgh native, who grew up in a Catholic family, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden, Pa., in 1949 and remained in the order for 19 years. She later was baptized, worshiped with Churches of Christ and wrote books about her experiences including **“A Change of Habit: The Autobiography Of A Former Catholic Nun.”**

Howe, a member of the Nashville Road Church of Christ in Hendersonville, Tenn., died Feb. 4. She was 80.

The oldest of 11 children, Howe began at age 13 to prepare to serve as a nun. She later became disillusioned and left the order, though she continued to attend Mass. For the next four years she worked as a schoolteacher and struggled to adjust to life outside the convent.

She became emotionally involved with the father of one of her students, only to learn he was involved in a sexual affair with his secretary.

Howe confided in a friend that she needed professional help. Her friend recommended Paul Coffman, minister for the Hyattsville Church of Christ in Maryland. During a visit, the minister set a Bible in front of her and asked, “Joanne, are you familiar with this book?”

She was. She even slept with a copy under her mattress for protection. But she had never truly read the book in order to gain an understanding of its words, she recalled.

“Joanne, this book will tell you who you are, where you are going

and the road that you need to take to get there,” Coffman told her.

After six months of counseling and study, Coffman baptized Howe on Oct. 4, 1972. Seventeen years later, Howe’s mother also was baptized — at age 77.

Howe found a new calling in what she called “seed planting,” introducing all who crossed her path to the Good News of Jesus, she said in a 2012 interview with *Christian Woman* magazine. She shared her personal testimony with everyone she met — even a police officer who once pulled her over for speeding — and gave out countless copies of her books. In addition to “A Change of Habit,” she authored **“From Nun to Priest: Hope for Those Bound by Tradition”** and, most recently **“Biblical Answers to Catholic Questions,”** all published by the Gospel Advocate in Nashville, Tenn.

Howe shared her story in numerous television and radio interviews. She was a sought-after speaker for lectureships, ladies’ Bible classes and retreats. She traveled as far as Austria, South Africa and Asia to talk about her faith.

In Nashville, Howe spoke regularly for a local religious broadcaster, presenting 15-minute segments on women in the Bible.

“Life is full of ordinary moments,” Howe said, “that can be turned into extraordinary opportunities to show the love of Jesus and lead lost souls to eternal salvation.”

She believed every person she encountered would face her on the day of judgment and either say “Thank you for loving me enough to tell me the truth” or “Why didn’t you love me enough to tell me the truth?”



PHOTOS VIA GOSPEL ADVOCATE AND HENDERSONVILLE MEMORY GARDENS  
Joanne Howe, pictured at left a few days after she became a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph and at right in a recent photo. Howe died Feb. 4.



## Faulkner University

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

### Positions Available for June 2016

All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to Christ-centered Liberal Arts education and Christian service.

#### Dean for College of Education

This individual will serve as the administrative head of the College of Education and will be responsible for planning, directing, organizing and monitoring proper operation of the College.

#### Assistant Vice President for Student Services / Dean of Students

This individual will serve closely with the Vice President of Student Services and will be responsible for the administration of a range of areas pertaining to student life.

#### Director for Student Disability Services

This individual will serve as the central contact and coordinator for services provided for all University students with disabilities and a resource for the University community.

Additional details regarding these positions are available on Faulkner’s website: [www.faulkner.edu](http://www.faulkner.edu)

Faulkner University • 5345 Atlanta Hwy • Montgomery, AL • 36109

### THE PAPERLESS HYMNAL

1 - Be Thou My Vision



Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;

Naught be all else to me save that Thou art,

Words: Irish Folk Hymn  
Music: Joyce’s Old Irish Folk Music, Arr: Martin Shaw  
© 2001 The Paperless Hymnal™

Eleven volumes with over 1350 songs in PowerPoint® format  
Project easy-to-read lyrics and music / CCLI license not required  
Download free songs and order at: [www.PaperlessHymnal.com](http://www.PaperlessHymnal.com)

For PowerPoint® slides in Spanish: [www.himnosenpantalla.com](http://www.himnosenpantalla.com)

REAL BIBLE KNOWLEDGE. REAL REACH.  
REAL PEOPLE. REAL PREPARATION.  
REAL INSTRUCTION. REAL KNOW HOW.  
REAL LOVE.

INTERESTED IN  
GETTING REAL?

View a Real Picture of  
What Being a Student at  
Sunset Means.

Visit [www.sibi.cc](http://www.sibi.cc) to watch a video about how to get real.



Sunset International Bible Institute • 800.658.9553 • [www.sibi.cc](http://www.sibi.cc)



[www.zambiamission.org/hunger](http://www.zambiamission.org/hunger)

IF YOU CAN'T feed  
A HUNDRED PEOPLE,  
then feed  
JUST ONE.

—Mother Teresa

You'll never know the difference your  
donation can make for even one  
hungry child.

[WWW.ZAMBIAMISSIION.ORG/HUNGER](http://WWW.ZAMBIAMISSIION.ORG/HUNGER)  
DON'T WAIT. DONATE TODAY.

 Zambia  
Mission

**Divorced Christian: God May Want You Remarried!**

*A must read for all with failed marriages and their families*

**THE TRUTH  
ABOUT  
DIVORCE AND  
REMARRIAGE**

*A Politically Incorrect  
View of Marriage, Divorce,  
and Remarriage  
in Today's Church*

**Weldon Langfield**

"This is the best book ever written on the issue...  
You closed all loopholes."  
--Charles Hodge, author, *On the Banks of  
Orion Creek*

"You have done a really good job of placing  
before the reader a wide, well-documented...  
mass of material."  
--James Woodroof, former minister, College  
Church of Christ, Searcy Arkansas, author,  
*The Divorce Dilemma*

"A preacher told me I could not marry again.  
The contents of *The Truth About Divorce and  
Remarriage*, checked by the Bible, convinced  
me that he was mistaken."  
--Name Withheld

Available at Amazon.com, 21st Century Christian, R & D, Harding  
University, Mars Hill, Ohio Valley, Christian Family, A & D, Dehoff,  
ACU, and Morrow Book Services Bookstores • 159 Pages • Hardbound • \$19.95

Weldon Langfield Publications 7850 White Lane, E212 Bakersfield, CA 93309



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Recent cover articles in *House to House*, sponsored by the Jacksonville Church of Christ in Alabama, include "God's Supreme Court: The authority of God over God's world."

# PUBLICATION: Planting seeds by mail

**FROM PAGE 3**

Churches customize the front and back of *House to House* to highlight service times and promote special events such as ladies' days, clothing giveaways and gospel meetings.

"It looks like it's coming directly from the local church, which is great," Wallin said.

Articles provide biblical answers to questions such as "Where do we go when we die?" and "Why would God want to save someone like me?"

While the Washington Avenue Church of Christ in Evansville, Ind., mails out nearly 4,000 copies, quantifying results can be difficult, secretary Randa Bush said. However, *House to House* has resulted in numerous Bible studies and at least two baptisms by the church, Bush said.

"I do see more visitors in our assemblies," she said, "and I believe that *House to House* makes a significant impact in those numbers."

In Chattanooga, Tenn., Deborah Hughes, 61, received *House to House* and requested a Bible study this past October. Minister Charles Cochran ended up baptizing her — just a few months before she died.

"It's just a very encouraging story



Wallin

of what this kind of work can do," Cochran said.

David Shannon preaches for the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee, which averages Sunday attendance of more than 1,100. His congregation blankets its area with 15,000-plus copies of *House to House*.

"It's a publication that just really does a good job of addressing truth in a loving way," Shannon said.

People are surprised when they learn the 200-member Jacksonville church sponsors *House to House*, Webster said. The same congregation organizes Polishing the Pulpit, which draws thousands each summer to the mountains of East Tennessee.

"The truth of it is, I don't know a big church that does what they do," Shannon said. "It's unbelievable."

In an Internet age, Webster still sees a place for old-fashioned postal mail. Having one's message on paper lends greater credibility to it, gets it noticed and adds a level of permanence, he said.

*House to House* posts its articles online for those who prefer the Internet, even as it keeps printing millions of copies — and spreading the Good News.

"I guess we'll see," Webster said of what's next. "It's in God's hands."

**WEBSITE:** [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com)



# ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

acu.edu

## College of Biblical Studies

*Dr. Ken Cichrowski, Dean • ACU Box 29408, Abilene, Texas 79699-9400*

The Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry invites applications and nominations in writing for a junior-level, tenure-track faculty position, beginning in Fall 2016. The candidate will be expected to teach General Education survey courses in New Testament and/or Old Testament and other courses assigned by the chair, mentor student research, and accept departmental, college and university committee assignments. The area of specialization is open (e.g., biblical studies, world religions, theology, missions, or other), but the candidate should possess a well-defined program of research as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications and presentations, demonstrate competence in the integration of theological and spiritual issues with the academic study of religion, hold an earned doctorate in one of the major theological disciplines (A.B.D. may be considered); and exhibit excellence as a classroom teacher. Information about the department is available at [acu.edu/staff](http://acu.edu/staff) and [bf@acu.edu](mailto:bf@acu.edu).

## College of Arts and Sciences

*Dr. Gregory Strang, Dean • ACU Box 29218, Abilene, Texas 79699-9218*

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/staff](http://acu.edu/staff) and [bf@acu.edu](mailto:bf@acu.edu).

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry invites applications for a position in organic chemistry beginning in Fall 2016. The successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to excellence in teaching and in research appropriate for an undergraduate department. An M.S. in organic chemistry is required, with a Ph.D. and post-doctoral experience preferred. All positions are subject to funding. Searches begin immediately and continue until the position is filled or closed. Information about the department is available at [acu.edu/chemistry](http://acu.edu/chemistry).

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 programs. 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 engineering program started in Fall 2012 and has about 115 students. Fourteen thousand square feet of class and lab space has opened recently in a renovated historic building on campus and additional construction and renovation plans will dedicate a total of 48,000 square feet to the department. The engineering program is strongly connected to the physics program, which has a rich heritage of research and scholarship spanning more than 40 years. The new hire will assist the engineering program in developing a similar heritage of research and scholarship appropriate to the discipline, in a Christ-centered, service-oriented environment. Applicants must convincingly demonstrate how they can mentor ACU engineering and physics students toward leadership roles in industry or academia. Candidates should also demonstrate how they can be flexible, adaptable, and resourceful in supporting this fast-growing program. Information about the department is available at [acu.edu/engineering](http://acu.edu/engineering).

The Department of Mathematics invites applications for a tenure-track position in mathematics beginning in Fall 2016. An earned doctorate (or completion prior to August 2016) in mathematics or a closely related field is required. The successful candidate is expected to be or to have the potential to be an effective teacher and mentor in an undergraduate environment with a desire to pursue professional development and/or research activities. Applicants are sought with a background in pure or applied mathematics. The teaching load is typically 12 hours and includes service courses and introductory and advanced majors' courses. Information about the department is available at [acu.edu/math](http://acu.edu/math).

See [acu.edu/academics/provost/parttime\\_hires](http://acu.edu/academics/provost/parttime_hires) for complete descriptions of these positions and instructions for application. 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. 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. ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities. The university's mission is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

# Equipping Churches for Mission Results

MRN is thrilled to announce that Dr. Evertt Huffard has joined our team to expand our services in church equipping. He has an extensive resume of qualifications:



Dr. Evertt Huffard

- Grew up in a missionary family in Jerusalem and Jordan
- Served as a missionary 9 years in Nazareth
- Preacher, elder, professor and dean of Harding School of Theology
- PhD in inter-cultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary
- 10 years of urban ministry experience in Los Angeles and Memphis
- Consulted churches all over the USA and on all the populated continents
- Taught church growth, leadership, and missions for 25 years

Dr. Huffard is uniquely qualified to help churches assess their missions ministries, reset vision, and problem-solve all issues related to global missions. To schedule Dr. Huffard for coaching or equipping, please contact MRN at [missions@mrnet.org](mailto:missions@mrnet.org).

Visit [www.MRNet.org](http://www.MRNet.org) for more valuable resources.



**Missions Resource Network**  
your global link

1003 Central Drive, Suite 410  
Bedford, Texas 76021  
Local: 1-817-267-3727 • Toll Free: 1-888-641-2220



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Minister Rigel J. Dawson shows a cell phone picture he took of tap water at the North Central Church of Christ in Flint, Mich. The water was the color of orange juice.

## FLINT: 'Imagine the panic of the people'

FROM PAGE 1

Like the North Central congregation, the Bristol Road Church of Christ in Flint has distributed water to residents. The Bristol Road church's Helping Individuals Succeed ministry provides groceries to more than 400 families per month. Months ago, HIS ministry volunteers began including water, too.

"Since then, we have been coordinating efforts with about a dozen Churches of Christ in southeastern Michigan to see how we can help," Bristol Road minister Steve Cunningham said.



Cunningham

Much, but not all, of the water given away by the North Central church came from Nashville, Tenn.-based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort.

The national disaster relief organization rushed three truckloads of water to the North Central church and a fourth shipment to the West Carpenter Road Church of Christ in Flint, executive director Mike Lewis said. Each truckload contained

30,240 one-liter bottles.

"You can imagine the panic of the people not knowing if they're going to have water to drink," Lewis said. "For them to know, 'Hey, the local church is a good place to turn,' that could tie to so many aspects of life."

### CHILDREN'S RASHES RAISED CONCERNS

For Rigel and Qiana Dawson, rashes on their two young children were the first indication something was wrong.

"It was all over their bodies — legs, stomach, arms, back," said Rigel Dawson, 39, minister for the North Central church.

Red marks and dry, flaky skin on son Roman, now 3, and daughter Rylan, 5, made the parents rack their brains.

"My wife and I were trying to figure out what was going on," he said. "Did we start using a different soap or something that's got them irritated?"

A trip to the doctor turned up no answers. But like thousands in this one-time automaking hub that in recent decades has battled high crime, unemployment and urban decay, the Dawsons soon identified the culprit: the water flowing from their home's faucets.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Peggy Johnson, right, greets Damerion Pendleton at the North Central church. Damerion's grandmother Carolyn Pendleton, left, stands beside him.

Since then, Flint's lead-contaminated water has put the majority-black city — where 42 percent of residents live below the federal poverty level — in the national spotlight.

"For me, when it first happened, my initial position was hurt," said Ella Greene-Moton, a longtime North Central church member who serves as vice president of the Flint School Board. "It's like, 'How dare you? How dare you allow something like this to happen to us and our families and our children? You wouldn't do it to your family.'"

Greene-Moton lives with her daughter, her daughter's friend and two grandchildren, ages 8 and 11. Over a year ago, she started experiencing shortness of breath. Her voice, she said, has lowered an octave.

The water could have nothing to do with her health issues, she said. Or everything.

"We don't know how it's going to play out," Greene-Moton said of the overall crisis. "We don't know what impact it's going to have on our kids ... what impact it's going to have on the pregnant moms and those breastfeeding or using that water for



Greene-Moton

preparing babies' formula."

Despite warnings against it, Greene-Moton's family has kept showering with the water. "We don't get (an adequate amount of bottled) water for five people at a household to take a bath," she explained.

Another North Central member, Steve Stockard, said he's working with hotels to arrange a deal where residents could take safe showers for \$5 each. "The Creator put it on my heart, and the idea just came to me," said Stockard, who for now relies on heated bottled water and a bar of soap to clean up.

**'ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT FAILED'**

The problems stretch back to April 2014: To cut costs while under state financial management, Flint stopped buying Lake Huron water from Detroit and switched to the Flint River as its water source.

"You don't swim in the Flint River. It's gross," said Kayce McClure, whose father, David McClure, leads the worship ministry at the Valley Church of Christ in Burton, near Flint.

"So when they said they were switching over to the Flint River, it was kind of funny," the 25-year-old Flint resident added. "But you trust that they are going to treat the water."

However, regulators failed to



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Volunteers who said they were from Chicago offer free cases of water to motorists on a major commercial street in Flint, Mich., where lead-tainted water has caused a crisis.

ensure the water's proper treatment — which allowed lead from aging pipes to leach into the water supply.

Lead in drinking water can cause delays in physical and mental development in babies and children, while adults who drink such water could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"All levels of government failed the people of Flint," said Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican whose office faces scrutiny for its role.

Campaigning at a Baptist church across the street from the West Carpenter Road Church of Christ, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called what happened in Flint "immoral."

"For nearly two years, mothers and fathers were voicing concerns about the water's color, about the smell, about the rashes that it gave to those who were bathing in it," Clinton said at House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church. "And for nearly two years ... Flint was told the water was safe."

The crisis has brought outrage in Flint — and rightly so, North Central minister Dawson believes.



Snyder

At the church, the preacher took a cell phone picture of foul-smelling tap water the color of orange juice.

"There's all this evidence that it's bad, bad, bad," he said. "All the while (government officials) are telling us, 'No, it's OK.' That makes you mad when you're constantly being lied to."

After identifying the cause of the rashes, the Dawsons started buying gallon jugs of water for bathing. The family already drank bottled water.

"So many underprivileged families in the area can't do what we've been doing for a long time," he said.

The governor activated the National Guard to help with water and filter distribution while long-term solutions are developed.

The North Central church is focused on the community's water needs, Dawson said, but members must guard against becoming weary.

When Dawson started to sense short tempers during water distribution, he delivered what he described as a "halftime speech."

"I just wanted to remind (members) why we're doing what we're doing," he said. "This is for his glory first and foremost, and if we're not going to give Jesus a good name in the midst of it, we might as well not do it."

"We kind of all got back on the same page and prayed together."



**Executive Director  
Position**

Hope Harbor Children's Home and Family Ministries of Oklahoma, an accredited child care ministry with its own accredited school, is a ministry of the churches of Christ and is seeking candidates for the position of Executive Director. Hope Harbor has a history of serving families and children/youth since 1947.

The Executive Director reports directly to the Board of Directors regarding his or her responsibilities.

**Minimum Credentials for the Executive Director are:**

- \* Master's Degree in related field
- \* Three or more years experience in administration and management with experience in the not-for-profit sector, especially in the child care venue
- \* Experience in strategic planning and implementation
- \* Experience in fundraising and marketing

**Personally, the Executive Director must be:**

- \* A faithful member of the churches of Christ
- \* Known for integrity
- \* Self-confident, being emotionally healthy
- \* Able to work well with others within and without the organization

**Skills and capabilities the Executive Director must have are:**

- \* Leadership skills
- \* Administrative and management skills
- \* Strategic planning with vision and implementation skills
- \* Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written
- \* Funding development and management skills

For more information about Hope Harbor Children's Home and Ministries go to:

**[www.hopeharborinc.org](http://www.hopeharborinc.org)**

Please send cover letter and resume to Sharon Milligan, Board of Directors Secretary, at: **[ezmsharon@aol.com](mailto:ezmsharon@aol.com)**.

**ACCH**

**Albuquerque  
Christian  
Children's  
Home**



**Houseparents**

ACCH has a position open that will fulfill your passion to serve God. Must be a faithful married couple who are members of the Church of Christ, love children and want to serve full time in our ministry as Houseparents.

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](mailto:sroberson@acch4kids.org)**

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

**[Acch4kids.org](http://Acch4kids.org)**



**Counselor Position  
and  
Foster Parents**

**Counselor Position**

Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries in Bowling Green, Kentucky, is seeking a counselor for our SPARK (Single Parent's Alliance for Raising Kids) program to meet the needs of both the moms and their children.

*The counselor must be an active faithful member of the Church of Christ. They must have a master's level degree in counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy.*

**Foster Parents**

The foster parents will provide care for up to six girls between the ages of 6 and 18. Duties include structure and supervision, meal preparation, transportation, participation in planning meetings and other activities.

*The couple must be faithful members of the church of Christ in good standing, in good physical health and team players. This job requires flexibility, patience, persistence and the ability to provide guidance to youth in a family environment.*

For further information see our website at:

**[www.potterministries.org](http://www.potterministries.org)**

or contact:

**Tom Doty, Minister of Family Services,  
(270) 843-3038 or [tom@potterministries.org](mailto:tom@potterministries.org)**



**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.*

Come be a part of this ministry! We offer competitive pay and excellent full-time benefits including medical, dental, life insurance, disability, retirement and paid time-off.

To apply, call **Dana Lawson, 486-2274 x225**, or visit us online at **[www.tennesseechildrenshome.org](http://www.tennesseechildrenshome.org)**.

## FRANCE

**LYON** — Leaders of French-speaking Churches of Christ gathered for a retreat about an hour north of this city in eastern France. The Marseilles Church of Christ conducted the program, and the Lyon Church of Christ arranged housing.

“We focused on the upcoming generation of leaders and how we older ones need to cherish teamwork with the younger ones,” said Arlin Hendrix, minister in Lyon. Young church leaders “represented half the attendance, and they participated wholeheartedly in the discussions. It was reassuring to know that the church will be in good hands and remain viable in the years to come.”

## KENYA

**NAIROBI** — The Institute of Practical Christian Ministry launched a new term with 20 rural preachers and leaders of Churches of Christ across Kenya, missionary Charlotte Hackett said. The Church of Christ at Eastleigh hosts the program.

“Every preaching student represents scores of Christians and several congregations,” Hackett said. “They have been sent to study Bible and Christian ministry ... in the expectation that they will return to their home congregations to strengthen the church in their locality.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

Students participate in a devotional at the Institute of Practical Christian Ministry.

## LITHUANIA

**VILNIUS** — People in this small Baltic nation are proud that they were the first Soviet republic to break away in 1990 — and proud of the basketball players their nation produces, *The Christian Science Monitor* reports.

But Lithuania also has the unhappy distinction of the fourth-highest suicide rate in the world and the highest in Europe. Some researchers blame the rapid transition to the post-Soviet world or



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TONY COFFEY

## In India, a program to help women help preachers

Leslie Coffey and her translator speak to hundreds of women during a recent gospel meeting in Kakinada, a city on the Bay of Bengal in southeastern India. Coffey and her husband, Tony, minister for the Ranelagh Church of Christ in Dublin, Ireland, make regular trips to India and work with Indian evangelist Vijay Kumar and his wife, Sonia. During the meeting, attended by about 2,200 people, church leaders announced the launch of the Shunamite Woman Project, named after the woman in 2 Kings 4 who built a room onto her house for the prophet Elisha when he visited. “She was taking care of one of God’s servants,” Tony Coffey said.

Women involved in the project receive funds to start a cooperative to provide employment — in crafts, dressmaking or selling rice, for example — and assistance to grow their businesses. In return, the women commit to give 10 percent of the business’ earnings to support a preacher in their village. “The preachers in the local churches struggle because they need support to do their work,” Tony Coffey said.

social taboos about suicide.

Rimas Rusakevicius, youth minister for the Vilnius Church of Christ in Lithuania’s capital, spends time talking with the church’s young people about God’s abounding love and the reality of suicide.

“We need to talk about this to save others’ lives,” he said. The youth minister also spent time recently answering his students’ questions about God and evil spirits.

“I enjoy it when I see kids raising questions,” he said. “It shows me that they’re really interested in the Bible. They really do care about Christianity.”

## PHILIPPINES

**SOGOD** — About 80 young believers attended a recent Youth Encounter in this town in the Filipino prov-

ince of Southern Leyte, missionary Michael Stock said.

“It was a time of renewal, growth and edification,” Stock said. During that activity, one young lady accepted Christ in baptism.

The Roanoke Church of Christ in Alabama sponsors the work of Stock and his wife, Deborah.

## TOGO

**KPALIME** — About 250 Christians representing 20 churches gathered at a retreat site outside this West African town for the Kloto region’s third annual Bible Camp. Participants studied the theme “The Christian Family.”

Willie Gley, a minister and Bible school director in Kpalime, spoke on “Understanding Church Discipline.”

## SPOTLIGHT

### Two hearts for Albania

**POLICAN, Albania** — A young Christian couple, Erild and Anisa Hoxha, serve a church alongside Erild Hoxha’s father in this southern Albanian town.

Erild Hoxha has completed two years of study in an Albanian ministry training program. Anisa Hoxha teaches English classes to children and is beginning a Certificate of Christian Ministry program through Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

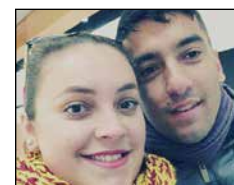


PHOTO PROVIDED

Anisa and Erild Hoxha.





Standing on a boat in the middle of a frozen river, Jeff Abrams and translator Alexander Rodnaev preaches during a family retreat in the town of Svyatogorsk in eastern Ukraine. Churches of Christ in the region have lost buildings and endured persecution by pro-Russian separatists who view non-Orthodox churches as cults and spies for the West.

# #IAMPRAYING: Persecution is real, but God ‘can make a difference’

**FROM PAGE 3**  
Abrams, who preaches for the Tuscumbia Church of Christ in Alabama and makes regular visits to eastern Ukraine. There, pro-Russian separatists label as sects and spies any religious group outside the Russian Orthodox church.  
More than 5.3 billion people — 76 percent of the world’s population — live in countries with levels of restrictions on religion classified as high or very high by a Pew Research Center study that used data from 2012.  
“In particular, prayers were offered up for the Lord’s church in eastern Ukraine, northern Nigeria and territories under the control of ISIS,” said Abrams, who helped organize the event.  
Ukrainian minister Dennis Sopelnic led a video prayer from his homeland, where the separatists in 2014 seized the church building where he worshiped.  
Dale Jenkins, minister for the Spring Meadows Church of Christ in Spring Hill, Tenn., opened the prayer service. He noted the apostle Paul’s words from 2 Timothy that “all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”  
“While that persecution comes in many forms and degrees,” he said, “those of us in the U.S. have been blessed for generations now by a place where physical persecution

is rare. But that is not true in many places in our world today.”  
Harry Hames prayed for children around the world affected by persecution and poverty.  
The longtime member of the Beltline Church of Christ in Decatur, Ala., makes regular mission trips to Haiti. There, many of the children he serves “are not actually orphaned, but abandoned,” Hames said. “I prayed that we can find a way to keep families together instead of them having to give up their children.”  
Landen Wright, president of the university’s Student Government Association, offered a prayer of thanks for the freedoms Americans enjoy and the soldiers who protect those freedoms. He also asked God to encourage his generation to reach lost souls.  
“It encouraged me to see videos from churches across the world, confident in the prayers of their brothers overseas,” Wright said. “The tone was somber, acknowledging that the church undergoes so much persecution ... but also hopeful, knowing that we’re praying to the God who can make a difference.”



Wright

## Theologian, church member taken by separatists in eastern Ukraine

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

A few weeks before Christians offered prayers for the persecuted church from the campus of Freed-Hardeman University, armed men kidnapped a Church of Christ member in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, a Ukrainian newspaper reports.  
Igor Koslovsky, a renowned theologian and former head of the religion department at a Ukrainian university, was taken from his home by gunmen, the newspaper reports. In Donetsk, Koslovsky worshiped with and nurtured the Cup of Life Church of Christ, a congregation of young



Koslovsky

Christians — many of them his former students.  
When pro-Russian separatists seized control of Donetsk in 2014, many of the church’s members moved west to other Ukrainian cities, including the capital, Kiev. Koslovsky stayed to care for his paralyzed son, the newspaper reports.  
Stan Bryan, a rancher and minister in northeastern Oklahoma who makes regular trips to Ukraine, asked Christians to pray for the safety of believers in the region.  
“Right now the area ... is a very dangerous place for all who are not pro-Russian and pro-Russian Orthodox,” Bryan said. Members of other faith groups have been persecuted for some time, “but now the persecution seems to have entered another active phase.”

**A PRAYER FROM THE SEA OF GALILEE:** During a recent press tour of Israel, *The Christian Chronicle’s* Erik Tryggstad recorded a video prayer near the shores of the Sea of Galilee for the “Pray for the Persecuted Church” event at Freed-Hardeman University. See the video at [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org).

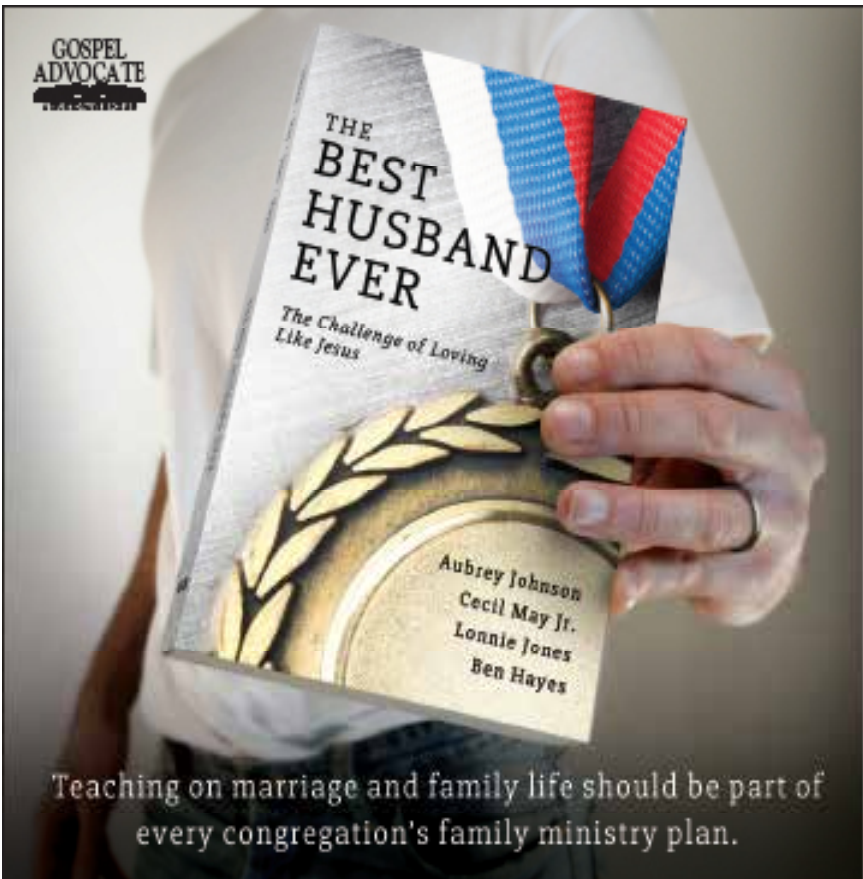
The 38-year-old AMEN Ministry connects Christians in the United States Military with local churches of Christ both overseas and in the U.S. Please send name, email, and other contact info to:

  
AMEN Ministry  
amen@amenministry.info  
135 Larchmont Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28791  
828-891-4480

**Just As I Am:**  
**Married, Divorced and Remarried**  
by: Wayne Dunaway

*Jesus, the great "I AM," accepts us just as we are -- even if we are "married, divorced and remarried."*

wdunaway.blogspot.com  
(256) 624-6024  
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.



Teaching on marriage and family life should be part of every congregation's family ministry plan.

**New from Gospel Advocate**  
***The Best Husband Ever***

Don't let the name scare you. It's a group study for men and women that can help you become the best "family" ever. Take the challenge and order your copy today. Better yet, introduce the book to your Bible class and see how much better the relationships of the people in your class can get. GS6655.

ONLY \$9.99!

  
JOHNSON

  
MAY

  
JONES

  
HAYES

1-800-251-8446  
order@gospeladvocate.com  
www.gospeladvocate.com

“

Dear mike@bibletalk.tv,  
I am Chinese born and grew up in mainland China where atheism is the educational doctrine since our childhood. I was baptized last month and am craving resources to learn more about Christianity. Through a paid VPN, I am able to access YouTube and found your 7-class series for new Christians. They are a God send! I watched all 7 of them, very helpful and saved it so that I can share. Thank you so much.  
- M. Fang, January 10th, 2016

**This is what Internet Missions can do.**  
**Please support BibleTalk.tv**

www.bibletalk.tv/support



Roku kindle

# Coffee and prayer for the great Siam

**IN BUSTLING BANGKOK,** missionaries work alongside Thai Christians and cast a vision for modern, urban ministry.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**BANGKOK, Thailand**  
Sixty-eight years have passed since this Southeast Asian nation was Siam — an exotic trading hub and throne of the ancient Orient.

Bangkok, capital of the Kingdom of Thailand, is now home to 8 million souls from around the world and remains a port of trade and commerce. Massive, multilevel shopping malls stand beside ornate Hindu shrines. Street merchants sell gold watches and grill spiced meats next to omnipresent 7-Eleven stores.

Gary Ford weaves through throngs of taxis and mopeds on a Friday morning as orange-clad Buddhist monks walk barefoot through the streets. Thais rush to meet the monks, give them plastic bags of food and bow before them to receive a blessing.

 **From the EAST**  
Matthew 8:11

See more stories from Churches of Christ in Asia and the South Pacific at [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org).

Ford sees a perfect place for a coffeehouse. “I’ve made coffee for my parents since I was little,” says Ford, a military kid who lived in Germany and across the U.S. before his parents settled in New Mexico. “It’s a personal routine, a ritual, It’s communal. It connects people. It’s my chill time. Conversations around coffee are impacting.”

That’s true even in bustling Bangkok, where Ford and his wife, Michelle, serve as missionaries. For busy young professionals, the small coffee shops that dot the urban

As commuters leave their apartments, they pause in front of spirit houses — tiny shrines dedicated to their buildings’ protectors — and give a quick bow with palms pressed in prayer-like fashion. Some leave small bottles of cherry red Fanta, with straws, as an offering. Bangkok moves at a breakneck pace. It’s easy for the visitor here to see only chaos.

Continued



A Buddhist monk walks along the crowded streets of Bangkok, Thailand. During early-morning hours, monks receive food from Thais and then offer a blessing — part of a religious tradition known as “making merit.”

PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD



Gary and Michelle Ford speak with a friend in Bangkok's Nana district, where they work with a ministry that helps trafficked women escape the sex trade.



Busy young professionals wait for slow-drip coffee at a Bangkok coffeehouse. The Fords know baristas across the city, have connected with the Specialty Coffee Association of Thailand and have traveled to coffee farms among Thailand's hill tribes.



Commuters leave drink offerings in front of a spirit house in Bangkok.



In front of the Erawan Shrine, one woman prays while another texts. Though most Thais are Buddhists of a tradition called Theravada, their religion has strong undercurrents of Hinduism, as reflected in many of Bangkok's shrines.



## Kingdom of Thailand

**POPULATION:** 67,976,405; **LANGUAGES:** Thai, Burmese, some English and tribal tongues; **RELIGION:** 93.6 percent Buddhist, 4.9 percent Muslim, 1.2 percent Christian, 0.3 percent other.



**HISTORY:** The only Southeast Asian country never colonized by a European power, the former Siam became a unified kingdom in the 14th century. Thailand sent troops to fight alongside Americans in Korea and Vietnam. The country has more than 40,000 Buddhist temples. **CHURCHES OF CHRIST:** English missionaries introduced Churches of Christ to Thailand in the late 1800s. Missionary Parker Henderson moved to Bangkok in 1958 and planted a church. The city now has five Churches of Christ with a combined membership of about 700.

**SOURCES:** CIA World Factbook, "Churches of Christ Around the World" by Mac Lynn, images via Wikimedia Commons

**CONTINUED**  
landscape are places of refuge. In coffee, the missionaries see opportunities for sustainable, life-changing ministry.

**SERVING REFUGEES, FIGHTING SLAVERY**  
The Fords had their first real conversation over coffee at Shades of Brown in Tulsa, Okla., during Gary Ford's internship with the Memorial Drive Church of Christ. He and his future bride, a missionary kid who grew up in Russia, shared their dreams of serving Christ. Both trained overseas — Michelle in Okinawa, Japan, and Gary in Bangkok — as part of the Adventures in Missions program, a ministry of Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas.

Two years ago they moved to Bangkok at the invitation of the Somprasong 4 Church of Christ. The Thai congregation needed English speakers to help reach its increasingly diverse community.

Less than a month after the missionaries' arrival, the church experienced an influx of refugees from Pakistan — forced from

their homeland because they professed Christ and endured persecution from the Taliban and other militant Islamists.

The Fords organized efforts to feed and serve the Pakistanis, who live illegally in Bangkok — in fear of arrest and imprisonment. The missionaries encouraged their fellow Christians to help.

"I feel that God sent this couple to the church here," Prasit Jirojanakul, an elder of the church, known as "Soi 4," says of the Fords. The church is more united and mission-minded than in years past, the elder said. And many of the Pakistanis now are baptized members of the congregation.

The couple also urge their Thai brethren to fight one of the plagues on their community — human trafficking. In the brothels of Bangkok are poor, migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos who are coerced into lives of prostitution,

human rights groups report.

The Fords work with a faith-based nonprofit, funded in part by a coffeehouse ministry, that sends volunteers into Bangkok's Nana district, filled with bars and strip clubs, and helps workers in the sex industry escape and learn new skills — from sewing to data entry.

Members of the Soi 4 church, including Gratdae Jariya, have joined the Fords in their work with the nonprofit.

"I've been a Christian for eight years, and I just feel that I want to do more," Jariya says. Working alongside the Fords helped her focus on her mission as a believer — serving the lost in parts of her city where darkness reigns.

"I want to try to be a missionary to these places, too," she said.

**'SUPER TIRED' AND ENERGIZED**  
After two years of ministry, the Fords move at Bangkok's rapid pace. In addition to their ongoing



Jirojanakul



Jariya

work with refugees and the Soi 4 church, they want to help Thai Christians plant a network of cell churches, meeting in homes or coffee shops, Gary Ford says. Some attend Wednesday night Bible study via Skype.

The couple also hope to launch their own Christian-run coffeehouse. In addition to sustaining their mission financially, the business would provide a safe, relaxed atmosphere where Christians could begin meaningful conversations with their city's busy spiritual seekers — who bow before monks and spirit houses.

The goal: introduce the former Siam to the Great I Am.

"Even though we're drained, and were's super tired from it all, it's worth it," Michelle Ford says. "At the same time, it's still energizing to be a part of it."

In Bangkok, "God is alive, and God is working."

**MORE ON URBAN MINISTRY:** Bailey McBride introduces a mission team reaching the Polynesian melting pot of Auckland, New Zealand. **Page 34**

# In Bangkok, a shrine of the times

**BANGKOK, Thailand**  
Of all my memories of this Southeast Asian capital, the one I can't forget is the sight of a young woman, kneeling in front of a Hindu shrine, pausing in her prayer just long enough to send a text.

I've done this in church, too, I confess. Let he who is without unlimited data cast the first stone.

The Erawan Shrine, situated next to a shopping mall in downtown Bangkok, is a microcosm of the city's busy-yet-spiritual life. Missionaries Gary and Michelle Ford showed me the shrine during my reporting trip to the city, where I was graciously hosted and housed by the Somprasong 4 Church of Christ.

Sipping a glorious concoction called bubble tea, I watched, fascinated, as people in business suits and skirts burned incense sticks in front of a four-faced statue of Phra Phrom, the Thai representation of the Hindu god Brahma.

Others stepped over the worshipers to take photos. Still others got in line to pay for a "Personal Thai Classical Dance." Those seeking a blessing knelt on a mat, palms pressed together, as women in ornate, golden hats danced and sang behind them.

Thailand hasn't enjoyed the Christian upswing taking hold in other Asian nations, from China to Cambodia. Those who claim Jesus as their savior in Thailand represent less than 2 percent of the country's 67 million souls.

But there are seekers here. They ask for blessings at the feet of statues and congregate in coffeehouses to escape, for a few moments, the pandemonium of their congested city. These are places where real conversations about Jesus can happen.

The more I travel, the more

**Road Notes**



Erik Tryggestad

commonalities I see in human faith. We seek to coerce divine power to heal us, to advance us, to give us some level of influence over our world.

As Christians, we serve the one who has overcome the world, as John 16:33 tells us. We seek not to control but to submit.

That's easy for me to say but difficult for me to live.

For me, the Erawan Shrine has become a symbol of the urgent need to share the Gospel. A few months after my visit, a man planted a backpack bomb at the shrine, killing 20 people and injuring more than 100. Thai authorities said the attack was retaliation for a recent crackdown on human traffickers, but truth is elusive, and it doesn't bring back the dead.

I mourn the lives lost — and pray for all of us to waste no time.

**CONTACT** erik@christianchronicle.org



**Columbia Christian**  
FAITH • CHARACTER • ACADEMICS

**President  
and  
Development Director**

*The President oversees the total operations of the school, with a particular focus on school advancement and fundraising.*

*The Development Director coordinates and directs church, alumni and donor relations.*

Further information and job descriptions are available at [www.columbiachristian.com](http://www.columbiachristian.com). Interested applicants may submit resumes to the President Search Committee or Development Director Search Committee at [ccs@columbiachristian.com](mailto:ccs@columbiachristian.com). Additional questions or inquiries may be directed to **Kevin Reed at (503) 252-8577**.

Columbia Christian Schools, a fully-accredited PreK-12 academy in Portland, Ore.



**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](mailto:jon@ctch.org)  
(512) 243-1386



**Texas Boys Ranch**  
(Serving boys and girls)

Now hiring Christian houseparent couples!

**Join our team ministering to foster children.**

[rmahan@texasboysranch.org](mailto:rmahan@texasboysranch.org)

**Sharing Jesus, Healing Hearts,  
Transforming Lives...**

[www.texasboysranch.org](http://www.texasboysranch.org)

**DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Advance our vision of a Christian home for every child by changing lives and building Christian families through maternity, foster and adoption services. Build, equip and supervise a team of 10 dedicated Christian social workers. Contribute to a culture that values life and family.

For information contact:

[ssatler@ChristianHomes.com](mailto:ssatler@ChristianHomes.com) • (800) 592-4725  
[www.ChristianHomes.com](http://www.ChristianHomes.com)



**PINE TREE**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Pine Tree Church of Christ is looking for a Connections Minister to join their staff. The chief responsibility of the Connections Minister is to lead people from their first visit through their second year at Pine Tree in a way that connects them to God, other individuals at Pine Tree, and our church as a whole.

For more information please see our website:  
[www.pinetreechurch.org](http://www.pinetreechurch.org)  
Or contact J. Ritchie Hamm, our minister:  
[rhamm@pinetreechurch.org](mailto:rhamm@pinetreechurch.org)

**WE'RE SOULMATES.**

**AT HERITAGE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, IT'S ALL ABOUT SOULS.**

Whether you desire an undergraduate or graduate degree, you'll find one focus at HCU—Bible. Here searching for souls means equipping those who will prepare others for eternity. Where will your passion for souls take you? Join us on campus or via distance learning to begin your real-world ministry today.



**FIND OUT MORE.**  
Call and schedule a visit  
or check us out on the web!

800.367.3565 WWW.HCU.EDU P.O. BOX HCU FLORENCE, AL 35630

**DORM MOTHER AND STUDENT** *Wanda Kennedy proves that Bible-based education isn't bound by age*

# 'As long as you have breath in your body'

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**W**anda Kennedy is a mother many times over.

The 46-year-old Christian assists in the spiritual formation of no fewer than 50 young women in her role as dormitory mother at Southwestern Christian College. The historically black college in Terrell, Texas, is associated with Churches of Christ.

Kennedy understands what it's like to be a college student. After all, she *is* one.

A graduate of medical assistant school, she recently chose to continue her education. In 2014 she earned an associate's degree from Southwestern and was valedictorian of her class.

Now, while the students she serves hit the books, so does she. Kennedy is pursuing a bachelor's in biblical studies and serves as member and past president of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges. She is also a member of Circle K International.

A member of the Lawrence and Marder (L and M) Church of Christ in Dallas, Kennedy is involved with her congregation's evangelistic team and door-knocking campaigns. She visits the homeless who live under bridges and the sick who live in nursing homes. She leads a Bible class that meets across phone lines via conference call.

The daughter of Willie and Maxine Johnson, she has four children: Orlando, Rolando, Tierra and Dwight; and three grandchildren: Demarcus, MaKenzie and Trayvon.

## What attracted you to Southwestern Christian College?

Mrs. Catherine Abouzar, an employee at Southwestern, encouraged me to attend the college. Getting me into school was one of her main goals.

Catherine believed in me when I did not believe in myself. Eventually, I took a job at the college because of crises in my personal life. I later began taking classes.



LINDA CRAIG

Wanda Kennedy is a dorm mother and non-traditional student at Southwestern.

## How has your spiritual life been affected at Southwestern?

The college has helped me develop a true relationship with God. I used to think I had a relationship with God, but I didn't.

I love the Bible! Now that I realize that the Bible is God's Word, I love to study it. When I open the Bible, God has my complete attention. There is a respect for God and his Word that I didn't have before.

The Word of God makes me be still — and tremble. It has guided me to become a better person. Now I understand when people stand up in respect when someone is reading the Bible. God is speaking to us.

I'm always hungry for more knowledge of God and his Word.

I strive to treat people like God wants me to treat them. I no longer treat them the way they treat me, and I no longer determine how to treat them by how they treat me. This affects how I treat the young ladies I'm responsible for here at Southwestern.

## What makes Southwestern worthy of support?

When I began working for Southwestern, I was thrilled. I had heard about all the great people, like Dr. Evans, Dr. Maxwell and Dr. Foster, and I thought, "I'm going to be on campus with all these great men!"

I was excited to be working with people of the same Christian background I came from. I knew that my spiritual life was going to be greatly improved and that I would grow spiritually. And I knew that I would have a new Christian family.

The young women I serve here have become my family. I have met great students from all over the country and gotten to know them as my own. Because of the relationships I have with these students, I would not change my life for anything. I believe that the students have impacted my life, and I have impacted their lives.

Southwestern may be small, but because we are family oriented and

have love among us, I believe that all students should have a chance to attend Southwestern.

Southwestern should be supported by the whole brotherhood — white and black — because it impacts young people's lives for Christ.

## How do you hope to fulfill your Christian mission in life?

As I study God's Word, I realize why I'm here — to bring a crowd with me to heaven. I wish everyone could experience the relationship that I have found in God. It's just amazing to me what God has done for me. I want to pass that on.

My goal is to get a master's in counseling. I plan on taking what God has given me and what I've gotten through the Bible and use it to reach out to those who are seeking and searching for answers.

I want to go to women's prisons and teach them about the harbor we find in God and share with them the experiences I have had with God.

It's too good for me to hang on to that for myself. I have to share it with others. He saved me, but not just for me. He wants to use me for his mission to save many souls.

## What would you like for people to know about your generation?

As long as you have breath in your body you are not too old to accomplish important goals, go to college and learn.

My generation can teach the younger generation how important it is to reach for your goals, to believe in yourself and know your worth.

Our generation should teach the young people how important it is to keep God in your life in all circumstances — not just when we mess up and come back to God on our hands and knees, starving like the prodigal son. We should teach them how to trust God completely with their lives. We may not know our destination, but God knows.



# HARDING

## UNIVERSITY

### FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

*All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to Christian education.*

**CARE COLLEGE OF NURSING.** Seeking full-time faculty member for Master of Science in Nursing, faculty nurse practitioner track for fall 2016. The successful candidate should maintain an active, unencumbered nursing license; be eligible for RN and APRN licensing in the state of Arkansas; have a minimum of a graduate degree in nursing; be currently, nationally certified as a faculty nurse practitioner; and have work experience in a primary care practice. Teaching experience is preferred. A candidate with a Ph.D., D.N.B. or related doctoral degree is required, and an experienced, qualified applicant currently pursuing a doctoral degree will be considered. Responsibilities include teaching graduate nursing courses, working collaboratively in shared governance with administration and faculty; teaching online courses, and participating in program development and implementation.

Also seeking full-time faculty member in a joint appointment with Harding University International Programs. This appointment requires teaching and supervising student groups in Zambia, East Africa, each fall and teaching at the Senior campus each spring semester. The successful candidate should maintain an active, unencumbered nursing license; be eligible for RN or APRN licensing in the state of Arkansas; have a minimum of a graduate degree in nursing; and have U.S. and extensive work experience. Teaching experience is preferred. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, teaching undergraduate and/or graduate nursing and related courses and working collaboratively in shared governance with the nursing and health science administration and faculty.

For more information on either position, contact Dr. Susan Kehl, dean, at [skehl@harding.edu](mailto:skehl@harding.edu), Box 12263, Searcy, AR 72149 or 501-379-4941.

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.** Seeking full-time faculty member to manage and direct the newly created Center for Entrepreneurship and Faculty Business and teach classes in entrepreneurship. The successful candidate will have a master's degree; doctorate is preferable. Experience organizing a business, working with economic development and managing a center along with good networking skills is desired.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Allen Fawcett, dean, at [afawcett@harding.edu](mailto:afawcett@harding.edu) or Box 10774, Searcy, AR 72149.

Also seeking adjunct faculty for the Master of Business Administration program. Both online and on-ground positions are available within multiple disciplines including, but not limited to, management, international business and economics. Applicants must have a terminal degree in business.

Submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to Dr. Glen Metheny, chair of graduate school of business, at [gmetheny@harding.edu](mailto:gmetheny@harding.edu).

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.** Seeking full-time faculty member in the area of political science. The successful candidate will hold a Ph.D. in political science or closely related discipline; ABD candidates are encouraged to apply as well. Responsibilities include teaching courses in international relations, comparative politics and research methods.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Steven Brown, search committee chair, at [sbrown@harding.edu](mailto:sbrown@harding.edu) or Box 12267, Searcy, AR 72149.

**DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS.** Seeking full-time faculty member in mathematics or statistics. The successful candidate will possess a minimum of a doctorate in mathematics, statistics or related field or will have a clear plan to complete the degree. Teaching experience is preferred. Responsibilities will include teaching general courses as well as upper-level courses in mathematics or statistics as they are available.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Russell Smith, chair, at [rsmith@harding.edu](mailto:rsmith@harding.edu) or Box 10766, Searcy, AR 72149.

**DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES.** Seeking department chair to administrative faculty position at the rank of associate or full professor. The successful candidate will possess a Ph.D., as well as post-doctoral training in one of the pharmaceutical sciences, preferably pharmacokinetics or pharmacology. A minimum of 10 years within an academic setting is preferred with evidence of three to five years in a managerial position with increasing responsibilities in academic administration. Responsibilities include mentoring, developing and contracting faculty in the areas of teaching, scholarship and service; establishing faculty workloads using an annual planning process; teaching in selected courses; evaluating and guiding the department's research program; fostering scholarship among department faculty; setting, evaluating and achieving department goals and objectives consistent with the college and university missions; and maintaining an innovative Doctor of Pharmacy basic and pharmaceutical sciences curriculum.

Submit a letter of interest including a statement of educational and administrative philosophy; current curriculum vitae; three letters of church reference; three letters of professional reference; and a transcript of the highest degree awarded to the search committee chair, Jim Norris, Ph.D., associate professor, at [jnorris@harding.edu](mailto:jnorris@harding.edu) or Box 12230, 915 E. Market Ave., Searcy, AR 72149.

**DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE.** Seeking full-time faculty member. Responsibilities include didactic instruction in pharmacotherapy and related clinical sciences, maintenance of a clinical practice site for the purposes of service and experiential teaching, and active engagement in scholarship. Applicants with internal medicine and internal medicine specialty experience are encouraged to apply. Qualified applicants will possess a Pharm.D. as well as residency/fellowship training. At least two years of academic experience is preferred. Eligibility for pharmacy licensure in Arkansas is required.

Interested individuals should contact Jennie Smith, Pharm.D., associate professor, at 501-379-5532, [jsmith17@harding.edu](mailto:jsmith17@harding.edu) or Box 12230, Searcy, AR 72149.

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM.** Seeking program director. The successful candidate will have a doctoral degree, eight years of clinical experience in the OT field, administrative experience, and three years in a full-time academic appointment at the post-secondary level. Responsibilities include program development and implementation under the guidelines of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education.

Submit a letter of interest to Dr. Rebecca Weaver, dean of the College of Allied Health, at Box 12287, Searcy, AR 72149.

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM.** Seeking half-time faculty member. The successful candidate should possess a minimum of a master's degree in physician assistant studies or similar field. Three years of clinical experience and one year of teaching experience preferred. PA applicants should be NCCPA certified and eligible for licensure as a physician assistant in the state of Arkansas. Applicants with other clinical training should have corresponding professional certification and be eligible for professional licensure in the state of Arkansas. Responsibilities include participating in the teaching of the program's core curriculum; advising and mentoring students; assisting with the hands-on practical training of students in various clinical skills needed in clinical practice; maintaining clinical competency through practice at the program's affiliated clinic sites; conducting scholarly activity in the area of expertise; and engaging in service to the college, university and community.

Submit a personal statement of teaching philosophy, three letters of professional reference, a transcript of professional degree training along with any other graduate or professional degrees awarded, and curriculum vitae to Dr. Michael Murphy, chair, at [mmurphy1@harding.edu](mailto:mmurphy1@harding.edu) or Box 12231, Searcy, AR 72149.



ERIC WILLIAMSON

## Solar-powered audio players deliver power of God's word to ministers in Ethiopia

Preachers in Ethiopia hold up solar-powered audio players they received from Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas. The players contain the Bible as well as Sunset and World Bible School courses in the Amharic language. Sunray Church of Christ

in the Texas Panhandle provided funds for more than half of the 180 players distributed in Ethiopia, said Chris Swinford, Sunset's vice president for institute advancement. Women from Saturn Road Church of Christ in Garland, Texas, made quilted covers for all of them.

### CAMPUS MINISTRY

#### CAMPUS MINISTRY UNITED

**PANAMA CITY, Fla.** — "Reclaim: First Century Power & Purpose" served as the theme for the recent seventh annual Family Vacation retreat hosted by Campus Ministry United. All keynotes and classes drew insight from the Book of Acts.

"Practical topics were tackled: how to study your Bible, handle conflict, deal with temptation, be bold in outreach, be led by the Spirit," said Wes Woodell, Campus Ministry United's administrative director. "But the overall emphasis was on equipping students to carry out the Great Commission on their respective campuses leading into the spring semester."

About 400 students attended classes, worshiped God and enjoyed a team-building competition dubbed the "X Games."

### HIGHER EDUCATION

#### LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**LUBBOCK, Texas** — Al and Pat Smith, longtime friends and supporters of

Lubbock Christian, will make a \$5.7 million gift in support of the College of Biblical Studies.

The university said the gift will endow the college and fund renovations and improvements to the C.L. Kay Christian Development Center, which houses the Bible school.

Al Smith served on LCU's board of trustees for more than a decade and also serves on Great Cities Missions' board. As members of the Central Church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas, the Smiths have cooked and served monthly meals for retirees in their downtown church neighborhood.

"Al and Pat Smith exhibit the servant heart described in Scripture and modeled in the life of our Savior," said Jesse Long, the Bible college's dean.

#### OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Plans for a new campus café are now fully funded through \$5.6 million pledged toward Oklahoma Christian's dining facilities.

In addition to a \$275,000 student-directed gift, the university reached the goal through a \$1 million donation by food service provider U Dining, a \$1 million grant from the

Mabee Foundation and more than \$3 million in additional support from the Gaylord Foundation and individual donors.

### VICTIM OUTREACH

#### NEW FRIENDS NEW LIFE

**DALLAS** — The Dallas City Council's recent 8-7 vote to ban a porn expo known as Exxxotica from a city-owned downtown convention center won praise from a Texas church member who fights sex trafficking.



Pedigo

Katie Pedigo, a member of the Preston Road Church of Christ in Dallas, serves as executive director of the faith-based nonprofit New Friends New Life.

"It's a win for Dallas," Pedigo, whose organization works with women and girls who have been trafficked, told *The Dallas Morning News*. "I admire our mayor's leadership and support the council people I knew would have courage to make this decision."

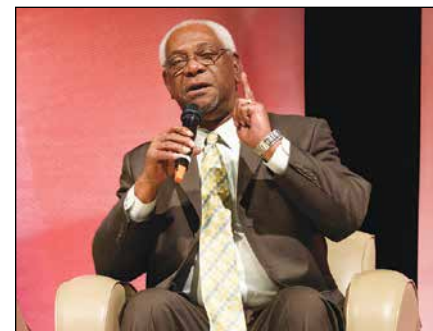
### SPOTLIGHT

#### Harding tackles race

**SEARCY, Ark.** — An American Studies Institute conversation at Harding University explored racial relations and reconciliation.

Harding President Bruce McLarty moderated the recent discussion featuring Fred Gray, former attorney for Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks; Howard Wright, a Harding trustee and alumnus; and Elijah Anthony, a preacher and alumnus.

More than 800 people heard the discussion in Benson Auditorium.



JEFF MONTGOMERY

At Harding, Elijah Anthony makes a point while discussing race relations.

CONSIDER INCLUDING  
*THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE*  
IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLAN



The Heritage Circle is composed of those who bless the *Chronicle* through their will or estate plan.

Help secure the future of *The Christian Chronicle*.

Call Stephen Eck of the Chronicle Planned Giving Office for assistance at (405) 425-5080.



## Southwestern Christian College Terrell, Texas



*Southwestern Christian College, founded and sponsored by members of Churches of Christ, is accredited as a four-year (level II), educational college (limited to Bachelor's degree in Bible and Religious Education), with a two-year program in the liberal arts.*

*Its purpose is to offer a holistic educational program that will motivate the student to value and achieve academic excellence within the context of commitment to moral and spiritual values; to assist students in making their transitions from high school to higher education on various levels; to assist students in preparation for varied vocations in life; to prepare future leaders for their distinct communities and the world at large.*



**Check us out! [www.swcc.edu](http://www.swcc.edu)**



ABBY BELLOW, THE TALON, WWW.TALON.NEWS

Jimmy Kimberlin, Keith Hubbard, Michelle Chandler and Annette Herren share stories of overcoming meth and alcohol addiction and helping those who struggle.

# METH: No one is 'too broken for God'

**FROM PAGE 1**  
communities through the Gospel. RAM organized the town hall with the university's Student Government Association.

At least 569,000 Americans use meth regularly, according to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. As police shut down meth labs in rural communities, Mexican cartels rush to fill new demand, Weaver said. He wants church leaders "to hear about some of these darkest places Satan gets into" and formulate a Kingdom response.

In addition to recovering addicts, the town hall panel included Annette Herron, who serves in the prison ministry of the 4th and College Church of Christ in Cordell, Okla. She met Michelle Chandler through the ministry and studied the Bible with her. Chandler was baptized and has been clean and sober for three years.

"When I was addicted, I felt hated by God, and I didn't understand why," said Chandler, a recovering alcoholic who began drinking at age 8. Her addiction cost her custody of her five children. In prison, at rock bottom, "I realized I was killing myself (and that God) didn't hate me," she said. "He was there, waiting for me to go to him and finally seek out help."

Though their struggles continue, the recovering addicts displayed a serenity that students including Rett Parker didn't expect to see.

"I expected them to be more broken," said Parker, a sophomore from Broken Arrow, Okla. "I understand how bad meth and alcoholism can be ... but what I saw was people who were full of life and vibrant, and you

can tell by their testimonies that God has done so much in their lives." The town hall convinced him that nothing is "too broken for God to fix."

As Kacy Jo Nash listened to the testimonies, "I was having to continually convince myself to stay," said the freshman from Wichita, Kan. Her brother, Kyle, died from an overdose of a legal drug less than two years ago. Despite his struggles, "he never lost faith in God," she said. "He never stopped being courageous."

During the town hall, the grown daughter of one of the recovering addicts shared her own testimony. As a teenager, "the church always told us that bad people went to jail, but both of my parents were in jail," she said. "Does that make them<sup>o</sup> bad people?"

"My heart broke for her," Nash said. "I think that when someone comes out as an addict of whatever — alcohol, drugs, porn — some of the people of the church brand them with a label, and then the label is all they see. They are so worried to come near anyone with a label for fear of getting dirty."

"But Jesus never just reached down to people. He went down to their level and they rose together."

Weaver hopes that the shared stories will spur the students "to get their hands dirty as they bring the liberating power of the Kingdom into the darkest places of bondage."

Keith Hubbard, one of the panelists, now serves as an elder of the 4th and College Church of Christ.

"The truth is, we're all addicts — addicts to sin," he told the students.

"The greatest truth is this: Through Christ, there is redemption for all of us."

# ‘I think of this as my mission work’

**ACTRESS TERRI MINTON** *prays that she can shine the light of Christ in an industry where it tends to be dim*

BY RACHEL PATE | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**MT. JULIET, Tenn.**  
**I***might have to cancel today’s interview,” Terri Minton said in a voicemail.*  
The reason: She had to drive to her sister’s farm so she could film herself interacting with goats, pigs, dogs and newborn kittens. A lucrative commercial for Mazda was up for grabs, and they needed someone to play a veterinarian.  
The life of an actress means that “occasionally, family events have to be sacrificed and vacations missed,” her husband, David, explained, “but it’s for a good cause.”  
Despite the demands on her time — feline, canine and porcine — Minton found a few moments to speak with *The Christian Chronicle* about her budding acting career and her faith.  
A member of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ, east of Nashville, Tenn., Minton has a growing list of credits on the Internet Movie Database, including a forthcoming role in “I’m Not Ashamed.” In the film, set for release later this year, Minton plays the mother of a Christian teen who died in the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado.  
In the pews, Minton is “very low-key about what she does for living,” added Donna Crisp, a close friend and fellow church member.  
In front of the camera, the actress has what she describes as an “average, normal-people look” that lands her a lot of “girl next door” roles.  
But she strives to be more than just another face in the crowd.  
“I think of this as my mission work,” she said of her career. “I go to movie sets and ... you’d better believe that is a mission field.”

**COUNTRY LIFE AND COUNTRY MUSIC**  
“It was never on my radar that a girl from Mt. Juliet, Tenn., could be an actor,” Minton said.  
She and her husband raised their two daughters, Chelsea and Sydney, on the same, 170-acre farm where she

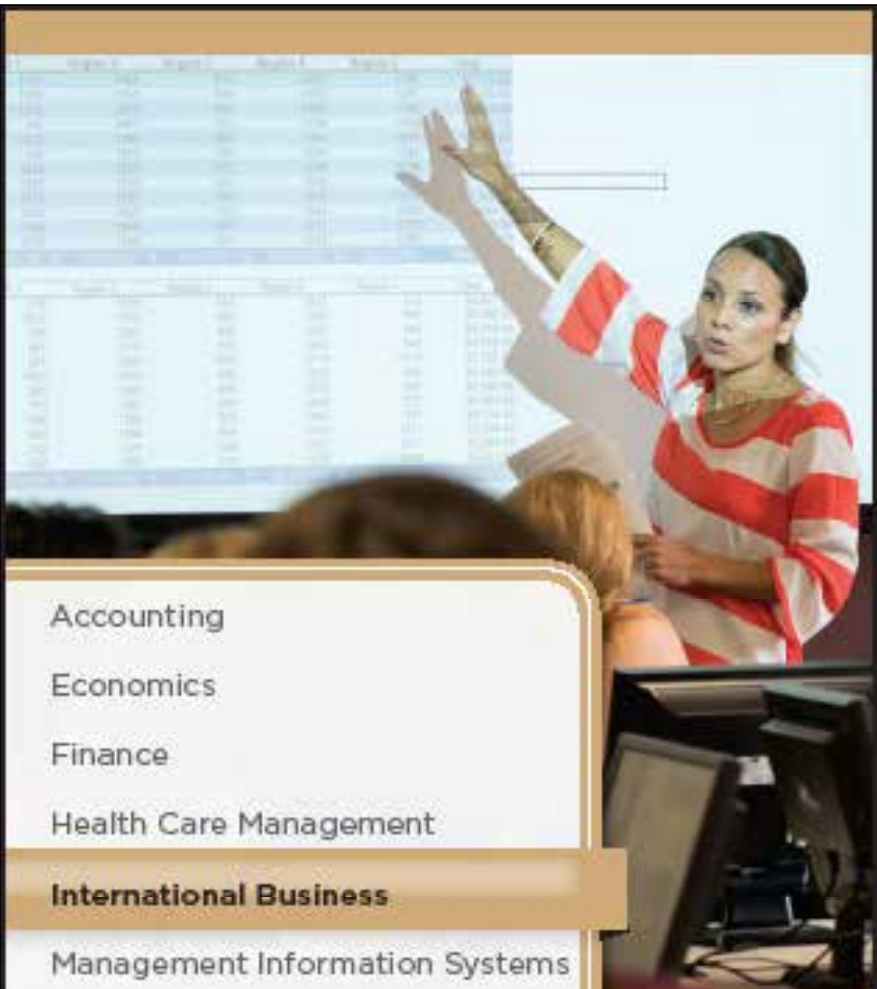


Terri Minton, a member of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee, has a budding acting career, including a role in this year’s “Saved by Grace” starring Joey Lawrence.

grew up. Minton studied fashion buying and merchandising in New York, earning an associate’s degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology before returning to Tennessee to complete her bachelor’s at Lipscomb University in Nashville.  
In 1994, she and Sydney were models for the front cover of a company’s annual report. Other opportunities followed, including commercials for Dollywood’s Splash Country in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., and training videos for companies such as Coca-Cola and Cracker Barrel.  
She had never acted — aside from a few plays in elementary school — but “just jumped in,” she said, and found that she “had this natural ability to be comfortable in front of the camera.”

In 1995, she appeared in a music video for Colin Raye’s country hit “One Boy, One Girl.”  
“They built a forest on a sound stage,” Minton recalled with a smile. “It was like we were outside, roasting marshmallows.”  
Her proximity to Nashville led to other unique opportunities. She has worked as a stand-in for country music star Carrie Underwood during rehearsals for the Country Music Association awards show. She also stood in for singer/songwriter Jennifer Nettles during rehearsals for CMA’s Country Christmas.  
During one rehearsal, she introduced Steven Tyler, frontman for the rock group Aerosmith, who recently forayed into country music. During the rehearsal, Tyler “reached over and grabbed me around the waist and had me sing with him,” Minton said. “I even did the Steven Tyler scream.”

**SHINING ON CAMERA**  
As an actress, “I actively pursue family-friendly and faith-based projects,” Minton said. “This is really where my heart is.”  
She landed a small part on the TV show “Army Wives,” followed by an appearance in the 2010 film “Country Strong” starring Tim McGraw. Her scene was cut from the final version of the film.  
Bigger roles followed. Recently, she portrayed the wife of a character played by Dean Cain, known for his role as Superman in “Lois & Clark,” in a film titled “A Horse For Summer.”  
Working on feature films — with fellow actors and crew for days or weeks at a time — is like going to camp, Minton said. She has developed friendships with fellow actors, including Leigh-Allyn Baker, who played Amy Duncan on the long-running Disney Channel hit “Good Luck Charlie.”  
Minton met Baker on the set of “Little Savages” in 2014. The film, recently released on video, follows  
See **MINTON**, Page 26



Accounting

Economics

Finance

Health Care Management

**International Business**

Management Information Systems

Marketing

Professional Sales

### Leading in business

The Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration at Harding University is dedicated to preparing Christian business professionals for lives of service. Students learn from faculty who have years of business insights in addition to their classroom expertise. Students develop the skills needed to make them highly sought after assets upon graduating. At Harding, you can gain the knowledge and experience you need to be the next generation's leaders in business.



## HARDING

FAITH, LEARNING AND LIVING

Harding.edu | 800-477-4407

Searcy, Arkansas





Terri Minton and Dean Cain share a laugh on the set of "A Horse For Summer."

# MINTON: Acting without compromise

FROM PAGE 25

the adventures of a boy genius and his sister as they race against bullies to find a treasure hidden by an eccentric philanthropist.

Minton and Baker remain close. Recently, Minton traveled to Los Angeles for a screening of another film in which she has a role, "Saved by Grace," starring Joey Lawrence. During the trip, Minton stayed with Baker's family and attended her son's ball game.

"Terri is one of those people you meet and instantly feel like you've known your entire life," Baker said. "Three days of working together has led to a lifelong friendship."

Minton prays that those she befriends will see Christ living in her.

"I believe I'm doing the things I'm doing because God has allowed me," she said. "Some moments have been so obviously providential. I meet someone and have a conversation about God. That's a door opened and a seed planted."

Tracie Shannon, who co-teaches a Bible class for 11th grade girls with Minton, said her actress friend exhibits "salt and light in a work environment that doesn't necessarily expect or promote righteous living."

Minton's daughter, Sydney, added, "It's amazing that Christ's light is being shined so brightly in an industry where it tends to be so dim."

## 'I'M NOT ASHAMED'

The title of Minton's latest film reflects the actress' goal for her career.

"I'm Not Ashamed" is based on the true story of Rachel Joy Scott, a student at Columbine High School and the first of 13 victims killed by shooters Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. Minton portrays Beth Nimmo, Scott's mother.

She isn't the only Church of Christ member in the film. Korie and

Sadie Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" fame also have roles. The Robertsons worship with the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La.

The film has strong focus on faith, which Minton said she appreciates.

"There have been things I've turned down because I haven't been willing to do them," she said. "I'm not willing to compromise my convictions to



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TERRI MINTON

Terri Minton and Leigh-Allyn Baker play sisters in the family friendly film "Little Savages."

play a role."

She offers that same advice to other Christians who are looking to break into the movie business.

"Always make choices based on your faith," she said. "And just trust that if it's God's will, the right doors will be opened."

"Why else would I be on a movie set in L.A., California, unless it were God-ordained?"

WEBSITE: [imnotashamedfilm.com](http://imnotashamedfilm.com)

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

# Milestones

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

## Memorials (cont.)

### WILLIAM BLANEY HARPER, SR. 1927-2016

William B. Harper Sr., 88, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 6, 2016. He was born Oct. 6, 1927, to Samuel Furney Harper and Vera Mae Hart Harper. He is survived by his son, W. Blaney Harper, Jr.; his daughters Lynn Casey, Joni Meadows, and Tara McQuage; nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Juanita Balderson Harper.

For more than 50 years, Harper had an effective ministry at the Cawson Street Church of Christ in Hopewell,

Va. He served first as a deacon for 15 years, then in the pulpit for 35 years. He also served as an elder for 36 years. He was unusual in that he not only spent his entire ministry with one congregation, he was never even a member of another congregation!

Billy Harper poured his heart and soul into the Cawson Street church, but his influence was felt far beyond it because he mentored many young preachers who served as his associates. Through his patient instruction and example, he taught them the importance of loving people and meeting with the lost in their



homes, teaching and baptizing dozens of individuals through home Bible studies.

Joe D. Gray, 84, Altamont, Tenn.  
Joanne Howe, 80, Hendersonville, Tenn.

## Memorial/Honor Gifts

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in memory of Diane O. McCravey and Girthel Wheeler.

A heartfelt thanks to The Christian Chronicle for sharing Sam's story (see Sept. 2015). Our family was truly touched by the outpouring of love from Christians across the country.  
In Christian Love,  
Tracy Holdeman and family

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

**March 2-4 Alumni Days.** Heritage Christian University, Florence, Ala. [www.hcu.edu/events/alumni-days](http://www.hcu.edu/events/alumni-days).

**March 3-5 Spring Sing.** Oklahoma Christian University. [www.ocu.edu](http://www.ocu.edu), (405) 425-5545.

**March 4-5 Ladies of Virtue.** "Lifting as We Strive." Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel, Columbia, Md. [www.heaven600.com](http://www.heaven600.com).

**March 4-6 CHRISTEENS 2016.** West Side Church of Christ, Russellville, Ark. [www.christeens.org](http://www.christeens.org), [jake@westsidear.org](mailto:jake@westsidear.org).

**March 4-6 Tri-Area Youth Rally.** Liberty City Church of Christ, Savannah, Ga. (912) 236-3201.

**March 11-12 New England Church Growth Conference.** Manchester Church of Christ, Manchester, Conn. (203) 265-2787.

**March 14-17 Abundant Living Seniors College 2016.** Harding University. (501) 279-4055, [gowen@harding.edu](mailto:gowen@harding.edu).

**March 17 GSEP Women In Leadership: Work-Life Balance.** Los Angeles. [gsep.pepperdine.edu](http://gsep.pepperdine.edu), (310) 568-2344, [vjahn@pepperdine.edu](mailto:vjahn@pepperdine.edu).

**March 18-19 We Care Seminar and Crusade.** Kirksville Church of Christ, Kirksville, Mo. (660) 627-4003.

**March 24-26 Spring Sing** Harding University. (501) 279-4255.

**March 26-31 Churches of Christ National Lectureship.** Memphis, Tenn. (901) 684-6664.

**March 27-31 Memphis School of Preaching Lectures.** Memphis, Tenn. (901) 751-2242, [office@msop.org](mailto:office@msop.org).

**March 31-April 4 Africa Missionary Retreat.** Cape Town, South Africa. [robert@angolateam.org](mailto:robert@angolateam.org).

**April 3-6 Ohio Valley University Lectureship.** "The Solution to a Shattered World." Vienna, W.Va. (304) 865-6128, [gk.pennington@ovu.edu](mailto:gk.pennington@ovu.edu).

**April 6-9 The Tulsa Workshop.** "From Darkness to Light." Tulsa, Okla. [www.tulsaworkshop.org](http://www.tulsaworkshop.org), (918) 344-3402.

**April 12 McGaw Lecture, Dr. Miroslav Volf.** Oklahoma Christian University. [www.oc.edu/volf](http://www.oc.edu/volf).

## Want To Advertise in The Chronicle?

Deadline for the next two issues:

March 1 and April 5

Contact Tonya Patton at [tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org](mailto:tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org)



Faulkner University continually seeks talented, high energy individuals to help us succeed in these times of growth and we are excited to announce the following open positions.

### Multiple Faculty Positions – Available Fall 2016

All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to Christ-centered Liberal Arts education and Christian service.

- Behavioral Sciences
- Criminal Justice
- Physical Education
- Physics

Academic rank for faculty positions will be based upon education and experiential qualifications according to University policy. These positions are full-time, 9-months. The candidates selected must be available to assume the duties of the positions Fall of 2016.

Additional details regarding these positions, including specific qualifications and application requirements, are available on Faulkner's website: [www.faulkner.edu](http://www.faulkner.edu)

# Five ways to minister to your missionaries

**AFTER FIVE YEARS** of serving young souls in Haiti, mission worker gives advice to supporting churches

## CAP-HAITIEN, HAITI

**M**y husband and I recently reached our fifth-year anniversary living in Haiti. We only signed up for three.

Things haven't always been easy. We've gone through some considerable ups and downs as most missionaries do. By year two we were ready to call it quits, which we later found out was more common than not.

One oft-quoted statistic says that about 80 percent of missionaries burn out and leave the field early. That's hard to verify, but the Narramore Christian Foundation, a counseling service, estimates that 5,000 U.S. missionaries leave the field every year for preventable reasons: depression, marriage and family difficulties, unresolved conflicts with team members and nationals, and inadequate spiritual and emotional support.

We have been immeasurably blessed by the support of others — and not just financially. Churches, family and individuals have graciously surrounded our family and ministry. Without them, I am positive we would have left long ago.

If you or your church supports a missionary overseas, please consider the following ways you can encourage them and help prevent missionary burn out:

**1. Prayer and encouragement:** This past summer we received an email from a supporting congregation in Kansas. It said: *On Wednesday night we are devoting our whole class time to praying for the mission efforts we support. Instead of generic prayer, we would love to have specific prayer needs that you see right now.*

Reading this, I almost cried. Having a church willing to reach out to us and commit to praying over our specific

needs was priceless. If you support a missionary overseas, consider checking in with them and asking how you can pray for them specifically.

**2. Care packages:** There is a group from a church in Arkansas that regularly sends us care packages. Nothing extravagant, but each box typically includes a package of Oreos for which I am eternally grateful.

## Views



Jillian Kittrell

Care packages take time and effort to put together, I know. But when a missionary picks up the mail and finds a box full of goodies to remind them of home, you have potentially made their day, week or month.

**3. Personal visits:** Sending mission teams is helpful, but if you want to really encourage your missionaries, go visit them as friends. This past summer, a church from Tennessee sent a couple just to spend a few days with us and bless us with their time. We shared meals together, laughed together, prayed together. They even went to my daughter's ballet class. Can I just say how refreshing and rejuvenating that was? So yes, please send teams to aid in the ministry. But sometimes, if you can, send people just to love on your missionaries.

**4. Retreat:** When you live on the mission field, it is easy for your ministry to consume your life. If you aren't careful, it can strain your marriage, cause you to neglect your kids and even damage your soul.

Providing the time and resources for missionaries to retreat from their work is vital. Support them to take a weekend getaway, finance a trip home for the holidays or offer to come substitute while they are away. Offering your missionaries the time and resources to retreat will not only make them better missionaries, but it will make your ministry



HUNTER KITTRELL

Jillian Kittrell and a former resident of Emmaus House, Evelyn, show off their cooking skills in Haiti. "Evelyn is a wonderful cook," Kittrell said, "and because she is such a hard worker, she has been able to find cooking jobs with local organizations."

stronger as well.

**5. Graceful mentorship:** When I first moved to Haiti, I thought I could do this alone. It didn't take long for me realize I was completely wrong. Providing your missionaries with mentors who are willing to listen, empathize, support and gracefully offer advice is crucial. I speak with my mentor back in the States on a daily basis, and I am a better missionary for it.

As Christians, all of us have been called to mission. For some, this means packing up and moving overseas. For others, this means supporting the home front. Both roles are needed in the kingdom, and

both are equally important.

Missionaries leaving their service early because they do not feel supported is preventable. As a missionary who has been blessed by support, I know firsthand the value of your love and encouragement.

Please consider how you can reach out to the missionaries you know. Your words of encouragement (or package of Oreos) may just be what they need to persevere.

**JILLIAN KITTRELL** and her husband, Hunter, serve as administrators of Emmaus House, a ministry that helps young adults transition from the Cap Haitien Children's Home to independent living. For more information, see [www.emmaushousehaiti.org](http://www.emmaushousehaiti.org).

Full-Time Minister

**Chambersburg Church of Christ** is seeking a minister for pulpit, class, and evangelistic duties for a friendly and dedicated flock. The successful candidate will be a self starter with experience, education and ideas of how to foster growth in an established congregation.

For info contact:

**Charley Lackey (717) 263-3662.**

Send resume and demo to:

**Chambersburg Church of Christ**  
PO Box 221, Chambersburg, PA 17201  
[cfc@innernet.net](mailto:cfc@innernet.net)

Youth Minister

We are a congregation of 175 Christians located in Portales, New Mexico. We are looking for a youth minister with vision who will passionately and humbly seek to guide our teens into becoming what God intended through personal relationships, mentoring, teaching, evangelizing in our community, counseling and above all, prayer. **Third and Kilgore Church of Christ** is a grace-filled family where love and concern for each other abounds.

<http://3kchurch.org>

[churchofchrist\\_David@yucca.net](mailto:churchofchrist_David@yucca.net)

Youth Minister Search Team,  
**Third and Kilgore Church of Christ**  
PO Box 450, Portales, NM 88130

Pulpit Minister/Evangelist

Small congregation seeks pulpit minister with preaching/teaching skills to help spread the Gospel in southern Maine. We offer a small salary and an apartment with utilities included. For more information:

**Dave Seguin (207) 351-8153 or**

**Bob Prestridge (207) 363-7028**

If interested, send your resume and CD of two recent sermons to:

**Church of Christ**

Attn: Search Committee  
48 Love Ln.

Kittery, ME 03904  
[prestre@aol.com](mailto:prestre@aol.com)

**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you!

- Same low prices and shopping experience as Amazon.com.
- Choose to support The Christian Chronicle!
- AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases.

For more information, go to:

[smile.amazon.com/about](http://smile.amazon.com/about)



**THROUGH THE  
SCRIPTURES.COM**

**An Online School of Biblical Studies**

**Featuring**

**A Parallel Study of the Four Gospels by**

**DAVID ROPER**

**Life of Christ, 1**

**Life of Christ, 2**

**ENROLL in English, Spanish, or Chinese**

**For a Minimal Fee**

**[www.throughthescritures.com](http://www.throughthescritures.com)**

**For more information, e-mail**

**[info@throughthescritures.com](mailto:info@throughthescritures.com)**

EDITORIAL

# When Muslims protect Christians



J. CRAIG, VOICE OF AMERICA

**Salah Sabdow Farah talks to reporters in a Kenyan hospital just before his death.**

**W**e thank God for the actions of Salah Sabdow Farah — a Muslim teacher in the African nation of Kenya.

In December, he was one of 100 passengers on a bus ambushed by Islamic militants from al-Shabab. They demanded that Muslim and Christian passengers split up. (The terrorist group had spared Muslims in previous attacks.)

Farah and several other Muslim passengers refused, defiantly telling the terrorists to “kill all of us or leave us alone,” a Kenyan newspaper reported. In the end, two people died in the attack, and Farah received a bullet wound.

Too many of us in the pews see Farah as the exception and the terrorists as the norm when it comes to Islam. We shake our fists and beg our fellow Christians to “wake up” and fight the threat lurking at our gates.

It’s wrong for us to react in anger, to paint with too broad a brush, to answer hatred with hatred. Yet we acknowledge that our fear is based on real horror — such as we’ve seen in Paris and San Bernardino.

At the same time, too few of us in the media focus on stories such as the Marrakesh Declaration, a 750-word

document calling for religious freedom for non-Muslims in majority-Muslim countries. It is the product of a recent summit in Morocco that included more than 250 Muslim religious leaders, heads of state and scholars from predominantly Muslim nations. Participants drew inspiration from Muhammad’s Charter of Medina, a seventh-century document that gives rules for governing a religiously pluralistic state.

As we ponder these developments:

- **We pray** that this declaration is more than words, that Christian minorities will have protection and freedom to worship — wherever they live. Our hope in this declaration is admittedly thin, but we know what God can do with even mustard-seed faith.

- **We pray** that the Muslims among us and those in faraway lands will come to know and accept Christ.

- **We pray** for more Muslims like Farah, who, sadly, died in a Kenyan hospital from his wounds about a month after the attack.

Before his death, he spoke to Voice of America.

“I ask my brother Muslims to take care of the Christians so that the Christians also take care of us,” he said, “and let us help one another and let us live together peacefully.”



# Groans we choose not to hear

These steps at the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana once led to canoes that ferried Africans to slave ships. Now fishing boats and nets sit in their place. U.S. President Barack Obama and his family toured the castle in 2009. “One of the most striking things that I heard was that right above the dungeons in which male captives were kept was a church,” the president said, “and that reminds us that sometimes we can tolerate and stand by great evil even as we think that we’re doing good.”

***“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”***  
— Isaiah 58:6-7, New International Version

I’ve traveled to Africa numerous times in years past. Three times I’ve visited the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana. This fort was built by the Dutch in the 1600s to protect their gold interests. Ultimately it was commandeered by the British and used to warehouse hundreds of thousands of captured Africans. The dungeons of Cape Coast Castle — where occurred unspeakable horrors that surpass what Hollywood could conjure up — still give me nightmares. There the captives awaited the slave ships that would transport them to the Americas. (First Lady Michelle

Obama traces her family roots to this departure point.) In that hellish place you’ll find the most infamous door in Africa, “The Door of No Return.” It leads to steps down the cliffside, where canoes took the Africans to the slave ships. The second time I was there I mustered the courage to ask our guide about the Europeans who lived at the castle. Wives and children of the officers resided behind the walls, I was told. There was a school. There was an Anglican church on the crest of the wall immediately above the slave dungeon. The guide’s blazing dark eyes turned toward my white face. “Yes,” he said, “while the Europeans sang their sweet songs about Jesus and muttered their pious prayers, below their feet the captives groaned and thrashed in agony.” It was a transformative moment for me. Back home in Texas, we fight our worship wars and engage in

### In the Word



John Scott



PHOTOS BY ROB PINE

**The castle’s “Door of No Return.”**  
endless intramural debates. We sing our sweet worship songs. We voice our pious prayers. Yet, what unspeakable horrors are at our feet? What groans do we choose not to hear? I am so thankful to be a part of a faith community whose songs of praise and prayers for blessings are not so loud as to drown out the heartache at our feet. **JOHN SCOTT** is transformation minister for the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas.

## FROM OUR READERS

### Christians should do no intentional harm — for glory or gain

Recently *The Christian Chronicle* printed a small “Spotlight” about a young woman who had won the Ultimate Fighting Championship in Australia (Page 5, December). I challenge anyone who is a Christian to justify a Christian participating in such a sport — the object of which is to inflict brain damage to the extent that the opponent is knocked out.



Elizabeth Skelton

I was always taught that we were to use our bodies to the glory of God, as our bodies are “temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God” (1 Corinthians 6:19). That is why we, as faithful Christians, are to “be not drunk with wine” (Ephesians 5:18), use harmful, recreational drugs, smoke, etc. We should not intentionally inflict harm on our own bodies or the bodies of others, especially for the glory of winning in a sport. We know about the brain damage football players can suffer. (See “Should Christians watch football?” Page 29, December.) A “Christian” newspaper should stand for Christian principles.

**ELIZABETH SKELTON**, a Christian for more than 50 years, worships with the El Portal Church of Christ in California.

### Holm’s platform to share Jesus

When Holly Holm isn’t preparing for her next fight, you might see her at a coffee shop, Bible open, as she has her quiet time with the Lord. Some will be critical, but the Bible in no way condemns athletic competition — even the rough kind. When Holm won her fight over Ronda Rousey, she became one of the most famous figures in the world. What a platform for a disciple of Jesus to use to share her faith! **Wes Woodell** | Wentzville, Mo.

# Fragmented churches need Proverbs' wisdom

**W**e must never confuse image with character. Dave Bland, professor of homiletics at Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn., and minister at White Station Church of Christ, has written a book that turns the clock back to an age when character — not image — defined the individual.

“**Proverbs and the Formation of Character**” moves past the feel-good methodology of society to the be-good virtues of Proverbs. It is the culmination of 20 years of study and reflection. And it is one of the most needed books in the church today.

Proverbs is difficult text to study. The book jumps from wisdom saying to wisdom saying with little focused attention.

Bland wades through Proverbs’ pithy sentences to give his readers an accessible work of wisdom, using the paradigm of character formation. He organizes the wisdom into topics such as language, wealth, parenting, honesty and community. He highlights how the proverbs speak into these areas for personal growth.

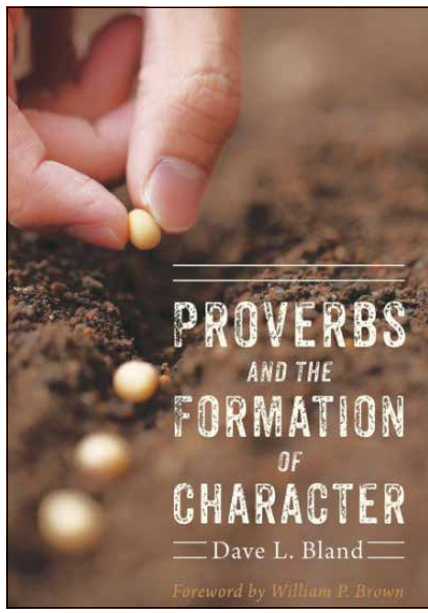
At the core of Proverbs (and Bland’s book) is the sages’ concern

for the youth. The foundation of “Proverbs and the Formation of Character,” Bland writes, is that “the person who controls the self accomplishes more than the one who controls others.”

One of the strengths of the book is its cultural relevancy. Instead of a mere commentary on the Proverbs, Bland has a conversation with the current wisdom and practices of this world. He highlights our culture’s fascinations with cultivating image instead of character. He discusses current trends in education and psychology. Over and over he writes about modern parenting practices and allows the wisdom literature of the Jews to reinforce and to critique modern-day styles of childrearing.

Another strength is focus on life’s tensions. The book is balanced in its wisdom, because this is the nature of the Proverbs themselves. Instead of the trite wisdom of modern parenting books, this book notes the vast application of parenting practices. Anyone with children will know that each child is different and the styles of parenting them will be diverse.

Bland’s insights are nuanced. He writes, “Most often, individuals care-



★★★★★  
Dave Bland. **Proverbs and the Formation of Character.** Eugene, Ore.: Cascade Books, 2015. 202 pages. \$23.

lessly use proverbs to oversimplify complex issues. They use proverbs to express the ‘definitive statement’ on a subject ...”

Throughout the book, he highlights individual topics and traces the wisdom provided on each throughout the book of Proverbs. True wisdom is knowing when

to apply advice in a situation. It is larger than choosing between right and wrong. Wisdom is learning to navigate the gray. Applying Proverbs helps one develop a value scale.

As Bland writes, “The sages were not shackled to a fixed way of evaluating experiences. Choices are not always between good and evil. Often, as in the ‘better’ proverbs, the choices are between good and better.”

This is a needed book in modern America. Often such volumes are geared toward one segment of our society, but this book transcends age brackets. It should be read by every parent and teen in the church and would be ideal for intergenerational classes.

In our fragmented churches, the wisdom in this text can inspire all ages to exalt generational wisdom together.

Proverbs 13:20 states, “*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise.*” Reading this book is a metaphorical walk with a wise man, rewarding in its own right.

**MATTHEW MORINE** is pulpit minister for the Church of Christ in Castle Rock, Colo., and earned a Doctorate of Ministry from Harding School of Theology. He has written a book titled “**A Mountain Moving Faith**” and is a frequent contributor for *Gospel Advocate*.



Matthew Morine

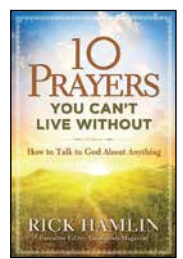
## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

**MISSIONS**  
Alan Briggs. **Staying is the New Going: Choosing to Love Where God Places You.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: NavPress, 2015. 208 pages. \$14.99.



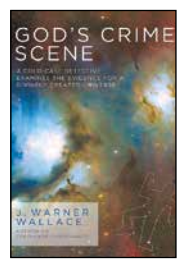
Briggs, a Colorado church planter, calls Christians to everyday, local mission work. Engage in your community, build relationships outside church walls and look for opportunities to share the Gospel in the context of your home’s occupations, worries and dreams, he urges. Each chapter ends with a list of discussion questions.

**PRAYER**  
Rick Hamlin. **10 Prayers You Can’t Live Without: How to Talk to God About Everything.** Charlottesville, Va.: Hampton Roads Publishing Co., 2016. 256 pages. \$13.99.



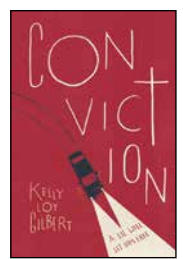
“*Pray without ceasing,*” Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians. But how? Hamlin gives 10 practical ideas for integrating prayer into daily life. Inspirational stories from his tenure as executive editor of *Guideposts* magazine give vivid examples of prayer working in a fallen world. “You were made to pray,” he writes.

**APOLOGETICS**  
J. Warner Wallace. **God’s Crime Scene: A Cold-Case Detective Examines the Evidence for a Divinely Created Universe.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: David C. Cook, 2015. 320 pages. \$17.99.



Former atheist and homicide detective Wallace applies his forensic mind to creation. This follow-up to “Cold Case Christianity” includes anecdotes from his career that illustrate his methods. An accessible survey of evidence, the book is useful for people in the pew interested in defending their faith with facts.

**YOUNG ADULT**  
Kelly Loy Gilbert. **Conviction.** New York: Hyperion, 2015. 342 pages. \$17.99.



This debut fiction novel is a rare combination of sports story and crime thriller, weaving faith and family throughout. The main character is a teen star pitcher whose father, a Christian radio host, is accused of murder. Sensitive and poignant, with a nonlinear plotline and complex characters, this book blurs the line between “Christian fiction” and mainstream. Teens as well as adults will enjoy this layered story.

### Seeking a Self-Supporting Missionary Servant

- Who loves verse-by-verse expository preaching instead of homiletics.
- Who can be trained and prepared to evangelize by feeding the poor and homeless at this 120-year-old church.
- Who will serve as an associate minister and prepare to preach the gospel five times a week to the world by radio every Sunday.
- Who wants to become a missionary to the world.

[www.mainstreet-churchofchrist.com](http://www.mainstreet-churchofchrist.com)

### Director of Family Life Ministry

The Southside Church of Christ in Milwaukee, Wis., is looking for a Director of Family Life Ministry. This is a full-time position for a congregation of 200. You would be responsible to the elders for the development and promotion of a comprehensive biblical education program for children (nursery to young adulthood) and for families and family life programs to meet the needs of the church family and community.

Full job description is available at: <http://www.christianchronicle.org/classifieds>.

Send resume and references to:

**Children's Ministry Search Team**  
**Southside Church of Christ**  
1933 W Grange Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Or by email: [southsidechurchemail@gmail.com](mailto:southsidechurchemail@gmail.com)

### Minister Search

We are looking for a minister for the **Dubois Church of Christ in Dubois, Wyo.** Dubois is located in the beautiful Wind River Mountains at 7,400 ft. elevation.

If you would like more information, please call:

**Ed Bass**  
(307) 349-9580 or (307) 349- 4560

**Ed White**  
(256) 412-0764 or (256) 381-0331

### Pulpit Minister (Full Time)

Our church is a self-supporting congregation of about 45 members. We are looking for someone who will effectively and faithfully preach God's word, and has the heart and successful experience for evangelistic outreach.

Please send a resume, three professional references, and a sample sermon to:

**Preacher Search Committee**  
**Payson Church of Christ**  
401 E Tyler Parkway  
Payson, AZ 85541

Or by email:  
[preachersearch@paysonchurchofchrist.com](mailto:preachersearch@paysonchurchofchrist.com)

### Full-Time Preacher

**West Valley Church of Christ in Buckeye/Goodyear, Ariz.,** is accepting resumes, calls and correspondence related to the filling of a full-time minister position. We are a congregation between 55-70 in need of a preacher/minister who is able to feed this flock with Gospel preaching. We are looking for someone who is excited to reach out to the community by sharing The Word. We prefer a family man with a stable marriage/family life, with formal Bible training and a solid understanding of God's word, who is willing to stand strong and true to Biblical principles in this sadly changing world.

Please contact: **Russ Colville**  
(623) 386-0969 or [russ@r-cats.com](mailto:russ@r-cats.com)

Visit us at: [www.wvcochrist.org](http://www.wvcochrist.org)

### The Sunnyside Road Church of Christ

located in Decatur, Ill., is seeking a **Full-Time Pulpit Minister.**

Our Sunday morning attendance averages 75-90. We have 2 elders and 3 deacons. We are debt free with excellent facilities for learning and fellowship.

Please visit our website to learn more.  
[www.sunnysideroadchurch.com](http://www.sunnysideroadchurch.com)

Anyone interested in applying for the position please submit a resume and two sermons on CD to:

**821 North Sunnyside Rd**  
**Decatur, IL 62522**

### Full-Time Minister Needed

The **Dublin Street Church of Christ, in Urbana, Ill.,** is seeking a full-time married minister with the ability to communicate effectively and committed to sound biblical teaching with the education and experience necessary to prepare for this ministry. Primary duties include preaching, teaching Bible classes, promoting Christian fellowship and being evangelistic.

Please submit resume, cover letter and two sermons on CD to:

**Dublin Street Church of Christ**  
**1402 West Dublin Street**  
**Urbana, IL 61801**

Immediate contact person:  
**Barney Ellis (217) 597-9193**

58TH ANNUAL  
OHIO VALLEY UNIVERSITY  
LECTURESHIP

+++

APRIL 3-6, 2016 • [OVU.EDU/LECTURESHIP](http://OVU.EDU/LECTURESHIP)

THE SOLUTION TO A SHATTERED WORLD

STUDIES IN 1 & 2 PETER

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:  
DR. KIRK BROTHERS, KEN FLEMING, MIKE GREENE, KARL MCLARTY, DR. STAFFORD NORTH, AND ANTHONY REX

# Got Trouble?

# Try Prayer

[www.prayformesite.com](http://www.prayformesite.com)

## Full-Time Preacher

The **Luling Church of Christ** is seeking an experienced full-time preacher. The church furnishes a parsonage.

**Bill Watson**  
1804 E. Pierce  
Luling, Texas 78648  
(512) 644-9547  
[loiswatson@axs4u.net](mailto:loiswatson@axs4u.net)  
[lulingchurchofchrist.com](http://lulingchurchofchrist.com)

The Children's

# home

of Lubbock

**The Children's Home of Lubbock, Texas**, an accredited child-care ministry affiliated with Churches of Christ, is seeking candidates for the position of President. The President is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the operations of the organization including implementation of programs and services, application of policy, fund development and accountability for all resources and assets of the Children's Home of Lubbock.

---

**The ideal candidate should possess the following key skills and capabilities:**

- Leadership with the ability to lead, coach, mentor and develop talent
- Administration and Management
- Strategic Planning and vision casting
- Fund development and management
- Public communication and advocacy

**On a personal plane the ideal candidate should have:**

- A demonstrated spiritual/faith walk
- A core belief in the spiritual necessity for caring for fatherless children
- A reputation for credibility and integrity
- Demonstrated leadership of an emotionally healthy, spiritually grounded family

**Minimum credentials and experience:**

- Graduate Degree in a related or applicable field
- Significant experience in administration and management with experience in non-profit
- Strategic Planning and implementation
- Fund Raising and marketing experience

---

Information about the Children's Home of Lubbock may be found at:  
**[www.childshome.org](http://www.childshome.org)**

The anticipated vacancy will occur with the planned retirement of the current President. Please send cover letter and resume to:  
**Jerry Hoover, Board of Directors Chair:**  
[hooovercpa@nts-online.net](mailto:hooovercpa@nts-online.net)

# Team strives to reach a diverse, urban population in Polynesia's biggest city

Auckland, New Zealand, is amazing, diverse, urban. It is home to more than 1.3 million souls from nearly 200 people groups. It's the largest city on the "liquid continent" known as Polynesia.

I was blessed to visit Auckland, near the tip of New Zealand's North Island, in 2000. A Christian family hosted me, and one member of that family was said to have brought more people to Christ than any other person in her congregation.

I attended three Churches of Christ in Auckland and saw the need for leadership and direction.

More recently I spoke with Nancy Lutes here in the U.S. Her daughter, Jennifer Cherry, is part of a mission team that has worked among the young, urban population of Auckland since 2008. Cherry and her husband, Justin, attended Harding University in Arkansas and were part of the university's overseas program in Australia.

They married, and Justin earned a master's in business administration before working for ConocoPhillips. At the same time, "we began feeling a call by God to pursue full-time ministry, specifically in the area of church planting," Justin told me. They moved to Lubbock, Texas, and began training for mission work at Sunset International Bible Institute.

In 2005, minister and New Zealand native Chris Miller sat down with the Cherrys and made a personal plea to share the Gospel in Auckland. Chris was converted in the U.S. (an incredible story that deserves telling later) and returned to New Zealand with a determination to impact his nation for Christ. The Cherrys felt a heavy burden for New Zealand. Working with Sunset and Missions Resource Network, the couple and three other families moved to Auckland. The Cherrys' first-born daughter was 2 when they arrived. Now they have two boys as well — and all the

children think of New Zealand as their home. The family has integrated well into their city's multiethnic culture.

"Jennifer is creative and has a gift for hospitality," Justin said. "Rylee, age 10, is our artsy girl who loves drawing and writing stories. Gavin,

7, is our athlete. He is currently playing basketball and soccer. Zane, 2, is our little Energizer bunny. We love our little family and are excited to be growing up together in Auckland."

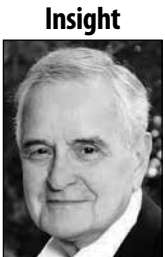
The team planted the Discover Church, a congregation that seeks to create disciples who let Jesus shine in every aspect of their lives. They have close partnerships with other Churches of Christ in New Zealand and host conferences to help believers grow in their faith and their desire to reach others.

Reading the team's reports, it's obvious to me that they are systematic and prayerful in all they do. They meet people in public parks

and coffeehouses and begin conversations that lead to changed lives. They offer activities for children so parents can run errands. They carefully evaluate every activity, weighing cost, time and results. It's intentional, urban ministry for people with busy lives.

Beyond Sunday worship, the team strives to activate church members to go out and be Jesus to others. They train Christians in the art of leading conversations about God.

Unfortunately, one of the team's supporting churches in the U.S. will end its support soon. Justin plans to travel to the States in March and April to find new support. If you are interested in learning more, email him at [cherryjustin@gmail.com](mailto:cherryjustin@gmail.com).



Bailey McBride



Justin and Jennifer Cherry celebrate a baptism in Auckland, New Zealand.

CONTACT [bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org](mailto:bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org).



# Offering Opportunities to help YOU Make an Eternal Difference!

- ### 1 Abundant Living Retreat

Join 200-plus Christian readers in Browns, Ma., for four of the best days of your life! Speakers, singing, story time, fellowship, bible talk and friendships challenge you to make God your #1 priority in your retirement years. Cost: \$325 (couples), \$175 (individual) • OCTOBER 4-7, 2016
- ### 2 Abundant Living Magazine

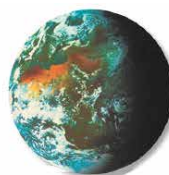
Our quarterly magazine appears in January, April, July and October and is filled with articles to inspire us to greater involvement in the Kingdom. Cost: \$4.00 for a one-year subscription or \$12.00 each in groups of 12 or more
- ### 3 Abundant Living Mini-Retreats

Abundant Living is excited to partner with local churches to bring a mini-version of our Browns retreat to your hometown in a date selected by them. We will work with senior ministry teams. A \$25 fee is charged per person.
- ### 4 Abundant Living Seniors College

Three days of classes under authority professors and practicing professionals make this an incredible opportunity to study Bible, history and aging issues. Cost: \$188 per person • Harding University • March 14-17, 2016
- ### 5 Seniors Ministry Conference

Seniors, readers relations and church leaders will gain greater insight into the importance and methods of effective ministry with older Christians in your churches. Be inspired to mobilize this great resource for greater service in the Kingdom during their retirement years. Cost: \$100 (individual/couple) • June 7-8, 2016 • IU
- ### 6 Abundant Living GrandCamp

Grandparents, bring your grandchildren (ages 8-15) to IU for a summer camp that stimulates both education as your share experiences and grow spiritually. Cost: \$200 (2 total people) • 12 • July 18-23



# The Christian Chronicle®

Vol. 73, No. 3 | March 2016 | [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org)

## Coffee and Bangkok

In this fast-paced Southeast Asian capital, missionaries help young professionals slow down and share a cup of faith. **17**



## INSIDE

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| CALENDAR.....28      | MILESTONES.....27 |
| CURRENTS.....17      | NATIONAL.....5    |
| DEVOTIONAL.....31    | OPINION.....29    |
| DIALOGUE.....21      | PARTNERS.....23   |
| INSIGHT.....34       | PEOPLE.....25     |
| INTERNATIONAL ....13 | REVIEWS.....32    |

BOX 11000

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

73136-1100

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

OKLAHOMA CITY OK

PERMIT # 276



**CONNECT US**  WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

Let's reach those right here at home.  
[worldbibleschool.net/connect](http://worldbibleschool.net/connect)

## Event Invitation

You are invited to attend one of our events near you highlighting **"The Impossible Dream"** – coined by EEM founding mission team member Gwen Handley – describing his goal of giving the Bible to people in their own language in former nations of the communist bloc.

Matthew 19:26

## THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Come hear what amazing work God is doing today!

We will provide updates and plans on projects throughout Eastern Europe, including new requests for over 100,000 Bibles for refugees in the Arabic, Farsi, and Urdu languages. There is no cost to attend, and a meal will be provided. All of our events are designed to be casual and informal.

RSVP at [www.eem.org/events](http://www.eem.org/events) or call our office at 800-486-1618.

EEM is under the spiritual oversight of Presbyterian Church of Christ



## EVENTS

March 1 - San Antonio, TX / The Omni Hotel  
March 3 - Fort Worth, TX / The Fort Worth Club  
March 10 - Franklin (Nashville), TN / The Factory  
March 20 - College Station, TX / Hilton Hotel  
March 31 - Dallas, TX / Perot Museum of Nature and Science  
April 3 - Paris, TX / Love Civic Center  
April 7 - Tyler, TX / K E Bushman's Center  
April 12 - Secaucus, NJ / Robbins Sanford Hall  
April 14 - Oklahoma City, OK / Gaylord Center at Oklahoma Christian University  
April 19 - Waco, TX / Texas Sports Hall of Fame  
April 21 - Amarillo, TX / Amarillo Botanical Gardens  
April 28 - Lubbock, TX / Bohar Conference Center at Lubbock Christian University  
May 2 - Midland, TX / The Petroleum Club  
May 10 - Raleigh, NC / North Carolina State University Club  
May 12 - Winston-Salem, NC / Church of Christ at South Fork, Winston-Salem, NC