



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Mike and Michelle Patterson, with sons Cameron and Blake, stand in what's left of their Rowlett, Texas, house after tornadoes struck the Dallas area. The family attends the Saturn Road Church of Christ in nearby Garland, Texas.

God in the rubble

'THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME,' says family that lost house in Texas twister

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ROWLETT, Texas

Rain poured on Mike Patterson. The Texas church member stood by the cozy fireplace where he used to glance out the window and enjoy God's creation. Now, crumbled bricks, broken glass and sticky yellow insulation surrounded him as he stared directly into the dark sky. Soaked as he picked through the remains of his family's tornado-devastated house, the 50-year-old father of two counted his blessings. "It's been a very good reminder of how quickly what we view as a



PHOTO PROVIDED BY VICKI HARRIS

INSIDE: Fellow Christians shower the family of Texas tornado victim Timothy Harris — including his wife, Vicki — with love and support.

Page 10

home here in this world can just vanish and be torn apart in 15 seconds," said Patterson, a deacon of the Saturn Road Church of Christ in nearby Garland, Texas. "It's

been a reminder that his world is not our home, and we should be focused on what is eternal."

Patterson, his wife, Michelle, and their sons, Blake, 21, and Cameron, 16, were celebrating the holidays with extended family in Georgia when an outbreak of tornadoes struck North Texas.

Twelve people — including Timothy Harris, a member of the Johnson Street Church of Christ in Greenville, Texas — died as the tornadoes wreaked havoc the day after Christmas.

About 2,000 homes and buildings were damaged, and the Insurance Council of Texas

See **TORNADOES**, Page 11

In the South Pacific, a new zeal for Christ

A BIBLE COLLEGE designed to produce preachers for New Zealand reaches out to Asia's burgeoning faith.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

TAURANGA, New Zealand — Far below the equator, the South Pacific Bible College serves its students hermeneutics and homiletics — classes on interpreting and preaching from the Bible — with a double portion of cultural stew.

On a cold, rainy day in late winter (that's September in New Zealand), principal Steve Raine asked his class to look at 12 passages and note how God reveals himself to mankind in each.

The students — from Australia, Fiji, Tonga, Thailand and China, to name just a few — huddled on couches and around tables, poring over the Scriptures, discussing a burning bush and other, more subtle revelations of the divine. Some have been Christians for two years, others for 20.

Their responses were "the most varied of any class I've had before," said Raine, who has taught at the college for two decades. That variety reflects the changing nature of Churches of Christ in the East.

As growth has slowed among churches See **SOUTH PACIFIC**, Page 14



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Love Lee Longopoa, from the island nation of Tonga, looks up Bible verses for an assignment at South Pacific Bible College.



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Pray for Korea, North and South

I'll never forget my brother Sang Yang — and not just because his name rhymes. He's a minister in Seoul, South Korea, and director of the Bible Correspondence Center, a ministry training program. He also doesn't mind waking up at 4 a.m. to get me to the airport for a flight to Manila.

I thought of him when I saw news of a recent nuclear bomb test in North Korea.

Inside Story



Erik Tryggstad

No one's sure if it was successful — or why it happened. Someone surmised it was because Kim Jong-un had a

birthday coming up. (Yes, that theory made the news.)

South Korea responded by cranking up its banks of loudspeakers pointed at the North, blasting out criticism and Korean pop music.

(Hey, force me to listen to "Gangnam Style" 50 or 60 times, and I'll surrender.)

Enigmatic, bizarre, even comical at times, the war between the Koreas (they agreed to an armistice in 1953 but never signed a treaty) is no joke for brother Yang, whose family fled the North during the conflict.

I met him three years ago when I had a long stopover in Seoul en route to the Philippines. I hoped to learn just a bit about the 123 Churches of Christ in South Korea. I emailed Yang and told him when my flight landed at Incheon Airport.

"Great," he replied. "We'll go straight to the DMZ."

The Demilitarized Zone?

See **KOREA**, Page 4

As Ebola subsides, churches grow

AFTER 11,000 deaths in West Africa, Christians see new life.

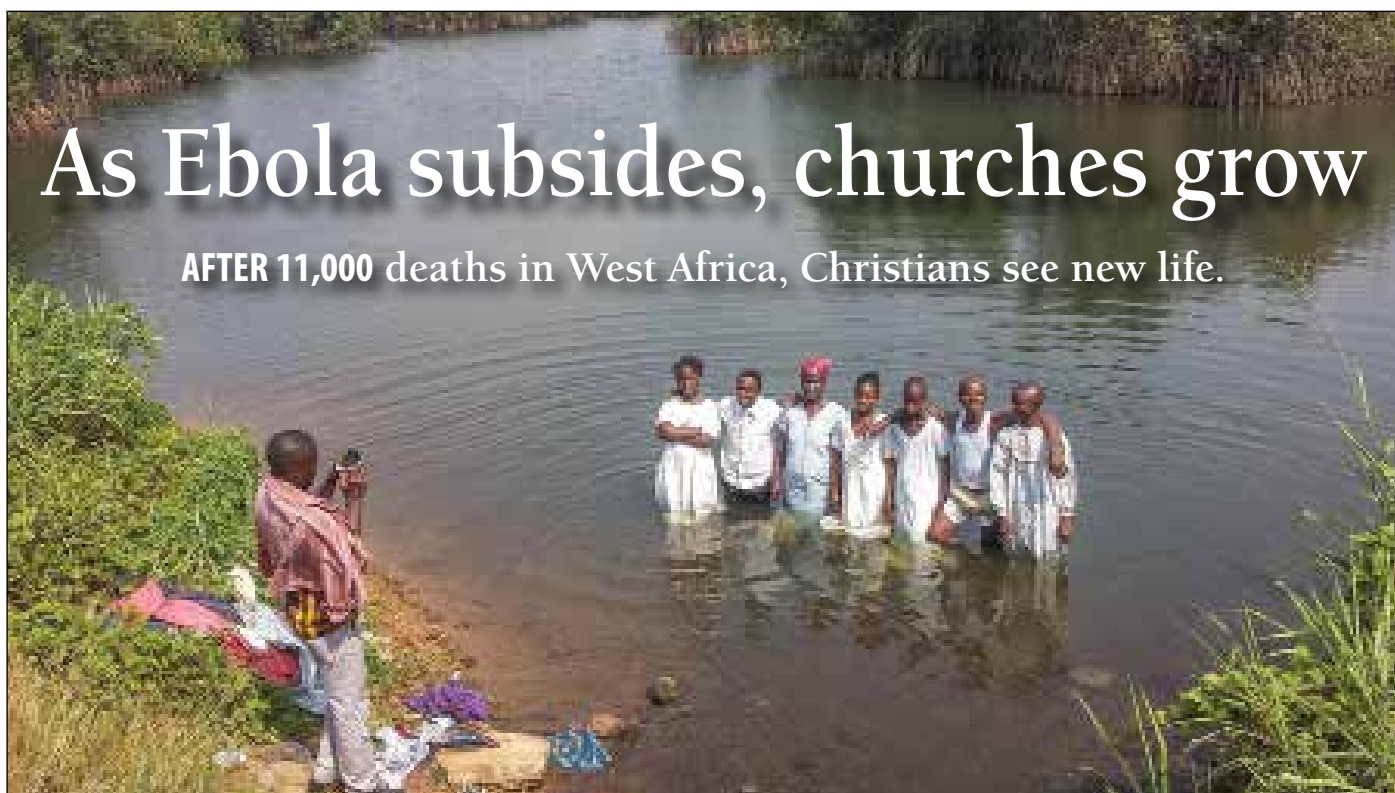


PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALFRED BEYAN

In the village of Gbarkomah, Liberia, new Christians gather for a group photo. Clarence Tokpahzee preaches for the young church.

BY ERIK TRYGGSTAD AND LAURA AKINS
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The West African town of Gueckedou, Guinea, near the borders of Liberia and Sierra Leone, is thought to be the birthplace of the region's Ebola crisis.

It now serves as a rallying point for Christians who want to spread the Gospel throughout their continent.

More than 150 believers, representing 15 Churches of Christ in the three nations, gathered in Gueckedou for a Bible conference, said Nestor

Tonguino, minister for a Church of Christ in Guinea's capital, Conakry.

Between presentations, conference attendees did door-knocking evangelism, Tonguino said.

Such outreach was nearly impossible at the height of the Ebola crisis in 2014. The virus has claimed about 11,300 lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hugs, handshakes and baptisms could help spread the deadly virus. Still, ministers with Churches of Christ in the three countries continued to reach out during the crisis with the

message "Ebola kills, but Jesus saves."

In Liberia, the virus hindered outreach to rural communities, said Alfred Beyan, minister for the G.S.A. Road Church of Christ in the capital, Monrovia. With cases of Ebola now in single digits, churches are growing.

One church plant, in the village of Gbarkomah, has experienced 12 baptisms in recent weeks, he said.

"At the same time, we have been conducting several marriages at the church," Beyan told *The Christian Chronicle*. "We intend to reach more and more families in this new year."

A 'Greater' portrayal: Film tells true story of football and faith

BY LAURA AKINS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Sports analysts call Brandon Burlsworth the greatest walk-on in the history of college football.

And it seems Hollywood agrees.

His incredible story of faith and football is portrayed in the film "Greater," which debuts Jan. 29.

Growing up in Harrison, Ark., Burlsworth was a quiet kid with Christian values. With a little bit of

skill and a lot of determination, he rose from walk-on to starting offensive lineman during his time at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

"Brandon's story was of someone that worked their way up from basically being told they weren't capable," said Burlsworth's older brother, Marty, a member of the Northside Church of Christ in Harrison, portrayed in the film by actor Neal

See **'GREATER'**, Page 4



HAMMOND ENTERTAINMENT/GREATER PRODUCTIONS

Chris Severio portrays offensive lineman Brandon Burlsworth in "Greater."

"I hope and I pray that God will open their doors, hopefully in my lifetime ... so that we can spread the Gospel to North Korea."

— Sang Yang, minister and Bible school director in Seoul, South Korea



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

With the Imjin River and North Korea's foothills over his shoulder, Sang Yang talks about his prayers for his homeland.

KOREA: A prayer for North and South at the DMZ

FROM PAGE 3

That strip of land, 155 miles long, 2.5 miles wide, that separates the two nations? Ironically, the most heavily militarized border in the world?

It's not that I was scared ... pshaw! I just didn't envision the DMZ as the kind of place you, y'know, visit.

I was wrong. Just outside the city of Paju, where LG manufactures flat-screen TVs, is an actual DMZ visitor center. There stands a sculpture of a giant globe split in two. Statues of adults and children stand on both sides, posed like Sisyphus, trying to push it back together.

Lining the hillsides are restaurants where tourists can dine on octopus as they gaze across the Imjin River into North Korea.

Yang took me to an overlook near a small, manicured cemetery.

Unlike the lush vegetation

around us, North Korea's landscape was bare, stripped of trees by a people struggling to survive. Yang pointed to a small cluster of plain, brick buildings on North Korea's riverbank — unoccupied, built only for show, he said.

I asked Yang, who has served in South Korea's military (it's mandatory for males) what he thinks about when he looks across the border. The soft-spoken minister paused for a moment and replied:

"Whenever I come over here, I can't help it but I think of two things. We are still at war. Also ... we are a divided country. The sad thing is, the people of North Korea have no idea what's going on here."

"It's only a river between South and North. I have my relatives right there, not knowing whether they are still alive or not."

There was no hint of anger or malice in his voice, just sadness. And hope.

"So it seems, in the human viewpoint, that the leaders of North Korea will not open their doors, but we know and we believe that God has his timetable, and I hope and I pray that God will open their doors — hopefully in my lifetime — so that we can reach them, so that we can spread the Gospel to North Korea."

All the fear, all the absurdity of a conflict I can't understand, melts away when I remember those words. I pray for a mustard-seed portion of the faith brother Yang has.

I pray that God will do what neither those sculptured people nor mankind itself can accomplish. Put the world back together.

CONTACT erik@christianchronicle.org

'GREATER': New biopic doesn't 'Hollywood it up,' church members say

FROM PAGE 3

McDonough. "He was discouraged over and over again but wouldn't take no for an answer."

After graduating with a master's, Burlsworth was the Indianapolis Colt's third-round pick in the 1999 NFL draft.

Eleven days later, he was killed in a car accident.

"Bad things happen to everybody," said Marty Burlsworth's wife, Vickie. "We all go through periods of tragedy, but we must keep the faith."

Just after Brandon's death, movie producers approached the Burlsworths about telling his story on film.

"They wanted to Hollywood it up and put things in there that weren't true," Vickie

Burlsworth said. "We had to hold out."

And they did — for 17 years.

"Greater," rated PG, shows an honest portrayal of Brandon's unlikely rise to the top, his brother and sister-in-law told *The Christian Chronicle*.

"It's hard to show someone doing it right," Vickie Burlsworth said, "but Brandon's example comes through."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Vickie and Marty Burlsworth

WEBSITE: www.greatherthemovie.com



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Phone: (405) 425-5070; Fax (405) 425-5076

Mail: P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100

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President and CEO: Lynn A McMillon

lynn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Editor: Erik Tryggestad

erik@christianchronicle.org

Chief Correspondent: Bobby Ross Jr.

bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

Advertising Manager: Tonya Patton

tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org

Reviews Editor: Kimberly Mauck

kim.mauck@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: Lynda Sheehan

lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: Joy McMillon

joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Editorial Assistant: Laura Akins

laura.akins@christianchronicle.org

Advertising Assistant: Matthew Ware

matthew.ware@christianchronicle.org

Editor Emeritus: Bailey McBride

bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org

TO SUBSCRIBE: See www.christianchronicle.org,

email joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

or call (405) 425-5070.

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SPOTLIGHT

Officer of the Year

OKLAHOMA CITY — Policeman Bradley May, a member of the Edmond Church of Christ, was honored as the South OKC Kiwanis Club Officer of the Year.

In May 2015, the Oklahoma Christian University graduate rescued a driver trapped in a vehicle at the bottom of a deep ravine.

"The engine was on fire," Oklahoma City police said in a Facebook post. "Officer May was able to use his hands

to scoop water out of the ditch and extinguish the flames. He cut the driver's seatbelt loose and remained with him until firefighters arrived."

The award was presented during an Oklahoma City Council meeting.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY OKLAHOMA CITY POLICE

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett congratulates officer Bradley May.



MARY BROWN

Connecticut youth rally draws students from 24 churches, six states

About 130 attendees from 24 Churches of Christ in six states pose for a group photo at a recent youth rally organized by the Manchester Church of Christ in Connecticut. "Will You Rise from the Ashes" served as the youth rally's theme, with 2 Peter 1:5-7 as the main text, Manchester church member Mary Brown said. Jeff Walling, director of the Youth Leadership Initiative at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., spoke. Drue Clark, a recent graduate of Harding University in Searcy, Ark., led worship. Clark, who grew up in New England, double-majored in preaching and youth ministry at Harding. Express, Ohio Valley University's contemporary Christian ensemble, performed.

ALABAMA

ELBA — The Elba Church of Christ served as the hub of disaster relief after flooding recently destroyed or damaged dozens of homes.

The church took information from flood victims seeking help with housing, food and clothing, signed up volunteers and accepted donations of bottled water and nonperishable foods, the Alabama Media Group reported.

"We are definitely in full swing recovery mode," minister Phillip Box told the news organization.

COLORADO

KEENESBURG — The Keenesburg Church of Christ gave away about 200 coats, blankets, caps, scarves and gloves.

The church's teen group helped

with the recent coat and blanket drive, member Bob Zebroski said.

"Along with the clothing, each person received a booklet providing information on the plan of salvation," Zebroski said.

INDIANA

EVANSVILLE — The Jack Henry Gates Memorial Community Laundromat has opened for business.

However, the facility will only accept tokens, and they are available for free through a number of local churches, as the *Courier & Press* recently reported.

The undertaking was started and funded by Dennis Gates, a member of the Newburgh Church of Christ, elder Tracy Hayford said.

Jack Henry Gates — the laundromat's namesake — was Dennis

Gates' father. He died in 2014.

"We want to give back to the community that has been so good to us for the past 40 years," Matt Gates, Dennis' nephew, told the newspaper.

OHIO

BYESVILLE — For a quarter-century, the Stop 9 Church of Christ has provided a free Christmas Day dinner for the poor and lonely in this Appalachian region community.

The event has grown each year, minister Woody Biggs said. At the recent 24th annual Friends Serving Friends Free dinner, 771 meals were served.

"One of my favorite memories was seeing a homeless man sitting at the table sharing a meal with a recently widowed medical doctor," Biggs

said. "The meal became so popular that people from the community come out in droves to help."

TENNESSEE

LINDEN — Kirk Haston's mother, Patti, died in a 1999 tornado that hit Perry County.

So after tornadoes devastated his home county again Dec. 23, the Linden Church of Christ member launched a fundraising effort to help victims.

"I was fortunate enough to see what it was like to have hundreds of people in a community come to the aid of my family," said Haston, a former professional basketball player who now coaches the boys' team at Perry County High School.

By press time, his effort had raised about \$20,000.

WITH HELP FROM 'DUCK DYNASTY'S' women, Louisiana church members practice Heartfelt mentoring

A 'you matter' ministry

BY LAURA AKINS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

While the men in the family are busy duck hunting, the Robertson women are building a dynasty of their own — with help from Joneal Kirby.

Kirby is a longtime member of the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La. — home congregation of the Robertsons of "Duck Dynasty" fame.

Kirby created Heartfelt Ministries, a multi-generational mentoring program for the church, to develop closer relationships among Christian women and to deepen relationships with Jesus Christ.

"We don't live in a society where we visit homes anymore," Kirby said. "Building intentional relationships in living rooms and eating and spending hours there — you're saying to that person, 'You matter. I care about you.'"

Kirby was inspired by Paul's letter to Titus, in which the apostle instructs his fellow evangelist to "teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live" so they can mentor younger women in the church.

During the ministry's first year, 135 women participated — including Kirby's niece, Korie Robertson, and friends Kay and Missy Robertson.

"There are so many younger women who yearn for a guiding hand from older women," Kirby told *The Christian Chronicle*. "There was no way that was previously happening on a routine basis across our church family. So, 13 years ago, God placed this ministry on my heart."

As the ministry — first called Heart to Home — grew, so did Kirby's determination. She fine-tuned the program, offering training kits and seminars, and even gave up her private practice at the Christian Counseling and Resource Center she opened in 2002.

The ministry uses small groups — called Heart groups — consisting of three to four mature women and



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Missy Robertson, Jessica Robertson, Joneal Kirby and Kay Robertson share a laugh as they discuss Bible-based mentoring.

eight to 12 younger women. Each group meets at least once a month, for a nine-month season, in homes with older women acting as hosts.

"The older women offer a place the younger women can relax and focus on their relationship with the Lord," said Kirby, who holds a doctorate in marriage and family therapy. "That's big when you're a working mom or have children."

Hopefully it's like a "spiritual retreat for a few hours," she added.

As more churches heard about Heartfelt, Kirby saw a need to reach larger groups of women at a time. The Robertson women agreed.

"Kay and Missy love this ministry so much," Kirby said. "They are the ones who had the idea to have a conference."

The first Heart to Home conference, held last February, drew 2,200 women from 30 states, representing 40 churches.

Donna Millican, women's ministry coordinator for Park Plaza Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla., attended the conference and a separate training seminar with Kirby.

"That was all it took to fire us up," Millican told the *Chronicle*. "While we are still working through some logistic and organizational bumps, the groups are quite successful. God is using this ministry to bless our women and our entire congregation."

"Without a doubt," she added, "Heartfelt will be a staple ministry in our overall women's ministry."

Because of Heartfelt's rapid growth, Kirby hosted a second conference recently in West Monroe, with the Robertson women as guest speakers.

It's more than a conference, Kirby

said. "It's a heartfelt experience. I want people to leave with a sense of what it feels like and looks like to be in this ministry. I hope they leave with a passion burning within them to start this ministry."

Kirby offered advice for women who want to launch similar programs in their congregations.

"Pray that God will help you find someone with a right-minded heart," she said. "And because God will answer that prayer, get connected with one other person who is not in your age group or stage of life. Once there is a connection, God will provide."

Kay Robertson agrees.

"I don't even have words to describe how good this is," she said in a promotional video for the ministry. "This will change your life. It's changed my life."

WEBSITE: heartfeltministries.org



Millican

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TWENTY MINISTERS, 10 BLACK AND 10 WHITE, boarded a bus in Nashville, Tenn., and toured historic sites of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, along with professors from Abilene Christian University in Texas and Lipscomb University in Nashville, in August 2015.

The tour “was designed to help ministers encounter the truth of racism and begin working together toward reconciliation in our cities and churches,” says Eric Gentry, one of the participants. As we celebrate Black History Month, we present reflections on the tour.

Remembering a ‘Bus Ride to Justice’

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.

I believe that before we can experience reconciliation, we must tell the truth,” said David Fleer, a professor of Bible at Lipscomb University.

That’s why he and Jerry Taylor of Abilene Christian University led our “Bus Ride to Justice,” so we

Views



Eric Gentry

could “touch, see, hear and experience the history of slavery, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Movement,” Fleer said, “all of which speak clearly into our present racial distress in the United States.”

The 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham was our first stop. It was there, on a Sunday morning in 1963, that four little girls were killed when a bomb detonated beneath that historically black church — an act of racial terrorism.

We stood on the spot where their bodies were pulled from the rubble and listened to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s eulogy for the girls, who “say to each of us, black and white alike, that we must substitute courage for caution. They say to us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered them, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderers ...

“Good night, sweet princesses.”

It was impossible to stand in that church — next to black and white brothers in Christ — and not think of recent racially motivated attacks on churches.

Telling the truth was working.

From Birmingham, we traveled to Montgomery, Alabama’s capital. There we stepped off the bus onto Commerce Street, where black slaves once were sold at auction.

Only a few steps away, at the



MATT PINSON

Ministers explore the Civil Rights Memorial in Birmingham, Ala., which displays the names of 41 people who died between 1954 and 1968 in the struggle for equality. Jonathan Stormont, far right, minister for the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, was one of the organizers of the “Bus Ride to Justice” tour.

corner of Commerce Street and Dexter Avenue, Jefferson Davis celebrated his election as president of the Confederacy.

Nearly 100 years later, Rosa Parks boarded another bus at the same intersection. Though Davis spoke of “the progress of a movement sanctified by its justice, and sustained by its virtuous people” in his inaugural address, it was Parks who began a lasting movement for justice.

Just up Dexter Avenue we arrived at the state Capitol, where a Confederate flag flew until June 2015. The Selma-to-Montgomery march of 1965 concluded on its steps. There, Dr. King delivered his “How Long, Not Long” speech.

We listened to his words again: “How long will prejudice blind the visions of men, darken their under-

standing ... How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

We wondered aloud about continued racial disparities in our world and churches today — from economic inequality to disproportionate incarceration numbers, from the #BlackLivesMatter movement to the many churches still failing to realize racial diversity. “How long?” We prayed the answer is “not long.”

The original march was brutally halted on the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma. There, on “Bloody Sunday,” March 7, 1965, state troopers on horseback charged the peaceful demonstrators, beating them with clubs and injuring 50.

Selma was the last stop on our trip. Taylor and Fleer led us over the bridge. These two men are pillars in our movement, joined by common ambition to see “the dividing wall of hostility” mentioned in Ephesians 2:14 finally, totally destroyed.

They continue to lead many of our churches toward racial reconciliation.

On the far side of the bridge, on a monument of 12 stones, the ancient words of Joshua remind us to keep telling the truth: “When your children shall ask you in time to come, what mean these 12 stones, then you shall tell them how you made it over” (Joshua 4:21-22).

We had the privilege to seek out the truth from someone who was there — attorney Fred Gray.

Gray, one of the preeminent lawyers in the Civil Rights Movement, a longtime minister and an elder of the Tuskegee Church of Christ, spoke to us at the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center.

“The experience gave me joy and hope to see the willingness of younger ministers — black and white — to spend their time together,” Taylor said. “They are addressing the difficult questions and topics that a lot of people shy away from. It gave me great hope for the future. This trip will yield a great harvest.”

The tour was powerfully transformative. Each stop was sacred in its own right.

Just as we soak in God’s grace in the bread and cup of the Lord’s Supper, there is something sacramental about being in Alabama. As we touch walls once toppled by bombs and kneel on a bridge that once ran with blood, we taste the Gospel more fully.

ERIC GENTRY is associate preaching minister for the Highland Church of Christ in Cordova, Tenn.

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER and U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) speaks at the inaugural **Fred Gray Lecture in Human and Civil Rights** during this year’s Christian Scholars’ Conference, June 8-10, at Lipscomb University. See www.lipscomb.edu/csc.



Fleer



Taylor



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Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Steven Reeves, search committee chair, at sreaves@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 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 including fostering scholarship among department faculty; setting, evaluating and achieving department goals and objectives consistent with the college and university missions; and maintaining an inclusive 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 jnorrish@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 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; working 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 or Box 12231, Searcy, AR 72149.

Tornado victim lived by faith

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

GREENVILLE, Texas

Other teens might have had a choice whether to participate in church youth group activities, but not the Harris kids.

Timothy Harris expected his children to show up every time — be it to study the Bible, bake cookies for shut-ins or play with Nerf guns at the Johnson Street Church of Christ.

“It wasn’t an optional thing with him,” said Savanna Harris, 22, a senior at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City.

“It was weird to us when kids had a choice,” agreed Sierra Harris Gustafson, 24, an Oklahoma Christian graduate and children’s ministry intern for the Oakcrest Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

“Even if there wasn’t a devotional associated with it, Dad wanted us to go to be with the youth group and have that example,” added Stern Harris, 23, a graduate of Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

With laughter and tears, Timothy Harris’ family — including his wife, Vicki Harris — fondly recalled the 58-year-old tornado victim’s devotion to his Christian faith.

“I don’t think it’s really, really sunk in yet,” Vicki Harris said in an interview at the family’s rural home 50 miles northeast of Dallas. “I know he’s in heaven, so that’s a big relief.”

The husband and father of four lost his life the night of Dec. 26, when an EF-4 tornado struck near the intersection of Interstate 30 and President George Bush Turnpike in Garland, Texas. (Oldest child Sterling Harris, 31, had left to return home and was not a part of *The Christian Chronicle’s* interview.)

In all, eight people were killed as winds up to 200 miles per hour picked

up vehicles and flung them. A ninth victim later succumbed to his injuries.

Caught in the storm, Timothy Harris apparently parked his blue 2010 Hyundai under an overpass, police Lt. Pedro Barineau said.

“It’s very possible that he heard the tornado coming and tried to get the shelter that he could,” Barineau said.

That Saturday, the family had celebrated Christmas a day late.

Timothy Harris was a psychiatric nurse at the Denton State School, a mental care facility. He had worked a double shift Christmas Day and was scheduled to work again Monday. He stayed home as the rest of the family left to celebrate the holidays with extended family in San Antonio.

Why’d he drive to Garland?

“Apparently, after he did his sleeping that day, he decided to run into Garland or Dallas for something,” said Randy Daw, pulpit minister for the Johnson Street church. “That was typical of Tim. He was always looking for a bargain or a car or something.”

CARING AND COMPASSION

At the 400-member church, Timothy Harris demonstrated his faith not by talk but action.

“Tim was a quiet guy around here,” Daw said. “He and his family were just here every time the doors were opened. He would do whatever he was asked to do.”

For years, Timothy and Vicki Harris helped with World Bible School, grading correspondence courses during Monday Night for the Master.

Vicki Harris, who met her husband in nursing school at Texas Woman’s University, said he always had a heart for sharing Jesus overseas.

“In nursing school, he had some Chinese friends, so he wanted to go to China. He had never been there, but he wanted to go so bad,” said Vicki Harris, who asked that



Family members of Timothy Harris hold photos remembering their loved one. Pictured, from left, are Stern Harris, Savanna Harris, Sierra Harris Gustafson and Vicki Harris.

any excess funds donated for her husband’s funeral go to the Chinese Agape Foundation, a ministry supported by Churches of Christ.

Timothy Harris served as a captain in the Army Reserves. First a para-trooper, he later joined a medical unit and deployed to Germany during the Iraq War. He didn’t talk much about his work or military experiences.

But after his death, his family learned of his caring and compassion touching many — including a colleague with cancer. “She said Tim would always encourage her, call her or send her text messages,” said Vicki Harris, who has battled cancer herself. “He told me there was a lady that had breast cancer, but that’s all he said.”

NO ANSWER BUT JESUS

Why?

After Timothy Harris’ death, that’s the impossible question.

“Why wasn’t it some evil person?” Daw said, repeating what church members have asked him.

For the funeral sermon, the minister turned to John 11, where Mary and Martha ask why Jesus didn’t keep their brother Lazarus from dying.

In Harris’ case, “the question would be, why would God who controls the universe allow this man to die when he still had work to do?” Daw said.

“We can’t answer that question, but we know who Jesus is, and we trust him.”

As the family grieves, fellow Christians from near and far shower them with love — preparing meals, sending cards, donating money.

“Dad would have been overwhelmed by the church taking care of his family,” said Gustafson, her words barely audible as she wept.

“We have so many prayer warriors out there covering us in prayer,” Stern Harris added.

Vicki Harris said those prayer warriors sustain her.

“I don’t know what it would be like if we didn’t have the church to support us,” she said. “I don’t even want to go that route and think about it.”

‘I don’t think it’s really ... sunk in yet. I know he’s in heaven, so that’s a big relief.’

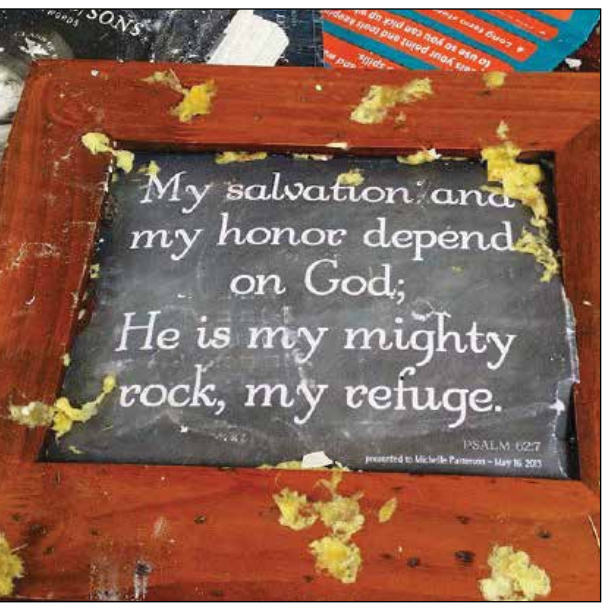
Vicki Harris



The Army presented the family with a flag at Capt. Timothy Harris’ funeral.

PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

TORNADOES: Churches mobilize to help storm victims



A framed Scripture recovered from the debris.

MICHELLE PATTERSON



The sun sets over Mike and Michelle Patterson's neighborhood after a tornado destroyed the family's house.

MIKE PATTERSON

FROM PAGE 1

estimated claims could hit \$1.2 billion.

Dallas-area congregations — including the Eastridge Church of Christ in Rockwall, the Meadow View Church of Christ in Mesquite, the Ovilla Church of Christ and the Wylie Church of Christ — mobilized to serve victims and first responders.

Austin Roach, 31, worked with the Serving God by Serving Others relief ministry of the Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas.

Roach said his own life was a complete wreck until Jesus cleaned it up.

"I'm going to show them (tornado victims) what Christ can do in their lives, both physically and spiritually," said Roach, who used his mechanical skills to keep chainsaws running.

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, based in Nashville, Tenn., sent tractor-trailer loads full of emergency food boxes, personal hygiene products, cleaning materials and other supplies.

Disaster Assistance CoC, sponsored by the Lake Jackson Church of Christ in Texas, and the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team out of West Melbourne, Fla., prepared meals and helped organize volunteers.

"We're serving as a warm place for people to eat," said Saturn Road elder Gary Bingham, overseeing a relief site in Garland.

"But also, this is where volunteers are being sent out."

Nearly five years ago, Mike Patterson and son Blake traveled to Tuscaloosa, Ala., to clear fallen trees after a swath of deadly twisters.

"It really helped me, in some ways, to be a little

bit prepared for this," the father said of that mission trip. "(But) it's very different when you walk in your own home and see the devastation."

Even before the Pattersons could arrange flights home, fellow Christians rushed to salvage their treasured photographs and search for the family's 4-year-old cat, Bella. Two days after the storm, the frightened pet was found hiding under a mattress and Sheetrock.

About a dozen of Blake's friends from the Chi Lambda Phi social service club at Oklahoma Christian University came to help clean up. Likewise, Cameron's Dallas Christian School classmates worked to lift his spirits.

"God has been watching out for us in so many ways," Mike Patterson said. "First and foremost, we weren't here when this thing hit."

Their next-door neighbors sought cover in a closet under their stairwell, Michelle Patterson said.

"It took 30 minutes and a bunch of people to dig them out," she said.

At worship the next Sunday, the Pattersons thanked the Saturn Road church for its love and support.

"Everybody was just handing us gift cards, handing us money," Michelle Patterson said.

Keepsakes recovered from the family's home include a framed Scripture: Psalm 62:7 holds special meaning after the tornado.

"I could not believe I found it just sitting there in the rubble," Michelle Patterson said. "It made my day."

The words still visible through bits of clinging, wet debris: God "is my mighty rock, my refuge."



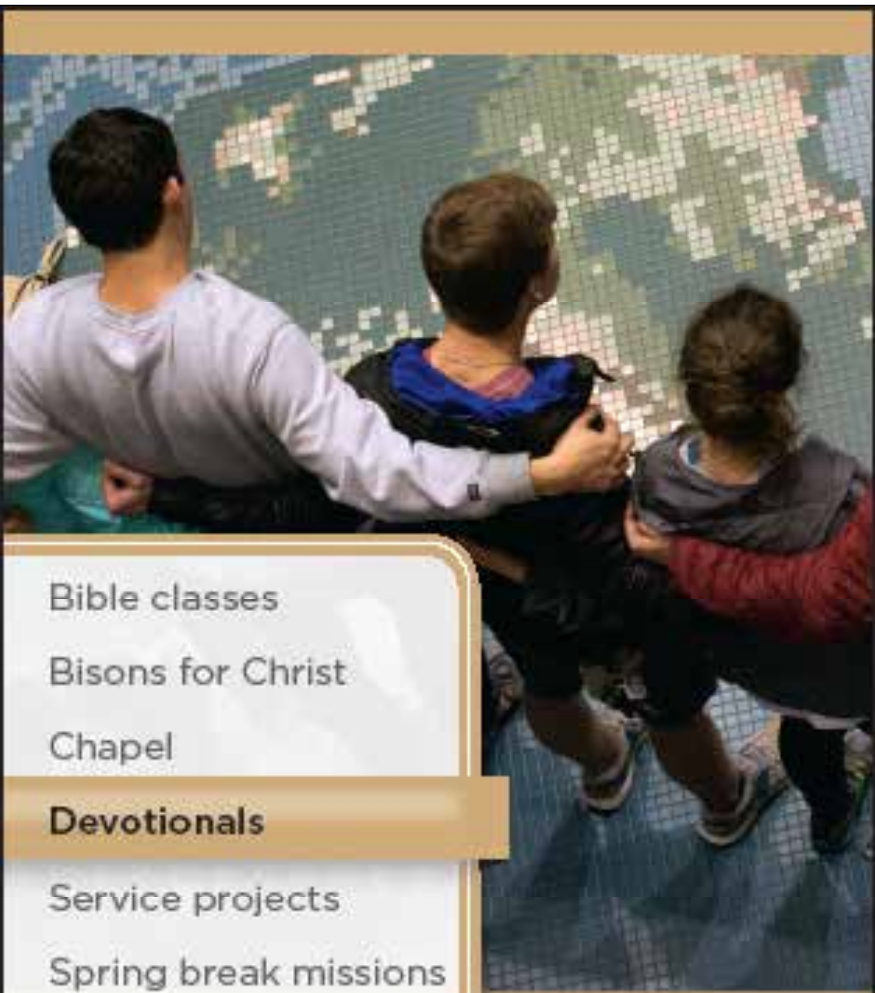
Blake Patterson, 21, stands on a mattress amid the rubble in Rowlett, Texas.

BOBBY ROSS JR.



A sign on a tree next to the Pattersons' residence warns of the unsafe conditions after the storm.

BOBBY ROSS JR.



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Devotionals

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Harding is, at its core, a Christian university. We strive to integrate faith into all aspects of University life — from classrooms and athletic fields to residence halls and study abroad programs. Students are encouraged in their relationship with Christ and receive an education built on faith and Christian principles. Daily chapel and Bible classes allow students to grow spiritually, and service projects and mission trips give opportunities to put Christianity into practice. As a result, a student's time at Harding has an eternal impact.



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BOBBY ROSS JR.

Lisa Kelly, with daughter Caroline, enjoys a laugh while making meals for tornado victims.

After the storm, heeding Jesus' words

GARLAND, Texas

I've seen too much tornado damage. Tuscaloosa, Ala. Joplin, Mo. Moore, Okla. My journeys with *The Christian Chronicle* have exposed me to too many lives lost. Too many piles of rubble. Too many tears.

Yet I never fail to be inspired by the way Christians respond to such catastrophes. When twisters strike, God's people rise to the challenge: with prayers, donations and no small amount of work and sweat.

After tornadoes hit the Dallas area Dec. 26, I found Julie Truex (pictured with me), Lisa Kelly and their daughters tending a giant pot of chili.

In a mobile kitchen set up by the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team out of West Melbourne, Fla., the volunteers prepared hot meals for between 150 and 200 people a day.

They fed both tornado victims and disaster relief workers.

"What's more biblical than feeding people?" asked Truex, working alongside daughters Cheney, 13, and Haley, 11.

"It's basic to me," the Saturn Road Church of Christ member added. "It's like instinct. When something happens to somebody, you bake

something. You take it to them. You feed them."

Fellow Saturn Road member Kelly and her daughter Caroline, 18, a student at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., joined the Truexes.

When Lisa Kelly was in second grade, she lost her own home in an Arkansas tornado.

"We have good church friends who took us in," she said. "We stayed there until we could get to my grandparents' (place)."

Heaping a meal such as chicken-fried chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans on a victim's plate, she can't help but reflect on those memories.

Near the mobile kitchen, the Saturn Road church erected

an open-air tent to process emergency supplies and assess needs.

"We had a family that basically just camped out in the tent," Lisa Kelly said. "They were cold and wet and hungry and just needed a place to warm up and get something to eat."

May God bless the Christians in Garland — and elsewhere — heeding the Lord's words in Matthew 25.

"Truly I tell you," Jesus said, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Road Notes



Bobby Ross Jr.

CONTACT bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org. For links to help, see www.christianchronicle.org.

ESTONIA

KLOOGARANNA — Christians from across the Baltic nations of northern Europe gathered at the Kloogaranna Youth Camp for a recent retreat. James Waugh, minister for the Church of Christ on McDermott Road in Plano, Texas, was the guest speaker. The church supports the work of Nikolai Vasjutin in Tallinn (Estonia's capital) and the city of Tartu and is involved with a summer youth camp.

INDIA

KAKINADA — About 4,000 people attended annual Bible lectures in this city on the Bay of Bengal in southern India, minister Ricky Gootam said. Speakers included Indian evangelists Sadguna Rao and Sudarsana Rao and church members from the U.S., including Lewis Rushmore and Roger Wright.

ITALY

BASSANO DEL GRAPPA — A Church of Christ planted in this northern Italian city in 2014 recently hosted its first lectureship. Eddie Dadzie preaches for the church, composed entirely of Christians from the West African nation of Ghana.

The only non-Ghanaians at the event were Jeff Brauer and Jeremy Korodaj, missionaries in Padova, Italy, and an Italian believer from a Church of Christ in Conegliano. A participant translated from the Ghanaian language, Twi, to Italian for the Italian Christian while the missionaries used translation equipment purchased for the Padova church.

"I must admit," Korodaj said, "that it was the first time that we had been on the listening end of the equipment."

LATVIA

RIGA — Just south of Estonia, a small group of Christians and visitors gathered for a Bible lecture series in this Baltic nation's capital. "You Can Trust the Bible — Getting to Know the Bible and Bible Evidences" was the title. Guest speakers from the U.S. were Wayne Brewer, Michael Wyatt and Michael Richardson.

SINGAPORE

Christians across this Southeast Asian city state mourn the loss of Jane Hogan, 90, who died Jan. 17.



PHOTO PROVIDED

A barrel baptism in Haiti

In Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 14-year-old Mildred prepares to give her life to Christ — in a 55-gallon drum filled with water. Larry Waymire immersed the young woman in the water-conserving baptistery during Sunday worship with the Santo Church of Christ.

"The water comes from a hand pump and is carried into the building in five-gallon buckets," Waymire said. "This can be done in about 10 to 15 minutes."

Waymire oversees the International School of Theology in Port-au-Prince, an extension school of Denver-based Bear Valley Bible Institute International.



FAITH MURRELL

Jane and Gordon Hogan sign a memory book after worshipping with the Moulmein Church of Christ in Singapore in 2015.

Hogan and her husband, Gordon, were pioneering missionaries to Pakistan and Singapore.

In Singapore, "she has played such an integral part in the history of Moulmein Church of Christ and taught, mentored, inspired, encouraged, loved and cared for so many of us here," church members posted on the congregation's Facebook page.

Gordon Hogan is an elder of the College Church of Christ in Searcy, Ark. The couple was married for 68 years. Their son, Dave Hogan, serves as a minister for the Moulmein church.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

HONIARA — "Never in the history of our 26 years laboring in the Pacific has there been a nation that has responded to the Gospel as well as the people of the Solomon Islands are now responding," Randy and Sharon English write in a recent report.

The couple, based in American Samoa, makes regular teaching trips to the nation of more than 350 islands and 523,000 souls. On remote Reef Island, for example, a Church of Christ has topped 100 members and has sent out workers to assist in other areas, the Englishes report.

SPOTLIGHT

Responding to terrorist attacks with prayer

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — Current and former missionaries to this landlocked nation in West Africa ask for prayers after an attack by terrorists claimed 28 lives and left 55 injured.

Militants with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb claimed responsibility for the attacks at a hotel in the capital, Ouagadougou.

A few Churches of Christ meet in the capital and in villages of the country's south, near its border with Ghana. Missionaries based in Dano, west of the capital, and supported by Churches of Christ have worked among the Dagara people, where a disciple-making movement has resulted in thousands of baptisms.

One American couple, Geoffrey and Suzanne Richter, currently serves in Dano and reported 774 baptisms and seven new churches in 2015.

Though no missionaries or members of Churches of Christ were reported among the casualties, the attacks claimed the lives of workers with other faith groups, including Michael Riddering, who oversaw an orphanage and partnered with the Richters in a program that helps infants in distress.

During the attacks, another group of terrorists kidnapped Dr. Ken Elliot, an 80-year-old Australian medical missionary, and his wife Jocelyn in Baraboule, 100 miles from the capital.

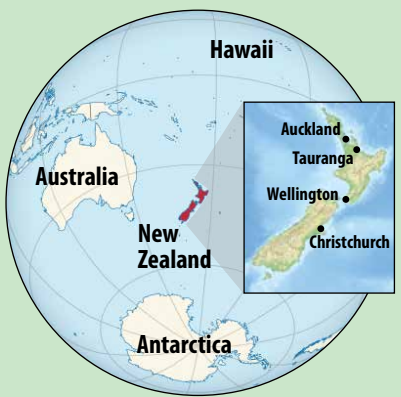
"I have thought of their kindness many times over the years," Amy Carter, a former member of the Dagara team, said of the Elliots. "They have touched my life. Please join me in praying for this amazing couple who have blessed so many lives."



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Baptisms in Burkina Faso in 2009.

New Zealand



POPULATION: 4.74 million; **RELIGION:** 44.3 percent Christian (including Catholic, Anglican and Protestant). **CHURCHES OF CHRIST:** Scottish Restoration movement followers started congregations in the 1840s. U.S. missionaries began working to build up small a cappella churches in the 1950s. Now the nation has 25 Churches of Christ, and about 1,700 people identify as members.

South Pacific Bible College spbc.org.nz

LOCATION: Tauranga, a harbor city in the Bay of Plenty region of New Zealand's North Island.
FOUNDED: 1982, with support from churches including the Otumotai Church of Christ in Tauranga and the Lakewood Church of Christ in Denver. Currently the High Pointe Church of Christ in McKinney, Texas, sponsors the college.
PROGRAMS: A two-year Diploma of Advanced Biblical Studies and a one-year, post-graduate Diploma of Christian Ministry.
GRADUATES: 190 to date, representing 20 countries. Additional students study part time.
FACULTY/STAFF: Lecturers include Steve Raine, principal; Mike Austin, CFO; David Nelson, dean of academics; and John Atchley, compliance officer. Ministers from abroad and professors from Christian universities in the U.S. teach courses regularly. The college has four part-time support staffers.
MISSION: "South Pacific Bible College exists to transform lives through the inspiration of God's Word to multiply Christ-followers in the world."



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD
SOURCES: CIA World Factbook, "Churches of Christ Around the World" by Mac Lynn, interviews. Maps via Wikimeida Commons.



Principal Steve Raine teaches a course on the New Testament.



Mink Gough and fellow students compare notes during a break.

SOUTH PACIFIC: College sends grads worldwide

FROM PAGE 1
in New Zealand and Australia, reflecting similar trends in Western nations, Asia's churches are burgeoning. About 350 million people in Asia call themselves Christians, the Pew Research Center estimates. That number could rise to 460 million by 2025.

Churches of Christ grew rapidly in New Zealand in the 1970s, but many potential leaders sought ministry training in the U.S. and never returned. To stem the brain drain, the Otumotai Church of Christ in Tauranga, a coastal city on the country's North Island, launched the college in 1982. Soon young Christians from Fiji

joined their kiwi counterparts, and in the college's second decade souls came from other South Pacific islands.

In recent years the college has attracted students from Southeast Asia.

"The benefits for the region," Raine said, "are that you have indigenous people trained to help lead the church."

In Papua New Guinea, for example, graduates of the college "are contributing tremendously to the work of the Lord," said

Wesley Wosse, a minister in the city of Lae. In addition to ministering for Churches of Christ, graduates assist in preparing future generations of indigenous leaders. One graduate, Jab Mesa, serves as president of Melanesian Bible College in Lae.

Other graduates of South Pacific Bible College have evangelized and planted churches in New Zealand, Fiji, Thailand, Switzerland, the U.S. and Chile.

The college offers a two-year Diploma of Advanced Biblical Studies and a one-year, post-grad Diploma in Christian Ministry. In addition to coursework, students get hands-on experience interning with kiwi congregations.

"The students often say that they're learning as much from the interaction with the local churches here as they do in the classroom," Raine said.

Though diverse, the most recent crop of students was the first in its history with no kiwis at all, the principal said. Two students came from China. Cecilia Wu is one of them.

"I always thought there was a creator of the world, but I grew up

From the EAST Matthew 8:11

See more stories from Churches of Christ in Asia and the South Pacific at www.christianchronicle.org.

Jennifer Saavedra Davao, Philippines



"Can you invite me to your church? I want to know your God." Saavedra asked that question of one of her friends when she was a teenager. Thus began her Christian walk.

A member of the Matina Church of Christ in the Philippines, she finds the college to be academically rigorous. But it also exposes her to different cultures and perspectives on her faith, she said. She hopes to serve as a missionary after graduation.

Joel Gough Canberra, Australia



"I always believed in God," said Gough, though he grew up surrounded by violence and drugs.

Searching for truth, he found a 10-member Church of Christ that "didn't condemn me even though I'd come to church hung over."

Now clean and sober, he enrolled at the college and will serve as an evangelist for the Canberra Church of Christ after graduation. He recently married one of his classmates, Mink.

Bonnie Chen Guangdong, China



"I was baptized two years ago, but I don't know most of the Bible," said Chen, a native of China's Guangdong province who moved to Auckland, New Zealand, and was introduced to the Gospel by the Morningside Church of Christ.

She came to the college to increase her understanding of Scripture. Churches are small and hard to find in her homeland, she said, so she hopes to help them however she can.

in an environment that had lots of gods,” Wu said. Then a friend in her native Shanghai invited her to church. Now Wu, the first Christian in her family, studies the Bible and fellowships with Christians from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The students reflect demographics in cities throughout the region, said David Payne, an evangelist for the Belmore Road Church of Christ in Melbourne, Australia, who has taught courses at the college for the past 10 years.

“God has positioned SPBC to become one of the most diverse biblical training schools on the planet because we live in one of the most diverse regions of the planet,” Payne said. In a rapidly changing world, the college “is successfully training a new generation of workers that are equipped to function amongst the diversity of the region.”

Local Christians support the work, with the goal of making it self-sustaining, said Edwin “Sandy” Detherage, a member of the High Pointe Church of Christ in McKinney, Texas, which sponsors the college. But an increasing number of potential students come from poor economies and need assistance, he added.

“While churches in Australia, New Zealand and, for that matter, the U.S.A., may be declining,” Detherage said, “a robust, multi-cultural, enthusiastic student body brings a new interest and zeal to Christianity.

“Perhaps God knew that our comforts have spoiled us — and that we need the new spark as much as they need the academic rigors of Bible study.”

Mink Gough, a recent graduate from Bangkok, Thailand, described her two years at the college as eye-opening.

“It’s been challenging,” she said of the experience. “But it has helped me to understand the Bible better in terms of context. We misunderstand a lot of the Scriptures, and we use them for our own advantage. That’s the biggest thing I’ve learned about the Bible.”

Chan Ho Jung
Seoul, South Korea



“I’ve been a Christian for more than 20 years, but I feel I am just a Sunday church-goer,” said Jung.

Born in South Korea, his family moved to New Zealand and continues to search for a church home. Jung enrolled in the college because “I want to know more, and then I want to grow my faith,” he said. He particularly likes his Greek classes. When asked what he wants to do with his degree, he said, “It really doesn’t matter. Just purely, I want to learn the Bible.”

Ofa None
Nuku’alofa, Tonga



“I thought only good people could pray,” said None, who grew up in Tonga, an island nation where many profess Christ but don’t follow him.

Though a preacher’s daughter, None spent time drinking with friends and felt far from God. Now she prays regularly as she studies at the college.

She hopes to serve as a youth leader with her church. She reaches out to her friends, and some have expressed a newfound interest in faith, she said.

Bobby Whippy
Savusavu, Fiji



“In Fiji, everyone claims to be a Christian,” said Whippy, whose father ministers for a small Church of Christ in the South Pacific nation. But few people live as if redeemed by Christ’s blood, he added. Whippy came to the college to improve his Bible knowledge and plans to return to Fiji as a church-planting evangelist.

In Fiji, “people are very receptive to studying the Bible,” he said. “I’m going back with my family to spread the Word.”



SHANGHAI SALVATION: Cecilia Wu planned to earn a degree in Bible — when she retired. First she needed to make money, she said.

Then a friend in Shanghai, China, where Wu grew up, told her that “if I have a chance to change my life, just do it immediately. Don’t wait.”

Wu enrolled at South Pacific Bible College. “Academically, it’s more challenging than I expected,” she said. “I never received any systematic Bible education ever. I didn’t know there are so many things I didn’t know.”

**Recovering addict
finds a place of
learning, healing**

No one wanted me. I would be a big risk. But the school gave me a chance,” said Juan Cusi of his time at South Pacific Bible College.

Cusi grew up in Churches of Christ on the island of Cebu in the Philippines. A longtime drug abuser, he was looking to change his life. At the college in New Zealand, then-dean of students Roger Craig agreed to admit and mentor the troubled youth.



“I was a stranger, but he showed me God’s grace,” Cusi said. “At first, my goal was just to get myself to go to school — baby steps, one day, two days, then one week, one month.

“I wasn’t the best student. You can ask (academic dean) David Nelson about that. But he never gave up on me.”

Outside the classroom, the college “taught me how to be patient, how to share Christ’s love the way it was shared with a struggling, recovering addict,” he said. He began to see the church as a community where he could experience healing.

Since graduating, Cusi has returned to Cebu. He assists with medical missions and reaches out to other recovering addicts. He’s active in his congregation and has seen it change for the better.

“Sunday isn’t just Sunday worship but an all-day event,” he said. “We’re all involved with each other’s lives.”

A year after Cusi graduated, Craig traveled to Cebu to see how his former student was doing.

“Roger is family,” Cusi said. “If he hadn’t sat down and talked with me almost every day, maybe things would have been different.”

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"The Joy of the Lord
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"Stand Up and Praise
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PREACH IT, TEECH

FOR CALIFORNIA MINISTER, *rap music is a way to share the Gospel with a new generation.*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SANTA ANA, Calif.

As Jason “Teech” Darden grabs a microphone, loud music pulsates. The audience — a group of urban students invited to a Saturday mentoring event — cheers as Darden begins to rap.

“Turn it up right here,” the Christian hip-hop artist instructs as he grooves to the rhythmic beat.

Darden, 34, sports an Oakland Raiders cap, a

black hooded sweatshirt and camouflage pants as he invites the children gathered at Martin R. Heninger Elementary School to repeat the lyrics.

“I said, ‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart!’” he declares again and again.

Twenty-four hours later, Darden dons a different wardrobe — a white, button-down shirt, dark slacks and shiny brown shoes — as he steps to the pulpit of the 200-member Mission Viejo Church of Christ.

In each venue, he expresses the same

passion: his love for Jesus Christ.

“For Teech, it’s always been about spreading the Word,” said Marcus Thompson, a West Oakland Church of Christ member collaborating with Darden and Anthony Nelson to create the hip-hop label Kerusso Music.

Wu-Tang Clan. Busta Rhymes. Puff Daddy.

Growing up, these were some of Darden’s musical influences.

“Just like any other kid that grew up in the inner cities, I really liked hip-hop,” said Darden,



Anthony Nelson, Jason Darden and Marcus Thompson, all members of Churches of Christ, pose at a video shoot.

MARQUES DU PREE

who — as the son of an Army Ranger — lived all over the globe, from Germany to Georgia. “But a lot of the lyrics and stuff like that were full of misogyny and violence.”

After graduating from Greater Atlanta Christian School in Norcross, Ga., in 1999, Darden headed to Harding University in Searcy, Ark., to play football.

A 5-foot-6, 185-pound running back and strong safety, he double-majored in kinesiology and missions. But a Harding roommate — Josh Davidson — objected to his choice of music.

“How are you going to listen to evil lyrics and try to live a Christian life?” Darden recalls his

friend asking. A heated argument ensued.

“He was like, ‘The Scripture says, ‘Flee from all appearance of evil,’” Darden said, referring to 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

The conversation marked a turning point for Darden, who stopped listening to secular music.

Darden never expected to become a hip-hop artist.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he joined the Army Reserves and deployed to Egypt, temporarily delaying his studies.

CONTINUED

THE LYRICS OF TEECH

LIVING WATER

*Like Frankenstein, I was dead, now alive
Shocked by the Gospel, it's alive, it's alive!*

*Here is water, what doth hinder thee
Here is water, what doth hinder thee
Living water leads to eternity
Come to me, come to me*

OIL AND WATER

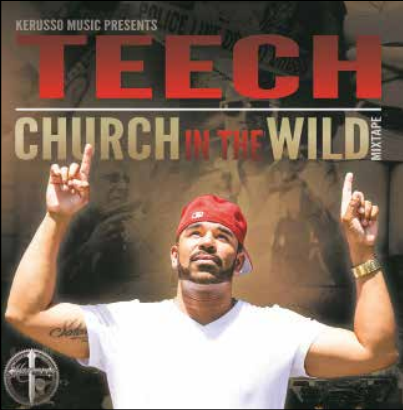
*OK, I can understand why you question and you doubt
A preacher doing hip-hop, what's that all about?
The two don't go together, like oil mixed with water
But Jesus hung with prostitutes so they could see
the Father*

*I need to set the record straight, about your
misconceptions
They need me in the streets, catching souls
like interceptions
That's why I'm writing sixteens and eights
on every chorus
Screaming Jesus is the way
I know they're deaf but can't ignore us
That's why I went to seminary, Fuller to be specific,
Left the comfort of the Bible Belt for the Pacific*

WHITE FLAG

*I surrender all, I'm waving the white flag
My life was in the trenches like a soldier from
Vietnam
I'm fighting a losing war, no longer can I ignore
The Lord and his word, of course
Read it, it will enforce
He made us both woman and man
Like clay in the Potter's hand
Will you mold me and make me?
Break me to shape me?*

'LIVING WATER' is from Jason Darden's first album, "Church In The Wild." The others are from the upcoming "The Second Self."



HIP-HOP PREACHER



Jason Darden, sporting an Oakland Raiders cap and camouflage pants, performs for children during a Triple Threat Mentoring event at a California elementary school.

CONTINUED

Once he fulfilled his military service, he returned to Harding, where he had met his wife, Mary, in a freshman Bible class. They have two daughters: Alayla, 12, and Izabella, 9.

After graduating in 2005, Darden preached for the North Metro Church of Christ in Sacramento, Calif.

He later joined a Kairos church-planting effort and then did campus ministry at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

"I had some non-Christian friends and family members who would listen to terrible rap music everyday," the minister said. "Joking around, I said I was going to record some Christian rap and give it to them so that they could learn about Christ."

"Next thing I know, I'm baptizing my friend," added Darden, who immersed the friend, John Castro, on a Sunday night in 2011. "God placed a vision on my heart that day."

Before the Mission Viejo church hired Darden in 2013, elder Ken DuBose searched online for sermons.

"The first thing I came across was one of his rap songs," DuBose said. "I just thought, 'Well, that's interesting,'

I'd heard so many good things about him, and we had vetted him with a number of people. We knew he was a great guy."

Besides making rap music, Darden remains a captain in the Army Reserves, serving as a chaplain.

"The elders are super supportive of the music, even more so than the military because they don't want me to get deployed and be taken away," he said. "But with the music, they are saying, 'Jason, use it somehow to reach people, and we'll support you in that.'"

How did a preacher (Darden), a sports columnist (Thompson) and a steelworker (Nelson) come to start a Christian hip-hop label?

Thompson, 38, who writes about the Golden State Warriors and other major sports teams for the Bay Area News Group, listened to hip-hop as a boy. So when the columnist spotted Nelson, a one-time secular rapper, at an areawide hymn singing, he recognized him.

"I was heavily into gangsta rap, especially the Oakland artists, and (Nelson) was one of the good, underground rappers," Thompson said. "He



The Mission Viejo Church of Christ listens to a Sunday morning sermon by minister Jason Darden. Mission Viejo is about 50 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

was in a group called Bad-N-Fluenz. After hearing the kind of music he did, I couldn't believe he was a Christian."

Asked what a good Church of Christ kid was doing listening to that kind of music, Thompson laughed and replied: "I wasn't a good Church of Christ kid. I was a *kid*."

Nelson, 42, said the tragic death of his partner, "Rappin' Ron" Royster, in 1996 initiated a spiritual journey that led him to read the Bible and seek a higher calling.

Now a member of the Brentwood Church of Christ in California, Nelson was baptized in 2000 after a man at the refinery where he worked invited him to Bible studies.

"It's all of those things that you might think about or see on TV when an individual does not know the Lord," he said of his former life. "I mean, unrestrained merrymaking, winebibbing, promiscuity, corrupt communication."

As an adult, Thompson had stopped listening to secular hip-hop music.

"I loved rap, but it was clearly too poor of an influence on my mind," he said.

When Thompson connected with Nelson, he encouraged his brother in Christ — who once made profanity-laden music as "Ant Diddley Dog" — to redeem hip-hop by recording songs promoting the Gospel.

Darden entered the mix when Thompson met him at the Pepperdine University Bible Lectures in 2012.

Darden and Nelson — now known as "A. Doulos," which is Greek for "a servant" — have done concerts together in Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles, Oakland, Raleigh, N.C., and San Diego.

Thompson serves as an unpaid manager for the artists.

The three are working to develop Kerusso Music and release the Oakland-based label's first albums.



Minister Jason Darden played football at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.



A boy named José visits with Jason Darden, right, during a mentoring event at Heninger Elementary School in Santa Ana, Calif. Darden taught the students how to write hip-hop lyrics to express their emotions. "It's really a story about how you feel inside," he told them.

Meanwhile, Darden bought a recording studio in Anaheim and launched Teech Music.

While Kerusso (Greek for "proclaimers") will focus on making and selling records, Teech Music looks to partner with community nonprofits.

"The studio is an evangelistic tool," Darden said. "I want people from the community to come to our studio and record any kind of music they want. But we do say, 'If you are going to come here, you have to follow a few rules: No parties. No taking drugs. No profanity.' And everybody respects that because we say it up front."

Darden takes his hip-hop name — Teech — from the Great Commission in Matthew 28.

That's where Jesus tells his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and "teaching" them to obey all his commands.

"I wanted to use the music to figure out how to share the Gospel in a post-modern, contemporary way," he said. "If you can get people a CD or USB with some songs on it, they are really likely to listen to that and just check it out."

At the Los Angeles-area school event, Darden performs two songs: "You're My God" and "Trust in the Lord."

Then he teaches the students — most of whom live below the federal poverty level — how to write hip-hop lyrics to express their emotions.

"It's really a story about how you feel inside," he tells them.

Hip-hop allows Darden to connect with the children in a special way, said Vernon Gee, program manager for Triple Threat Mentoring, which organized the event.

"This is all these kids are doing," Gee said of rap music. "They're not playing soccer. They're trying to become rap stars."

Darden's goal: to inspire children to ask questions about his faith.

"When I start with music, they go, 'All right, he's a rapper. Really cool,'" the minister said. "Then when I start talking about Jesus or trusting in the Lord, they go, 'I didn't know you could talk about rap *and* God.'"

Christian hip-hop, he suggests, can be the 21st century version of evangelistic tracts or door knocking.

"I used to do a lot of that, too," Darden said with a smile.



Welcome team volunteer Bill Dorrough, left, greets minister Jason Darden at the Mission Viejo Church of Christ.

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.

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Delaware Christian University is seeking highly qualified and motivated individuals to join our faculty and staff for the 2016-2017 academic year. We are seeking individuals who are committed to Christian ministry and education.

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Applications for positions are accepted on an ongoing basis. For more information, please visit our website at www.dcu.edu.

TEXAS BASKETBALL COACH Will Chapman talks about his journey to Europe with a team of Christian athletes

Faith on the court, at home and overseas

BY KATIE JONES AND ERIK TRYGGESTAD
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Bible and basketball are Will Chapman's passions. He studies both.

As a member of the coaching staff for Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, the 26-year-old works in multiple aspects of the game. He helps recruit players and breaks down videos to help them develop the skills they need on the court. He also helps them in the classroom, acting as a liaison with the university's academic departments.

His faith in Christ and love of the sport drive him. He played two seasons of junior varsity basketball for Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City and then spent two seasons as a program assistant before becoming a graduate assistant coach for head coach Dan Hays.

After earning a master's in sports administration, he took an assistant coaching position at Southwestern Oklahoma State University for a year before moving to Corpus Christi in 2014.

Last summer Chapman joined the coaching staff for Athletes in Action, a faith-based program that takes players overseas to compete on the court and share their faith in Christ.

Chapman, who grew up in the MacArthur Park Church of Christ in San Antonio, received the invitation to coach for Athletes in Action again in 2016, with possible travel destinations in Europe or Australia.

"It will just depend on if I can get away again," he said. "Division 1 athletics are still crazy busy in the summer with camps and workouts — but I would love to go again for sure."

Growing up, did you have any favorite players or coaches who inspired you to pursue a life in basketball?

As a young boy, I always wanted to be a coach. Growing up, playing my whole life, all the way through my second year at Oklahoma Christian, I enjoyed learning the game and watching more than I did playing.

That's when I really knew I should get into the profession. Some coaches that inspired me were Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio



DAN FORCELLA

Will Chapman is in his second season with the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Islanders.

Spurs, my grandpa who was a coach, and coach Dan Hays at Oklahoma Christian. Coach Hays really helped me get into the college game and gave me a chance to get my feet wet and pursue what I wanted.

What is Athletes in Action?

It's an organization. They do various things, but the main thing is called Foreign Tours. A director and a disciple — guys who lead Christ-like activities — find Division 1 college coaches and find D1 players throughout the country at various universities. They form a team and travel to Europe.

We compete and do Christ-like activities. We call it "team time." We're traveling, playing games every day, and we're practicing. And we're also having a kind of study group for a couple of hours every day where we reflect on the day and our relationship with Christ. We read the Bible and talk about Christ-related stories.

The organization is all throughout

the United States. It's Christian people doing godly things. It's a very powerful and faithful organization. I was very impressed by it.

In which countries did you play, and for how long?

We were in Poland for the most part; we were in Germany for a little bit and Belarus a little bit too.

We were there for a little over two weeks.

What was the overall experience like for you?

It's a life-changing experience — to see how life is different in other parts of the world, to see something different and to do it with people who are seeking and believing in the same thing as you.

I didn't know anyone going into the tour. Spending two-and-a-half weeks with people you don't really know, countries you've never been to (and then) leaving two-and-a-half weeks later really close to these

guys and seeing other parts of the world is just fascinating.

How did your faith play a part on the tour?

My faith and my background with Christ — obviously, that was the reason I was coaching. Every decision I make comes from my relationship with the Lord. That affected how I conducted myself over there and my general outlook on the trip.

Do you feel that your faith was strengthened by your experience with Athletes in Action?

My faith really expanded on this trip because of the time spent with the players and the other coaches. We became very close and tight during the tour. We were around each other all day, every day for half of a month.

Learning different people's faith stories and perspectives on Christ helped me become a stronger Christian and allowed me to be more open with my faith and spiritual life.

Coaching is one of the professions where you can impact so many young men's lives while you coach them — whether that's a long or short time — and this was another opportunity for me.

There's a famous quote attributed to Billy Graham: "One coach will impact more young people in one year than the average person does in a lifetime." I really take that quote to heart and believe and live by that.

As a Christian, is it difficult to coach at a secular school?

No, it's not, because it gives me an opportunity to reach out — seek out — people who know about Christ, but they don't have a real strong background as far as faith. As one of the basketball coaches, I use that to my advantage.

It's a big school, so I look at it as a positive thing — from an opportunity standpoint — to spread the Word and help people with their relationship with Christ.



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

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:
hoovercpa@nts-online.net

A Great Discovery!

An exciting opportunity is coming to the **Poplar and Warner Church of Christ** in Guthrie, Okla. **Dr. Don Patton**, a Consultant Geologist and Archaeologist, will be with us on **Sunday through Wednesday, February 21-24, 2016.**

Dr. Patton has worked in the archeological research of David's Palace, the Pool of Siloam and Qumran. He has uncovered the longest consecutive dinosaur trail in the U.S. and has done other research on dinosaurs.

Don has also been searching for Noah's Ark for the past 10 years. He has made numerous trips to Turkey and the Ararat mountains researching sightings and archeological evidence of its existence. There is a great deal of controversy in this area, and we simply suggest that you come and hear what Dr. Patton has to say concerning the evidence he has uncovered. We hope you will put this date on your calendar and come join us for this wonderful faith-building opportunity!



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In the spirit of growth and change, we share the following announcements:

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We have an immediate opening for a newly created development position in the Houston area. This position will involve extensive travel throughout the southeast portion of Texas. Competitive salary and benefits. Vehicle provided. Email Glenn Newberry at glenn@fostershome.org.

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This position involves case management for up to 20 children, along with other children's services duties. Bachelor's degree required. Email David Asbill at david.asbill@fostershome.org.

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Vision 2020 Capital Campaign

We are happy to announce progress of \$3.5 million raised toward a goal of \$6.4 million for capital improvements and expansion. Naming opportunities remain. Contact Glenn Newberry at glenn@fostershome.org for more details.

Applicants must be active members of the Church of Christ.



HIGHER EDUCATION

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — Freed-Hardeman recently awarded its first four doctoral degrees.

FHU's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences presented the Doctor of Education degrees to Stephanie Coffman, Judy Hoover, Jeremy Qualls and Antonio Burt.

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LUBBOCK, Texas — Lubbock Christian University received a grant of \$596,000 to help establish the Vocati Institute. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s High School Youth Theology Institutes initiative, which seeks to encourage young people to explore their religious beliefs and concerns about contemporary challenges by studying theology and examining how faith calls them to lives of service.

"The Vocati Institute will bring a new dimension to this mission by bringing together annually an interdisciplinary group of university faculty, current university students and up to 70 high school students," said Steven Bonner, associate professor and director of LCU's youth and family ministry program, who will direct the institute. "The institute will strive to inform, prepare and encourage the high school students for lifetimes of theological exploration, spiritual discernment and faithful engagement in their churches and communities."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Daniel Mabuya, a second-year student at Mutare, works in the computer lab.

MINISTRY TRAINING

MUTARE SCHOOL OF PREACHING

MUTARE, Zimbabwe — Christians in this southern African city say "Mazvita" ("Thank you" in the Shona language)



JEFF MONTGOMERY

If at first you don't succeed, try jumping over the president again

It took two tries, but freshman Zach Fryxell dunks while jumping over President Bruce McLarty at Harding University in Searcy, Ark. The shining moment in basketball theatrics, which came during a "Midnight Madness" event at Harding, thrilled the crowd.

to contributors who donated funds and equipment for a computer lab at the Mutare School of Preaching.

"We received 11 computers and two laptops for use by our students, staff and the community at large for a fee," said Nhamo Marunga, principal. "Most of these have been updated and are wireless. They were recently reset and connected to a local network for Internet services. This has brought excitement in the school."

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NORCROSS, Ga. — Greater Atlanta Christian sophomores decided more discussion was needed about complex issues they see worldwide.

Those students inspired the recent Global Leadership Seminar, tackling

topics such as human trafficking, immigration, the refugee crisis, racial equality, gender equality and homelessness.

In partnership with the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, the seminar aimed to allow students to tackle social issues of the modern world. The undertaking incorporated a number of academic subjects, including English, history and Bible.

MOBILE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MOBILE, Ala. — "Serve Mobile" was the theme as 400 Mobile Christian sixth- to 12th-graders engaged in a special day of service.

Some students fed families at the Ronald McDonald House. Others helped a farmer who recently lost his wife. Still others fanned out to nursing homes, food banks, churches, children's homes, a cancer

center and even an equestrian rehabilitation center, secondary Principal Dale Horn said. The service was part of the Christian school's recent Spiritual Emphasis Week.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

TEXAS NORMAL SINGING SCHOOL

ABILENE, Texas — The singing school plans a big 70th anniversary celebration. Thousands have taken part in the annual training, and organizers are trying to contact as many as possible to let them know about the July 8-9 reunion.

"No, I have not attended all 70 of them," said James Tackett, a song leader for the Hyde Park Church of Christ in Austin, Texas. "Only the last 52." For more information, see www.singsingschool.org.

SEND YOUR BEST



TRAIN TO SPREAD THE KINGDOM

Dennis and Sharon Welch left profitable careers to do something more with their lives for God. Wanting to serve God through missions, they arrived in Lubbock to gain a solid foundation in the Bible, tools for their ministry, and a vision for the lost of the world.



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Pray, search, rescue

A VIRGINIA CHURCH DEACON and a team of dedicated rescue workers and canines travel the world to sniff out and free those trapped in the rubble of disaster.

BY HAMIL R. HARRIS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Ron Sanders is indeed a world missionary. But instead of preaching sermons or leading Bible studies, Sanders has traveled to Japan, Haiti and New Orleans to sift out life from endless mounds of rubble along peril-laced paths lined with concrete, twisted steel and destruction.

"This was the gift that God gave me," said Sanders, a deacon of the Dale Ridge Church of Christ in Roanoke, Va., and a member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team. As a part of Virginia Task Force 1, he travels with a team of fire and rescue workers to help victims of natural and man-made catastrophes.

Last year he journeyed halfway around the globe — to Kathmandu, Nepal — with the task force after a massive, 7.8-magnitude earthquake rattled the Himalayan nation, killing more than 9,000 people and leaving 23,000 injured.

Though far from home, the rubble of Nepal was familiar territory for Sanders and his partner Pryse, a tan Labrador retriever trained to locate souls trapped in fallen buildings.

The two spent days listening (and sniffing) for life with other handlers and search dogs that were part of the response team.

"It was very sad," he said of the destruction he saw. "You pray without ceasing."

Yet Nepal proved to be a testimony to his faith as searchers found a 15-year-old alive — five days after the earthquake.

But for every person team members found, there often were days of fruitless searching, walking through jagged debris, straining to find signs and sounds of life.

For Sanders, being quiet and soft-spoken is a must for the job. "I'm not a speaker, I am more of a hands-on kind," the

See **SEARCH AND RESCUE**, Page 26

ACCH

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Weldon Langfield

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--Charles Hodge, author, *On the Banks of Onion 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

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

This dog can preach a sermon

Pryse, a skilled, 7-year-old search-and-rescue dog, helped her partner, Ron Sanders, deliver a recent Wednesday night devotional on obedience for the Dale Ridge Church of Christ in Roanoke, Va.

"Before many people arrived, I placed Pryse in a small, collapsible crate behind the communion table," Sanders said. "After the announcements and prayer I went to the front and let Pryse out."

"Most people were very surprised when she came springing out because she had been so quiet. Many did not know she was there."

"I had Pryse come and lay down beside me. I read from Genesis 22 and talked about what great obedience Abraham had shown on the mountain (where he was willing to sacrifice his own son). I ended by saying that I want to be obedient to my Master — and I am sure he forgives me when I make mistakes. Just as Pryse looks forward to her reward of playing with her tug toy, I look forward to that time when I will be with my Master in heaven."



FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE

SEARCH AND RESCUE: A hands-on calling

FROM PAGE 25

church deacon said. A retired firefighter for the Lynchburg, Va., fire department, he was mentored by a woman on Fairfax Country's search and rescue team who worked with a dog named Ondo. When she learned she was dying, she asked Sanders to take over as Ondo's partner.

Sanders trained with Ondo, and the two earned certification as a search and rescue team. Together, they traveled to Haiti after a building collapse to search for survivors.

Sanders has since worked with two other rescue dogs — Tomo and Pryse. They serve as part of Virginia Task Force 1, a team of about 200 specially trained career and volunteer fire and rescue workers. Emergency managers and planners, physicians and paramedics serve with the task force — including those who specialize in structural engineering and hazardous materials.

In 2010, Sanders returned to Haiti with Tomo after that country's devastating earthquake.

"I think Ron feels he has a special skill set that can help save lives," said his wife, Lynné. "He gives a lot of time to unselfishly help others."

Many of his searches don't involve headline-grabbing catastrophes, his wife added. He helps search for missing children and elderly people who have wandered from home.

"I definitely would consider his love language (to be) acts of service," Lynné Sanders said. "His favorite book of the Bible is James because it talks about how faith should produce good works. He is proud of his work but doesn't seek the limelight. He truly does it to help others."

Ron Sanders always is prepared to serve — at worship or in the field — said Justin Imel, a former minister for the Dale Ridge Church of Christ.

"Ron called me some time ago and expressed angst at missing the Sunday morning assembly because he was at a crime scene," Imel said. "I reminded Ron that Jesus served, and he was serving the authorities which God himself had ordained."

In 2014, as thousands were dying in West Africa from the Ebola virus, "Ron called to see if he could find a group associated with our brotherhood where he could go to Africa and help," Imel said. "If anyone else had called me, I would have laughed, but Ron is certified to work in such environments."

Unable to find an opportunity to serve in West Africa, Ron Sanders joined a medical mission team sponsored by church-supported Hope for Haiti's Children.

"He does good work," Imel said of his friend. "His servant heart is huge."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ron and Lynné Sanders

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: Erik Tryggstad

NEWSMAKERS

RECOGNIZED: Keith Cronk by Info-Tech Research Group as one of 20 top enterprise Chief Information Officers in North America. Cronk is vice president of information systems and technology and chief information officer for Harding University in Searcy, Ark.



Cronk

AWARDED: David R. Kenney, with two honors at the WCTV Clapper Awards: Award for Best Documentary on his work "AC — A Historical Account of Alexander Campbell" and the 200th Program Milestone Award for the weekly gospel television show "Light from Above."



Kenney

Kenney is an evangelist for the Church of Christ in Wadsworth, Ohio.

NAMED: Jim Creech, minister for the Vultee Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., Rick Elam, elder for the Chesmont Church of Christ in Pottstown, Penn., and John Robert Hall, from Jackson, Tenn., to the board of directors of Hope for Life, a Herald of Truth ministry. Malcolm Coco, of Abilene, Texas, and Mary Creech, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., retired from the board and accepted appointment to the ministry's Council of Advisors.



Jim Creech



Elam

NEW ELDERS: Russ Dudley, Robert Grisson, Everett Hinton and Gaylin Prior, the 12th and Laird Church of Christ in Hastings, Neb.

NEW MINISTER: Jacob Hawk, preacher for the Faith Village Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Milestones

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

Birthdays

90th: Marvin Banta, Wetumka, Okla.

Anniversaries

Joe and Jane Mitchen
70 years



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henry Mitchen celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Nov. 2, 2015. Mrs. Mitchen is the former Jane Zazzi of San Francisco, Calif., and Joe is from Crossett, Ark. They met at Harding College, which is now Harding University in Searcy, Ark. Dean L.C. Sears performed the ceremony on campus in 1945. Two of their sons and their wives sponsored an anniversary cruise to Bermuda, and on the anniversary date they arranged a small, quiet dinner attended by four of their children and their spouses, one granddaughter, and Jane's sister and husband (Dorthy Z. and John Richardson) from Clarksville, Tenn. While working for Olin Industries in New Haven, Conn., with two other brothers, Joe helped plant the church in West Haven, now the Hamden Church of Christ. In 1955, he began working in the research department of Ethyl Corporation, Baton Rouge, La., and in 1975 when the South Baton Rouge Church of Christ was formed, Joe was one of the first three elders, and Jane volunteered as the secretary. After Joe retired from Ethyl Corporation and Jane retired from Louisiana State University, they moved to Texas where Joe served as an elder of the South Corpus Christi Church of Christ.

congregation. Jane began quilting blankets for families and babies at risk. The Mitchens have six living children, 16 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. An interesting side note: Including the 70 years of Joe and Jane's marriage, theirs and six children's marriages add up to 370 years of marriage.

59th: Roger and Shirley Hart, Emory, Texas.

Memorials

Cassandra Martin, 52, Houston, Texas, Dec. 19.

Memorial/Honor Gifts

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received honoring Bailey McBride and Erik Tryggstad and in memory of Wayne Bradley, Ralph Douglas Foster and Thomas "Smiley" Francis.

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

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EDITORIAL

The parable of the street sweeper

Let us turn our thoughts today to Martin Luther King and recognize that there are ties between us, all men and women living on the earth. Ties of hope and love ...” James Taylor penned those words in his 1991 song “Shed a Little Light” as he honored King’s legacy. As followers of Christ, we yearn for unity among men and women worldwide, under the grace-filled lordship of Jesus Christ. We struggle to live up to the ideals set forth in his “I Have a Dream” speech, delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in our nation’s capital in 1963. King knew it would take unrelenting effort across multiple generations to bring about racial unity in the United States. In our church pews, we’re still not there. We can do better. We need to work harder. King was an ardent supporter of hard work, as evidenced in another speech he gave on Oct. 26, 1967 — about six months before he was assassinated. Speaking to a group of students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia, he delivered a speech titled “What Is Your Life’s Blueprint.” He urged the students to stay in school and to root themselves in “a deep

belief in your own dignity, your worth and your own somebodiness.” Here’s an excerpt from the address, often referred to as “the street sweeper speech.” And when you discover what you will be in your life, set out to do it as if God Almighty called you at this particular moment in history to do it. Don’t just set out to do a good job. Set out to do such a good job that the living, the dead or the unborn couldn’t do it any better. If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Leontyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well. We’re reminded of the apostle Paul’s admonition to Christians in Colossians 3: “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” May God grant us energy to work toward the equality and unity that he desires. May we sweep our jobs well.



WWW.MACCABEATS.COM

An a cappella celebration of ‘ties between us’

The Maccabeats, a Jewish a cappella group, join the soulful vocal group Naturally 7 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to sing a cover of James Taylor’s “Shed a Little Light” in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. See the inspiring video and more in our “Voices-only Wednesday” feature online. Scan the Quick Response (QR) code with your iPhone, iPad or other mobile device to reach our website, www.christianchronicle.org. While you’re there, sign up for free email alerts so you’ll never miss a headline or online-exclusive feature.



What a food truck teaches about talents

“The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.”
— Matthew 25:16-18, New International Version

About a year ago I bought a food truck. I don’t know anything about food — or trucks for that matter — but it looked like fun so I took the plunge. I have never taken a culinary class, or read a cookbook, or even watched a cooking show. If anything, I am actually an embarrassment in the kitchen as I am not even sure how to scramble an egg. The food truck business (we sell desserts, by the way) has grown over the past year, and so have I. The most important lesson I have learned is that sometimes you just have to try.



Caleb Holsey

Excuses are easy to come by, but they usually just serve to waste time. If someone like me who still doesn’t know how to scramble an egg can run a food truck, it leaves little room for excuses. The parable of the talents is one that I have read many times in my life but recently have seen in a different light. Formerly I thought that the Master was pleased because the first two servants doubled the money and was displeased because the last servant did not double his money. Lately I don’t see it that way. Instead I see the Master thrilled with the first two servants simply because they tried. And he is upset with the last servant because he didn’t try. The first two didn’t rattle off a list of excuses or try to rationalize their investment; they just got in the game. It even says the first servant “went at once” to get to work when he received his original investment. No delay, no excuses. I believe the Master would have been equally pleased with the first two earners if they lost everything — provided they didn’t sit on the sidelines as spectators and instead decided to jump in. Maybe the Master is saying that we all need to double up. Or maybe he is simply saying it’s time to act.

CALEB HOLSEY and his family live in Broken Arrow, Okla., and worship with the Brookside campus of the Park Plaza Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla.

In South Carolina, a beloved barber's death shows church how God turns evil to good

ANDERSON, S.C.

On Dec. 23, 2015, shockwaves spread throughout our community as we learned that a beloved local barber, Michael McGee, was tragically shot and killed that evening in a small barber shop behind his home.

Michael, just 32 years old, was a devoted member of the Graceview Church of Christ here in Anderson. He used his skills in our church's Cutting for Christ ministry, which gives free haircuts to boys 18 years old and younger each month.

This ministry is designed to help families in our community — as well as to provide spiritual encouragement, professionalism and a positive male influence to help young men emulate Jesus Christ.

Michael was that positive influence. Just days before his death, as members of our church gave clothes to those in need, he gave free haircuts to 10 kids in the community at the church building.

He loved cutting hair, and he loved sharing his gift for the purpose of leading people to Christ. He was living proof that God can use whatever talents we have to seek and save the lost.

Michael began attending the Graceview church about three years ago. He was baptized into Christ in June 2013. He loved the fact that God gave him a second chance at life and was in awe of Jesus dying for him so that he could be forgiven of sins.

Michael truly believed that God saved him so that he could be used to bring other souls to Jesus. He led his mother and four other people to Christ to be baptized during his life.

He was very meek and humble, but he possessed a unique leadership quality that motivated him to consistently bring visitors to worship with him.

Michael served in our church as a communion server each Sunday and often was assigned the closing prayer. He wrote out most of his prayers and blessed the people of God. He was growing spiritually and told us he loved the support he received from the church as the Word of God was taking root in him.

Michael is survived by his mother, father and three children. No arrests have been made related to his death. Local authorities are still investigating.

An overflow crowd of more than 200 mourners

gathered to celebrate Michael's life at a local funeral home. His family, loved ones and friends from the community were there. The title of my eulogy was "God's Ultimate Purpose," and the text was Genesis 50:20: *"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."*

Views



Bryan C. Jones

Those words were spoken by Joseph, who was put into a pit by his brothers, sold into slavery and imprisoned on false charges. But God turned Joseph's negative experiences into good — to save the very brothers who betrayed him and generations to come.

God used Joseph to preserve the seed of Abraham, whose lineage he used to bring about the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

I extended an invitation for Michael's family and friends to come to the Lord so that God could turn this unfortunate event into good — to save someone who desired to give his or her life to the Lord and be saved.

Six precious souls came walking down the aisles to be baptized. The audience of mourners stood up and applauded as we sang the invitation song.

After the funeral, those who desired to be baptized were taken to the church building by members of the church for a Bible study. That same day, all six were immersed into Christ for the remission of their sins. In the weeks since, two more souls who knew Michael and were touched by his story have been baptized.

God truly turned the evil that was done by Satan against brother Michael into good to make many people alive. God, working through Michael, has led more souls to Christ since Michael's death than he reached through Michael during the brief two years after his baptism.

As we mourn his loss, we honor his life by doing everything we can to save the lost.

BRYAN C. JONES ministers for the Graceview Church of Christ in Anderson, S.C. Fellow evangelist John Davis Marshall helped plant the church in 2010, and the congregation has grown to 62 members. In January 2015 the church launched "Passion for Christ," a weekly television program that reaches 832,000 homes in South Carolina and northeast Georgia. See online sermons and other videos at www.youtube.com/graceviewsc and learn about the church's ministries at www.graceviewcoc.com.



Michael McGee gives a free haircut as part of the Cutting for Christ ministry of the Graceview Church of Christ in South Carolina.

FROM OUR READERS

'We are living in the mission field'

Thank you, Katie Jones, for sharing your story about your witness on the plane flight to Seattle ("Plane truth: We're never too young to share the Gospel," Page 3, January).

Our church is hosting a workshop that is part of a series entitled "Mission 1." Brothers Bren White and Ian Drucker of the Laurel Church of Christ in Maryland are leading us through this.

To your point, the mission fields are all around us. Our focus for this workshop is "Seeking the Lost like Jesus" and "Sharing the Good News like Jesus."



Twaun Oakes

As I made my plea on Sunday for all to attend, I read a good portion of your article to point to the reality that we are living in the mission field wherever we are — and as you well know, the paths of people who cross ours are not random happenstance.

Thanks for sharing that and encouraging many to be aware of the opportunities our Father gives us to bring light and hope to many around us who are struggling and lost.

TWAUN OAKES is an elder of the Chesapeake Church of Christ in Grasonville, Md. Find the church at www.chesapeakechurchofchrist.org.

Praise for lives of service

Wow, what an amazing story of love, courage, sacrifice, commitment and endurance ("From daughter to caregiver," Page 1, January).

This is such a hard season of life for all the members of this family, but their devotion to and support of one another is a beautiful example of living their faith and love.

Jenny Lee Garrison | New Orleans

I am weeping as I write. Jack and Frances Zorn were my classmates and friends from the mid 1950s. I have known some great workers in Christian ministry, but none greater than these two.

Joyce Massey | Palm Bay, Fla.



Operations Manager

Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp is seeking an individual to fill the position of Operations Manager. Responsibilities include operational and maintenance duties. Successful applicants will have strong people skills, communication skills and handyman abilities. This is a unique position with off-season position with flexibility for outside employment or personal interests. More details are available at:

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Additional questions or inquiries may be directed to Kevin Reed at (503) 252-8577.

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Full-Time Position
Domestic Mission Effort

151st Street Church of Christ in Olathe, Kan., seeks applicants for a full-time position to lead a domestic mission effort in Gardner, Kan.

Applicants with a heart for and experience in missions are requested to send resumes to:

GoodnewstoGardner@gmail.com



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
or contact:

Tom Doty, Minister of Family Services,
(270) 843-3038 or tom@potterministries.org

Full-Time Minister Needed

The Dublin Street Church of Christ, in Urbana, Illinois, 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, Illinois 61801

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

Minister Search

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

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Ed Bass
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Full-Time Preacher

Plymouth Church of Christ in Plymouth, Mich., is seeking an experienced full-time preacher. Salary commensurate with experience.

A complete job description and profile may be found on our church website:

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Applications accepted through February 29, 2016.

Full-Time Pulpit Minister

The Church of Christ in Rolla, Mo., is seeking a full-time pulpit minister who has a deep knowledge of God's Word and possesses strong leadership and interpersonal skills. More information available at: <http://seekgrowserveLove.org/index.html>.

Please send a cover letter, resume, e-sermons and references to:

Search Committee
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A lawyer's quest for justice will stir the heart

What happens when someone who considers himself unsuited to answering the call of God takes the leap and answers anyway? Jim Gash, a professor of law at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and an elder of the University Church of Christ on Pepperdine's campus, shares how God took him from being a fan of missionaries' work in Africa to becoming an active participant in their work.

With commendable humility and self-deprecating humor, he invites us into his private thoughts and public actions that took him from Malibu to Masindi, Uganda.

The story begins with a robbery and a murder. It quickly shifts to two Ugandan brothers, Henry and Joseph, falsely accused of the murder and placed in detention in a nightmare run by an abusive woman outside the view of the law. Henry's determination to maintain his faith in God and prayer is well portrayed.

While there is some novelization, it seems that this account comes largely from Henry's later

conversations with Gash.

When we first see Gash, he is telling his daughter he will never go to Africa. The next time we find him in this story, he is disoriented and frightened, riding in a crowded minivan on a Ugandan road in the middle of the night.

He then tells us it all started when he listened to Bob Goff, a well-known advocate for the poor of Africa. For some time, Gash had been pressured to join Goff on a trip to Uganda but had resisted the call.

After a serious, focused time of prayer, Gash relents and goes to Uganda, unaware that he is changing his life, the lives of his family, the life of a young Ugandan named Henry, and ultimately, the lives of a great many others imprisoned without hope.

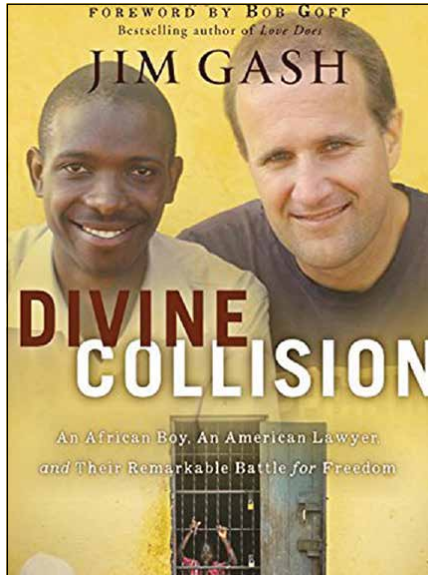
There is much in this book to stir the heart and increase faith in God and in his ability to use even the reluctant to do great things, one person, one task at a time.

Readers will appreciate how Gash navigates the byzantine, unjust legal

In Print



Patrick Mead



★★★★☆
Jim Gash. **Divine Collision: An African Boy, An American Lawyer and Their Remarkable Battle for Freedom.** Franklin, Tenn.: Worthy Publishing, 2015. 295 pages. \$21.99.

system in Uganda without criticizing the government or treating the locals with anything other than respect and kindness. He refrains from social commentary and sticks

with his theme: answering the call, seeking justice.

He invites us into the process, portraying the reality of systemic injustice while insisting that those involved in the process are open — even eager — to change their system to make it more equitable. His optimism and energy are contagious.

Gash is uniquely qualified for the task he takes on in this story, but the way he tells his story reveals his belief that any Christian can, with prayer and the call of God, make a difference in the life of another.

A reader might be tempted to enjoy the story and say, “but I’m not a lawyer, and I don’t know powerful people,” but that would miss the point. As Gash says more that once, he, too, thought he was unqualified and unsuited for the task laid before him.

It is a story that increases our faith as it calls us to action and patience, for the speed of God’s movement is not always what we want it to be.

But God does move.

PATRICK MEAD is senior minister for the Fourth Avenue Church of Christ in Franklin, Tenn.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

FAITH AND CULTURE

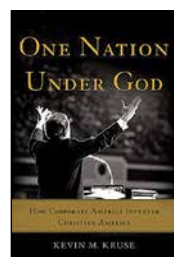
Kevin DeYoung. **What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?** Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2015. 158 pages. \$12.99.



DeYoung, a popular theologian, reviews Bible passages that speak to homosexuality in the first part of this slim volume, from Creation to Paul's epistles. He then responds to the world's popular objections to Christian opposition to homosexuality, including that God is too loving to forbid homosexuality and that its practice rarely is mentioned in the Bible. He includes appendices on same-sex attraction and marriage and suggests 10 commitments churches can make regarding homosexuals.

HISTORY

Kevin Kruse. **One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America.** New York: Basic Books, 2015. 384 pages. \$29.99.



Kruse, a history professor at Princeton University, argues that big business and government have used religion to soothe and lead the masses. Christianity is good for capitalism, he asserts, and in the 1930s to 1950s America became a Christian nation — at least in its advertising, and its people began to equate religion with patriotism. Readers of all political stripes should find this book engaging, provocative and scholarly.

MEMOIR

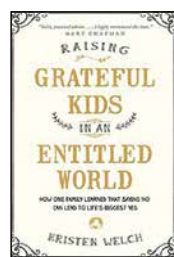
Stephanie Fast. **She Is Mine: A War Orphan's Incredible Journey of Survival.** Beaverton, Ore.: Destiny Ministries, 2015. 224 pages. \$19.99.



Readers who have a heart for orphans will find this book compelling. A 4-year-old child of an American soldier and a Korean woman is abandoned after the Korean War. An American couple later adopts her from an orphanage, and today this author and speaker advocates for orphans worldwide. God's power to heal and use broken vessels for his glory is evident throughout Fast's story. She gives God credit for her ability to share — in an effort to rescue other children.

MARRIAGE

Kristen Welch. **Raising Grateful Kids in an Entitled World: How One Family Learned That Saying No Can Lead to Life's Biggest Yes.** Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale Momentum, 2016. 272 pages. \$15.99.



Welch, a popular blogger, covers why today's children act more entitled than past generations and why it's healthy for kids to receive less. She discusses God's love, hard work, discipline, punishment and how parents can resist the easy road of giving in to children's wants and whims. Helpful appendices include a cell phone contract between parent and child and a “Christian Parent Manifesto.”



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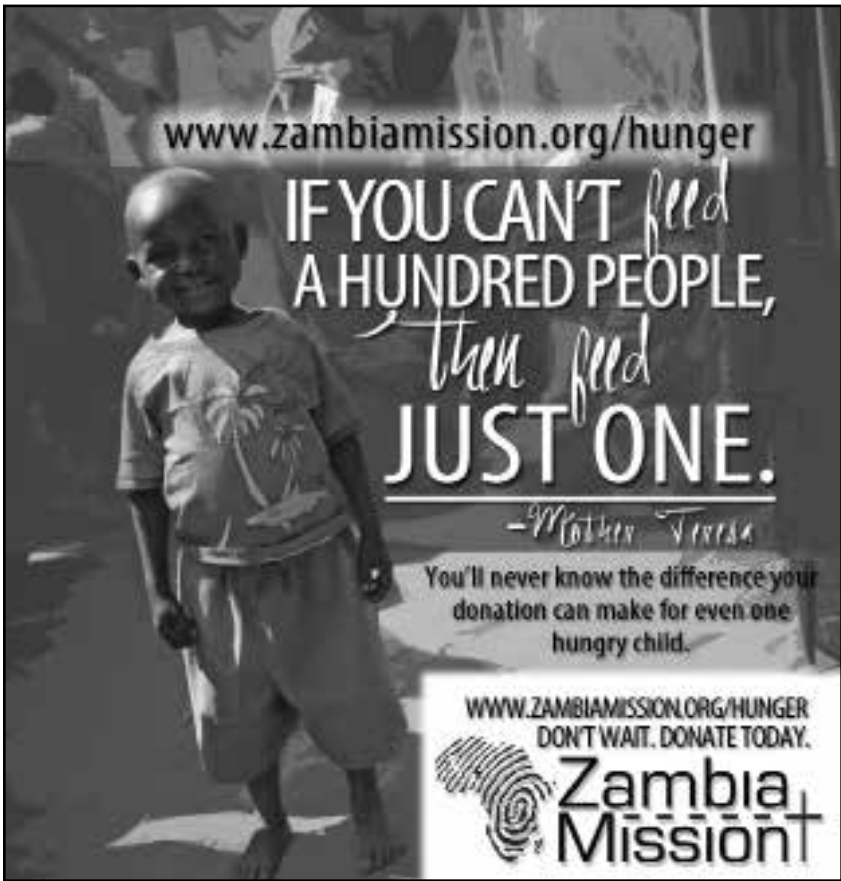
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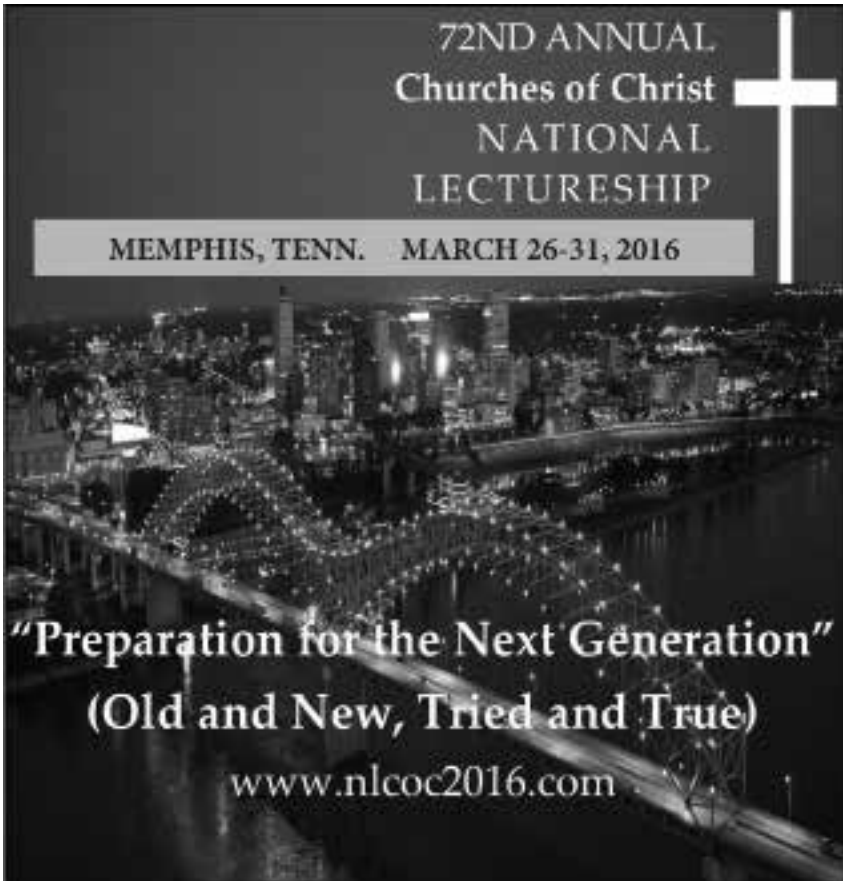
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Feb. 7-11 Annual Bible Lectureship. Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. (731) 989-6000, kpack@fhu.edu.

Feb. 19-20 Wings (Women in God's Service). Harding University, Searcy, Ark. WINGSharding.edu, (501) 279-4347.

Feb. 21-24 Consultant, Geologist and Archaeologist Dr. Don Patton. Poplar and Warner Church of Christ, Guthrie, Okla. (405) 282-4125.

Feb. 26-17 Affirming the Faith. North MacArthur Church of Christ. www.affirmingthefaihtok.com, (405) 621-5962.

Feb. 27 TEDxACU. Abilene Christian University, Texas. www.ted.com/tedx, (325) 674-2000.

March 2-4 Alumni Days. Heritage Christian University, Florence, Ala. www.hcu.edu/events/alumni-days.

March 4-5 Ladies of Virtue. "Lifting as We Strive." Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel, Maryland. www.heaven600.com.

March 4-6 CHRISTEENS 2016. West Side Church of Christ, Russellville, Ark. Jake Greer, rask@westsidear.org.

March 4-6 Tri-Area Youth Rally. "Christ is coming. If you don't believe, read and watch." Liberty City Church of Christ, Savannah, Ga. (912) 236-3201.

March 11 CAPS Conference: Alumni Reception. Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif. (310) 568-5510.

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

March 17 GSEP Women In Leadership: Work-Life Balance. Omni Hotel-Downtown, Los Angeles. gsep.pepperdine.edu, (310) 568-2344, vjahn@pepperdine.edu.

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

March 24-26 Spring Sing 2016. Harding University. (501) 279-4255.

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

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

FULL CALENDAR, www.christianchronicle.org



College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Gregory Strangley, Dean • ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-9210

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

The Department of 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/biochemistry.

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

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

The engineering program started in Fall 2012 and has about 115 students. It is strongly connected to the physics program, which has a rich heritage of research and scholarship spanning more than 40 years. Two of the department's faculty, Dr. Michael Saffer and Dr. Donald Henderson, have won the prestigious American Physical Society's "Pilot for a Faculty Member for Research in an Undergraduate Institution." 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 40,000 square feet to the department. The new hires will assist the engineering and physics programs in continuing a heritage of research and scholarship appropriate to each 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 also should demonstrate how they can be flexible, adaptable and successful in supporting both programs. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/engineering and acu.edu/physics.

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

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

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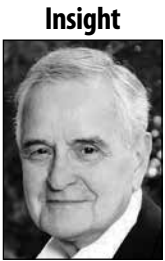
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In an age of inwardly focused churches, we need news that shows us what matters

Churches of Christ today often behave like small, independent countries. They know their preacher, but if he leaves, they are at a loss for where to look. They have favorite mission points, but a change in leadership can mean that missionaries supported by the congregation for years suddenly must return home and search for new sponsors, leaving their important work disrupted. On a larger scale, our fellowship faces identity issues. Once exclusively a cappella, worship with instruments is drifting into our churches — more than I like to admit. We struggle with the issue of women’s roles in the church, fed by social developments.

At this crucial time in our history, we long for clear, concise information about our brotherhood. I have always been drawn to visionaries. As a student, I preferred teachers who knew the facts and saw the significance of those facts on the future. Olan Hicks, a man I never met but whom I have come to know about through research, was an amazing worker and a visionary whose legacy lives on. In March of 1943, Hicks began writing, editing and publishing *The Christian Chronicle*. He believed that news about was happening in Churches of Christ would help churches stay connected and supportive of important activities. The *Chronicle* was born in the darkest days of World War II. The Japanese were seizing the Asian lands. Nazi forces marched across Europe. Yet Hicks knew that more important than military victories were the spiritual victories of bringing souls to Christ. Hicks was a great newspaperman. Those who followed him kept his dream alive through the postwar years as Churches of Christ grew rapidly — and endured heartbreaking splits due to our disagreements about how the church should function. John and Dottie Beckloff, known for their years of service in Nigeria, loved the *Chronicle* and bought it with the intention of restoring Hicks’ passion for uniting churches.

They struggled to make the newspaper succeed, and after three frustrating years they offered it to Oklahoma Christian University. The rest is a success story. Since the first OC issue in September 1981, I have been involved in many different ways — as managing editor, then editor, now editor emeritus. I have authored a column for nearly every issue over these 35 years. I love God and the church, and serving believers is one of the greatest works of my



Bailey McBride

life. I think that churches need to know what our brothers and sisters are doing — how they are serving in times of crisis around the world and how they share the Gospel with those who do not know Jesus. Working with *The Christian Chronicle* has been one of the great blessings of my life. I have made a host of friends — and I have been forced to think about the church in ways that I had never considered. I have enjoyed working with and been encouraged by all the editors since OC acquired the paper — Howard Norton, Lynn McMillon and Erik Tryggstad. Other staff members have contributed much to me and to the quality of the paper: Joy McMillon, Scott LaMascus, Glover Shipp and Lindy Adams. In the first decade of this century, Tryggstad and Bobby Ross Jr. joined our staff. Both are professionally trained and have extensive experience. Their excellent sense of what is important and how to report the news means that we know more about what is happening in our churches — here and around the globe. Our website and regular email updates let us all know sooner. The *Chronicle* is imperfect, but it is a powerful reminder that we are a vast body of believers. This paper helps us recognize the bigger picture outside our pews.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.

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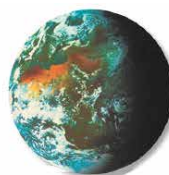


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'Greater' than fiction

New movie tells inspiring, true story of hope, faith and football, say church members portrayed in the film.

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