

French, Syrian Christians pray after Paris attacks

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Members of the Marseilles Church of Christ had gathered in the mountains for a spiritual retreat when they learned of the horrors going on 480 miles north in Paris.



Dauner

As news trickled in about suicide bombs, shootings and hostages, the Christians prayed “for the victims’ families, but also for the salvation of our country,” minister Philippe Dauner said.

A family of Syrian refugees who accompanied the church on its retreat “prayed passionately with us,” Dauner added. “They personally lost so much in terms of family members, church and house not too long ago.”

The family is one of two encountered recently by members of the Marseilles church. Both families fled war-torn Syria after enduring persecution for their Christian faith. When the church members offered to assist, “they told us they had everything they need materially,” Dauner said. “However, they deeply longed for a church family, prayer and brothers to weep with.”

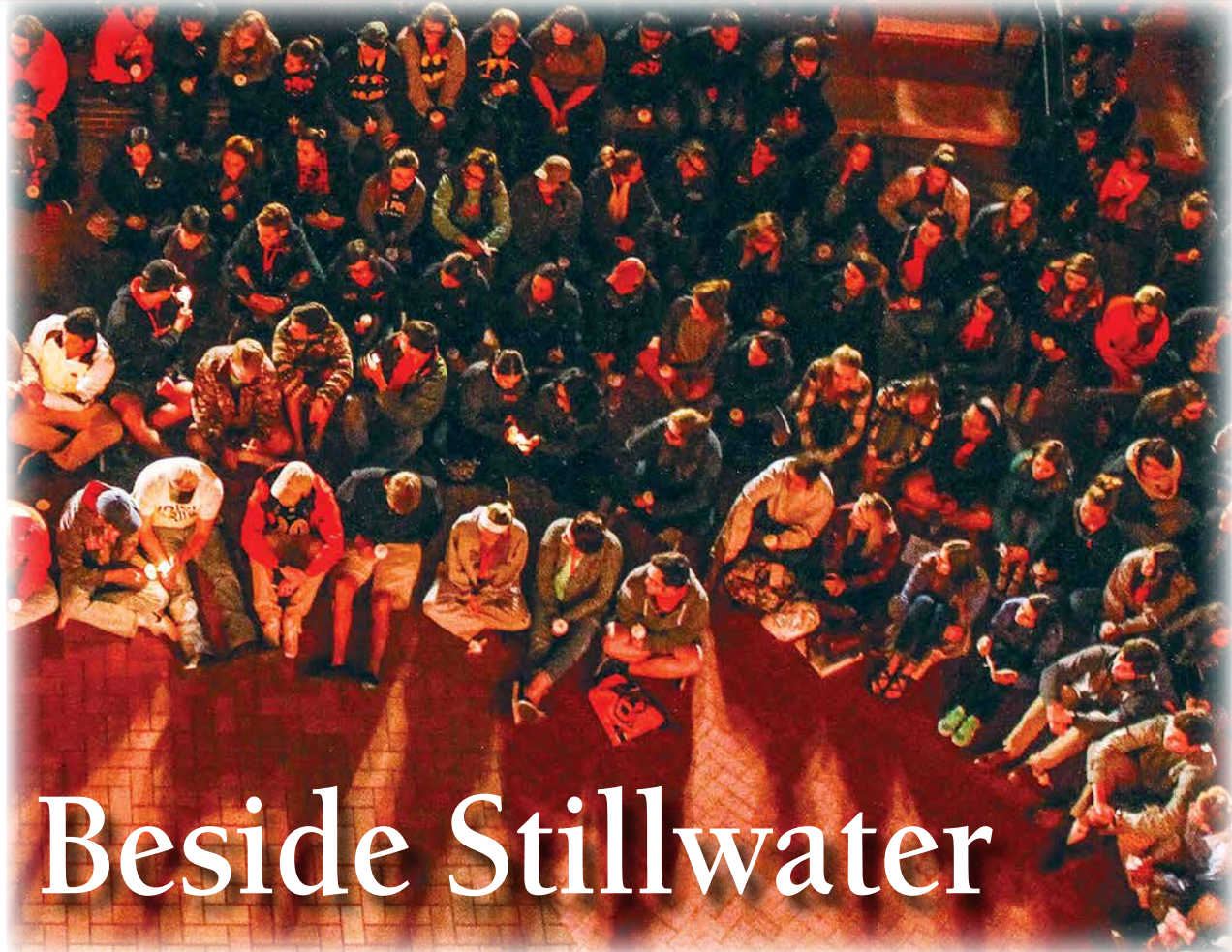
In Paris, as estimates of the death toll from the Nov. 13 attacks neared 130, the Church of Christ at Moulin-Vert turned its Sunday worship into a day of prayer and fasting, minister Robert Limb said.

“Paris as a city is grieving and in a state of shock,” Limb said. “There is also anxiety as this may well not be the end of the matter — either here or in other cities in Europe or America.”

In Lyon, southeast of Paris, a Church of Christ spent Sunday mourning for the victims and celebrating a baptism.

The celebration was “an example of the triumph of good over evil,” minister Arlin Hendrix said. “God will not be stopped, and we mustn’t be either.”

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JORDAN RICHARDS

Beside Stillwater

AFTER TRAGEDY, campus ministry helps community heal

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

STILLWATER, Okla. — Campus minister Matt Mills heard the sirens, but he had no idea of the extent of the tragedy.

On football Saturdays in this college town, the Church of Christ University Center at Oklahoma State University organizes a pregame tailgate party. Students involved with the “UC at OK State” enjoy burgers and soft drinks. Guys bring cookies. The girls? Chips.

As Mills prepared for the party after Oklahoma State’s homecoming parade Oct. 24, friends and family began texting and calling.

“Are you OK?” they wanted to know.

A woman had crashed her car



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

A cross at a memorial for the parade crash victims carries the message “Stillwater Strong.” At top, students sing and pray at a candlelight prayer vigil.

into a crowd assembled to watch the parade, killing four people and injuring more than 45. The disaster occurred just four blocks from the UC at OK State, a ministry of the Stillwater Church of Christ.

As Mills grasped the news, four of his own students showed up. The two male and two female students had witnessed the crash up close. They were physically fine but emotionally shaken.

“The car went right in front of us probably about 5 feet or so,” said senior Ryan Watson, who grew up in the Draketown Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ark. “We heard the impact ... and screams.”

Immediately, Mills and women’s minister Elyse Tharp formed a prayer circle with Watson, his three friends and a few other students.

“We talked and prayed for an hour,” said Mills, whose contribution to helping the campus of 26,000 students heal was just beginning.

See **STILLWATER**, Page 6

DR. KENT BRANTLY

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The call to serve our neighbors will be the focus when thousands of people come together Friday, Dec. 4, for the 51st Annual Freed-Hardeman University Benefit Dinner in Henderson. Typically the largest one-night fundraiser in the state of Tennessee, the dinner provides vital funds for student scholarships. This year's speaker is medical missionary and Ebola survivor Dr. Kent Brantly.

Brantly will discuss Christians' call to service, particularly in light of the experiences he and his wife, Amber, faced when he contracted Ebola. To be part of this event or receive more information, visit fhu.edu/benefitdinner, email FHU Vice President for University Advancement Dave Clouse (dclouse@fhu.edu) or call 731-989-6019.

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Why one elder is making news at high court

ROME, Ga.

Eddie Hood chuckles when discussing his newfound celebrity status.

Hood, 75, serves as an elder for the 125-member Callahan Street Church of Christ in this northwest Georgia city of 36,000.

He worked for a paper mill

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

for 33 years, but now he's enjoying retirement.

"Working in the Lord's church," the grandfather of eight said of how he spends his time.

I showed up at Hood's house — painted bright yellow with a U.S. flag flying by the front door — after seeing his name in national news reports.

Hood, it turns out, was as surprised as anybody when he ended up in arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Some background: In 1987, Hood was a potential juror for a capital murder case in which Timothy Tyrone Foster, an 18-year-old black man, was charged with killing Queen Madge White, a 79-year-old white woman.

However, prosecutors used challenges to remove all four prospective black jurors — including Hood.

More than a quarter-century later, Foster's attorneys seek a new trial on the basis of "purposeful discrimination by the prosecution in securing an all-white jury."

In the penalty phase,

See **EDDIE HOOD**, Page 4

'He's with me, and he's fighting'

BRAIN-INJURY VICTIM'S wife and parents pray for healing, while trusting in God's will.

BY **BOBBY ROSS JR.** | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ATLANTA

Raindrops tap the roof of Hayley Waldron's temporary home in an Atlanta suburb.

It is Day 87, she realizes as she opens her eyes. Nearly three months have passed since tragedy interrupted the 22-year-old's life and that of her 23-year-old husband, Harrison.

Please, God, she begs. Let today be the day he wakes up and begins his full recovery.

Hayley dresses, grabs a quick bite to eat and sets off on the 25-minute drive to the Shepherd Center, a rehabilitation hospital dedicated to caring for those with brain and spinal injuries.

For the next six hours, she'll sit with her husband. When possible, she'll assist with Harrison's speech, occupational and physical therapy.

They might watch The Weather Channel or the news together.

Perhaps his younger sister, Laura, will



ASHEL PARSONS

Fellow alumni of the Harding University in Greece program pray over Harrison Waldron's hospital bedside about a month after he suffered a traumatic brain injury.

come by to read the Bible to him, or their parents may visit to hug Hayley and speak softly to Harrison.

"I'm so thankful that I still have him," she said, "that I can come talk to him and hang out with him still."

DAY 1

Before tragedy struck, the young couple had spent the last few months celebrating their graduations from Harding University in Searcy, Ark.,

See **WALDRONS**, Page 10



OLIVIA COLE

Roberta Edwards and Jonathan "JoJo" Paul at the SonLight Children's Home in 2014.

Christians honor slain missionary

AS THEY MOURN Roberta Edwards, church members continue her work

BY **ERIK TRYGGESTAD** | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — *I wanna see, I wanna see, momma up there ...*

It's a tune sung countless times at SonLight Children's Home, where Roberta Edwards served as mother — or second mother — to dozens of impoverished children for two decades.

During evening devotionals, after Scripture readings and prayer requests, the children sang their favorite hymns.

Four-year-old Jonathan "JoJo" Paul loved launching into the song, in which the children insert each other's names into the lyrics, proclaiming how much they want to be together in heaven.

When those gates are open wide, I wanna sit at Jesus' side ...

"It's a very simple song that has a lot of meaning to it right now," said John Marble, a temporary caretaker for the home, as he sat on the covered porch where Edwards lifted her voice to the Lord alongside her kids.

Less than a mile away, in an alley layered in broken white rocks, Edwards, 55, was shot to death by gunmen who then seized JoJo.

See **EDWARDS** Page 14

MORE FROM HAITI: In a country beset by crime and poverty, church-supported Hope for Haiti's Children seeks to transform the country one child at a time. **Page 17**

EDDIE HOOD: Supreme Court case focuses on alleged discrimination

FROM PAGE 3

prosecutor Stephen Lanier urged the jury to sentence Foster to death to deter other people "out there in the projects."

The nation's high court heard arguments in the case in November — and Hood figured prominently.

According to the defense, prosecutors first claimed they objected to Hood because he had a son about the same age as the suspect. However, the jury included two whites with sons in the same age range.

Later, prosecutors blamed the strike on "Hood's affiliation with the Church of Christ." The church, they claimed, "definitely takes a stand against the death penalty." But the district attorney's own notes acknowledge the church leaves the issue to individual members, the defense responded.

For his part, Hood said he didn't dwell on being excluded.

"Being in the Lord's church, I don't take something and build it in my mind to have any animosity," he said. "But when I came home, I told my wife (Elnora), 'More than likely, they're not going to want too many of 'us' on the jury.'"

By "us," he meant people of color.

Given the decades that have passed, Hood couldn't recall if the district attorney quizzed him on his religion. But when I asked if he had a problem with the death penalty, he quickly replied, "Oh, no."

When Foster was convicted, Hood heard about it. However, he didn't realize an all-white jury had rendered



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Excluded juror Eddie Hood, a Church of Christ elder, poses outside his Rome, Ga., home.

the decision. He figured a few blacks had remained on the jury.

But before the recent hearing, Foster's attorneys contacted Hood.

Then the media — including a reporter and a photographer from The Associated Press — came calling.

Before long, friends at the library were teasing Hood about being on the front page of the newspaper. And he couldn't believe his eyes when the headlines scrolling across his television included his own name.

Hood grew up in the Jim Crow era of segregation, so racial issues are not new to him.

In his hometown of Cave Springs, Ala., blacks had to go in the back

door of the café. As a teen, he was bussed 16 miles each way to an all-black high school. At the movie theater, blacks sat in the balcony, while whites had seats down front.

In 1963, Hood's younger brother James Hood and fellow student Vivian Malone gained notoriety when Gov. George Wallace blocked their entry to the University of Alabama.

Wallace later capitulated and allowed James Hood and Malone to enroll after President John F. Kennedy federalized several hundred members of the Alabama National Guard. (James Hood — one of Eddie Hood's eight younger siblings — died in 2013 at age 70.)

Eddie Hood, the great-great-grandson of a slave, said his mother taught him not to hate white people but to be careful around them.

Hood's grandson Brandon Rucker, a member of the Jacksonville Church of Christ in Alabama, can't recall his grandfather talking about race with him.

"We were just, I guess, raised properly, and it just never seemed to be an issue," Rucker told me when I met him at a Jacksonville worship assembly. "When I brought home friends from school and whatnot, he would just compliment me being around good people, regardless of race. Color was never mentioned. It was never an issue at all."

Like his grandfather, Rucker was surprised to see Hood making news.

"It's a little unsettling to know that race is still used as a criteria for either accepting or rejecting jurors," said Rucker, who was unaware of the case until reading news reports. "That should be a non-issue as well."

The Supreme Court is expected to rule before its current term ends next June. Hood is curious to see what the justices decide.

Meanwhile, he takes pride in helping knock down racial barriers closer to home.

"My neighbor here put up a fence when I first moved in," Hood said as he walked me to my car.

Eventually, though, he and the white neighbor became friends — and the fence disappeared.

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DECEMBER 2015

KENTUCKY

MAYFIELD — Debt on a 4,000-square-foot educational annex that the Seven Oaks Church of Christ built in 2014 cost the congregation \$1,000 a month in interest alone, minister Josh Ketchum said.

However, the church was “shocked and thrilled” when it recently learned it was the sole beneficiary of a trust worth \$367,000, Ketchum said.

“We are able to completely retire our debt,” Ketchum said. “No more interest will have to be paid, freeing us to invest in more missions and ministries.”

Elizabeth Allene Morris, who died in 1998, had arranged for the church to receive the money after her half-sister, Estelle Seay, was taken care of. Seay, who had been a longtime Seven Oaks member, died in September.

NEW JERSEY

SEWELL — As pizza delivery tips go, this one was a doozy.

On a recent Sunday, the Pitman Road Church of Christ extended what minister Dan Cooper described as “extravagant grace” on a Pizza Hut driver named Brandon.

“In keeping with the spirit of the Corinthian church, the church went above and beyond to extend grace because we were first extended grace,” Cooper said, citing 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

The congregation gave Brandon a stack of cards 5 inches deep — including thank-you notes, gift cards and cash.

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE — After many months of planning and seed planting, The Feast: a Church of Christ officially launched Oct. 18.

Sixty-eight people attended the inaugural Sunday service, said Caleb Borchers, the lead church planter along with his wife, Fran.

“We have been blessed with a building we are leasing in our target neighborhood,” Borchers said. “We recently finished some renovations of that space, which added to the excitement of the day.”

For more information, see www.thefeastprovidence.org.

**‘Forever His’: Tennessee church hosts special-needs day camp**

PHOTOS BY JEFF SNYDER

Above, Jessie Tanner hands Nevaeh Schofield a bean bag as they play a game of cornhole during the recent “Forever His” camp for children with special needs, sponsored by the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville, Tenn. At left, Anne Marie Higginbotham, Kelaney Loveland and Katie Pruett pose during sign-in time.

Kim Higginbotham, camp organizer and church member, has worked as a special-education teacher and has a heart for children with special needs. She approached the elders of the Karns church and asked if they’d invest in a ministry for children with special needs and their families. Out of that discussion grew the Forever His ministry. Sixteen children with moderate and severe special needs attended the day camp — including some whose families drove more than three hours to participate.

“It was a fantastic day for everyone involved,” said Kim Higginbotham, who hopes to make it an annual event.

TEXAS

EL CAMPO — The El Campo Church of Christ, situated between Houston and Victoria in the Gulf Coast region, recently completed a building expansion that includes three new classrooms.

Also included in the expansion: space for the new Gulf Coast Christian Counseling center.

Licensed marriage and family therapist Jerry Heiderich will serve as the church’s family life minister and lead the counseling center. His hiring grew out of the church’s desire to find someone to teach a quality class each week, lead the life group ministry and start a counseling service.

“I just wanted to share our story and encourage others that small churches can pack a big punch for the kingdom,” preaching minister John McCord said.

UTAH

MURRAY PARK — Salt Lake City’s alternative newspaper *City Weekly* honored the Murray Park Church of Christ for having the city’s best food pantry.

The church intervened in 2013 after a community agency shut down its food pantry and now feeds an estimated 9,000 people per month, minister Mike Wiist said.

“With five to seven volunteers, what is most striking about this pantry is its accessibility and the warmth of its welcome,” *City Weekly* wrote. “While some pantries put up red tape, particularly for those without papers, this pantry ... is a reflection of the best in nonprofit service organizations that struggle with passion and commitment to put food on the tables of Utahns who otherwise would go hungry.”

SPOTLIGHT**Preacher’s Daughter**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — “The Preacher’s Daughter” scored a stunning knockout of Ronda Rousey before 56,000-plus Ultimate Fighting Championship fans in Australia on Nov. 14.

Holly Holm got that nickname because her father, Roger Holm, preaches for the Edgewood Church of Christ in the Albuquerque area.

“Growing up, he was very sweet and very loving,” Holly Holm told *the Albuquerque Journal*. “He’s very real about life, (but) he’s very competitive still.”



Holm



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Mourners visit a makeshift memorial at the site of a crash that killed four people and injured dozens during Oklahoma State University's homecoming parade.



JORDAN RICHARDS

Campus minister Matt Mills, second from left, joins dignitaries on stage at a community-wide memorial. To Mills' right is Oklahoma State President Burns Hargis.

STILLWATER: 'Wrap your arms around these families'

FROM PAGE 1

The Sunday after the crash happened to be Mills' turn to preach at the 600-member Stillwater church.

"God, show me what to do," he asked as he tweaked his lesson that Saturday night and found concentrating difficult.

That Sunday, church elder Kent Sampson — who also serves as the university's director of student life — led a special prayer for the victims, the community and the jailed suspect.

Killed were 2-year-old Nash Lucas, longtime Oklahoma State employees Marvin and Bonnie Stone and University of Central Oklahoma student Nikita Nakal.

Adacia Avery Chambers, 25, faces four counts of second-degree murder. A judge ordered her committed to a state mental facility for psychiatric evaluation.

"Father, we just ask that you wrap your arms around these families," Sampson prayed, his voice cracking.

Nearby, people brought flowers to a makeshift memorial erected at the crash site about 65 miles northeast of Oklahoma City. They counted on their faith and their neighbors in this city of 47,000 to help them heal. Again.

The parade deaths came four years after a plane crash killed two Oklahoma State women's basketball coaches and almost 15 years after 10 people died when a plane carrying members and coaches of the men's basketball team went down.

"It's too fresh to have any kind of answers or apt words," Mills said in his sermon. "Today is about being with those you love. Today is about lifting up our hearts to God."



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Campus minister Matt Mills reflects on favorite Scriptures that students have written on a wall in his office.

A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Each Sunday night, the UC at OK State gathers for "Praise on the Plaza." Typically, about 60 to 70 students get together to sing and pray.

But this time, Mills — who also serves as president of Oklahoma State's Interfaith Council — invited

all the faith-based groups on campus.

An estimated 1,500 to 2,000 students and others joined the vigil on the student union plaza. Sampson supplied about 500 candles from the student life office. Other mourners flashed lights from their smartphones.

Mills' ministry partner Monty Daffern, who has directed the UC at OK State for 21 years, led the singing of "Amazing Grace."

"We weren't really trying to give people answers," Mills said. "We were just trying to give them an avenue to share and pray and cry together."

"I felt like God took it and made it bigger than anybody thought it would be," he added.

Campus ministry intern Catherine Horsley helped distribute candles.

"Friends who are not a part of a church body ... told me, 'You don't know how much that helped me cry out and heal,'" said Horsley, a junior from Chicago, where her family attends the Naperville Church of Christ. "They said, 'I was hurting so badly, and to be able to go and be surrounded by students that felt the same way really helped.'"

HEALING AND HOPE

Nine days after the prayer vigil, Mills found himself on stage at a community-wide memorial in Gallagher-Iba Arena.

He joined university President Burns Hargis, Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb and Stillwater Mayor Gina Noble in honoring the lives lost and saved and thanking those who aided the injured.

"I am honored to represent the various faith communities of Stillwater as we hold up those impacted by the tragedy and take another step forward toward healing and hope," said Mills,

who wore a black suit and an orange tie — the colors of the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

He led the crowd in a moment of silence before reciting the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6.

Asked if he was surprised to see Mills step up in such a way, Daffern shook his head.

"I see that every day," said Daffern, who has known and mentored Mills since he showed up on campus as a freshman in 1999.

The next night, Mills tossed a salad



Watson



Horsley



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Stillwater Church of Christ members line up for a Wednesday night meal prepared by students in the Church of Christ University Center at Oklahoma State University.

as students baked pans of lasagna to serve the Stillwater church before midweek Bible study.

It won't make the 10 o'clock news, but this is where he thrives: leading small-group fellowships in the dorms, playing intramural sports to develop relationships and praying one on one with students away from home for the first time.

The UC at OK State has about 300 students on its roll — roughly 75 percent from Church of Christ backgrounds. Many come from rural congregations smaller than the campus ministry they find in Stillwater.

About 100 to 150 students normally show up for the Wednesday night praise service.

"I have definitely felt God take over in students' lives and situations and give me words to say and put me in the right place that he wants me to be," said Mills, a 34-year-old father of two whose wife, Melissa, teaches math at Oklahoma State. "But this (the parade crash aftermath) was a bigger public role than I have experienced. ... I felt very humbled and honored."

Nonetheless, Mills — who grew up on a southwestern Oklahoma

wheat farm — joked, "I am not going to run for mayor or anything."

Instead, he'll stay focused on leading students closer to Christ.

Watson, one of the students who witnessed the crash, praised Mills' high-profile role in helping Stillwater and Oklahoma State heal. But the aerospace engineering major stressed that Mills didn't neglect those who counted on him all along.

"He has been there for me, too," said Watson, who couldn't get the gruesome images out of his mind and felt comfortable opening up to Mills.

At the campus minister's urging, Watson took advantage of free counseling offered by Oklahoma State.

"So many different emotions run through my head," Watson said. "It's been a lot better than it was, and I know it will continue to get better as I go."

At the praise service, Mills noted that this time of year can be stressful for many students — with the holidays and semester exams approaching.

The parade tragedy could intensify that normal anxiety, he warned.

"I don't have any answers to that," Mills said. "Except God."

Then he opened his Bible to teach.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Oklahoma State students sing during a Wednesday praise service.

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Preacher's final words: 'Be baptized'

AFTER DELIVERING THE INVITATION to his Los Angeles congregation, Darrell Holt succumbs to an apparent heart attack. Church members remember the 59-year-old preacher as someone who 'did everything with intensity.'

BY HAMIL R. HARRIS AND ERIK TRYGGESTAD
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

When a Los Angeles congregation heard Darrell Holt preach on "Being Happy in the Midst of a Storm," they hardly realized that, only moments later, the evangelist would go on to his reward.

"Enough happened on the cross to keep me happy for a lifetime," the minister told the Figueroa Church of Christ as he concluded the hour-long Sunday sermon Oct. 25. Then the 59-year-old minister said, "I need to sit down."

Looking up to heaven from the front row of the auditorium, he continued.

"Jesus wants his people to be happy. If you're not a Christian, say yes to him," he said as he motioned for the song leader to rise. "You've heard the Word. Believe it. Repent of your sins, confess Christ, be baptized."

As the congregation sang, Holt became unresponsive.

Three church members who are nurses administered CPR as they waited for an ambulance. Paramedics transported Holt to California Hospital Medical Center as the congregation held an impromptu prayer service.

Soon, one of the church's elders, Charles Cline, announced that Holt was pronounced dead at the hospital from an apparent heart attack.

HARD-CHARGING FAITH

"I'm a hard-fighting soldier on the battlefield," the congregation sang before Holt's final sermon.

It was an appropriate hymn for the minister, who "preached the Gospel and didn't back off the Word" from his baptism in 1978 to his final breath, said Forest Whitaker Jr.,

another church elder. (Whitaker is the father of Oscar-winning actor Forest Whitaker III.)

Holt, a native of Greenville, Miss., was known among Churches of Christ as a hard-charging, fiery speaker.



Whitaker

At age 21, after completing a Bible correspondence course and reading through the entire Bible at least three times, Holt was immersed by Lloyd Clay Harris. The new convert preached his first public sermon two days later. Harris later founded the School of Religious Studies in Little Rock, Ark., where Holt graduated cum laude.

Holt served Churches of Christ in Mississippi, Tennessee and Michigan before joining the 450-member Figueroa church, established in 1938 after a gospel meet-

ing by evangelist R.N. Hogan, the church's first minister. Holt served under Calvin Bowers, the church's pulpit evangelist for 57 years until his retirement in 2013. Bowers, 82, died Aug. 9, 2014.

SAVING SOULS ON BUSES AND ISLANDS

Holt "did everything with intensity," said Oscar Ward, who has attended Figueroa with his wife, Sylvia, for four decades. In Mississippi, Holt rode on the church bus and preached fervently to those picked up to attend worship.

Some riders were ready for baptism before they reached the building, church members recalled.

"He influenced the lives of everyone he came in contact with," Oscar Ward said. His wife added that the minister also was a good friend, will-



VIDEO STILL VIA FIGUEROACHURCHOFCHRIST.COM/

Moments before his death, Darrell Holt preaches on joy in the midst of suffering.
Find links to the sermon video and past sermons at www.christianchronicle.org.

ing to help people through their trials as he studied the Bible with them.

Holt traveled the globe, preaching in the African nation of Ethiopia and hosting gospel meetings underneath massive tents in Caribbean nations including the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.

"You don't leave from under this tent without knowing the facts," he promised attendees during a 90-minute sermon in Kingston, Jamaica, in 2013.

The Patrick Gardens Church of Christ hosted the two-week meeting, during which Holt talked about his desire to be a "sent preacher, not a 'went' preacher."

Holt pounded the pulpit as he distinguished between the two. Christians, sent by God, must share their faith boldly, using no authority but the Bible, he said.

IN EVERYTHING, 'THE LORD'S HELP'

A recent gospel meeting in Bermuda, where tropical storms threaten, inspired the title of Holt's final sermon. He preached from

1 Peter 4:12-13, in which the apostle urges believers to rejoice when they are persecuted for their faith. Christians are "partakers of Christ's sufferings," Holt read from the King James Version, and "when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

Eight days later, church members gathered to remember Holt's life.

Harris, the minister's longtime mentor and friend, delivered the eulogy.

"We had as close a relationship as two ministers could have. He was very humble and very dedicated," said Harris, who now preaches for the McAlmont Church of Christ in North Little Rock, Ark.

Harris spoke on Philippians 1:21, echoing the apostle Paul's admonition "to live is Christ and to die is gain." Holt often talked of his own desire to proclaim the Gospel until he reached heaven, Harris said.

Even at age 19, he wrote the words "With the Lord's help" at the end of every letter. Eventually, "The Lord's Help" became his personal motto, Harris said.

"Whatever he did, he did it by the Lord's doing," Harris said. "It was the grace of God."



Harris



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Darrell Holt preaches during a two-week gospel meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, in 2013.



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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College of Biblical Studies

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

College of Arts and Sciences

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

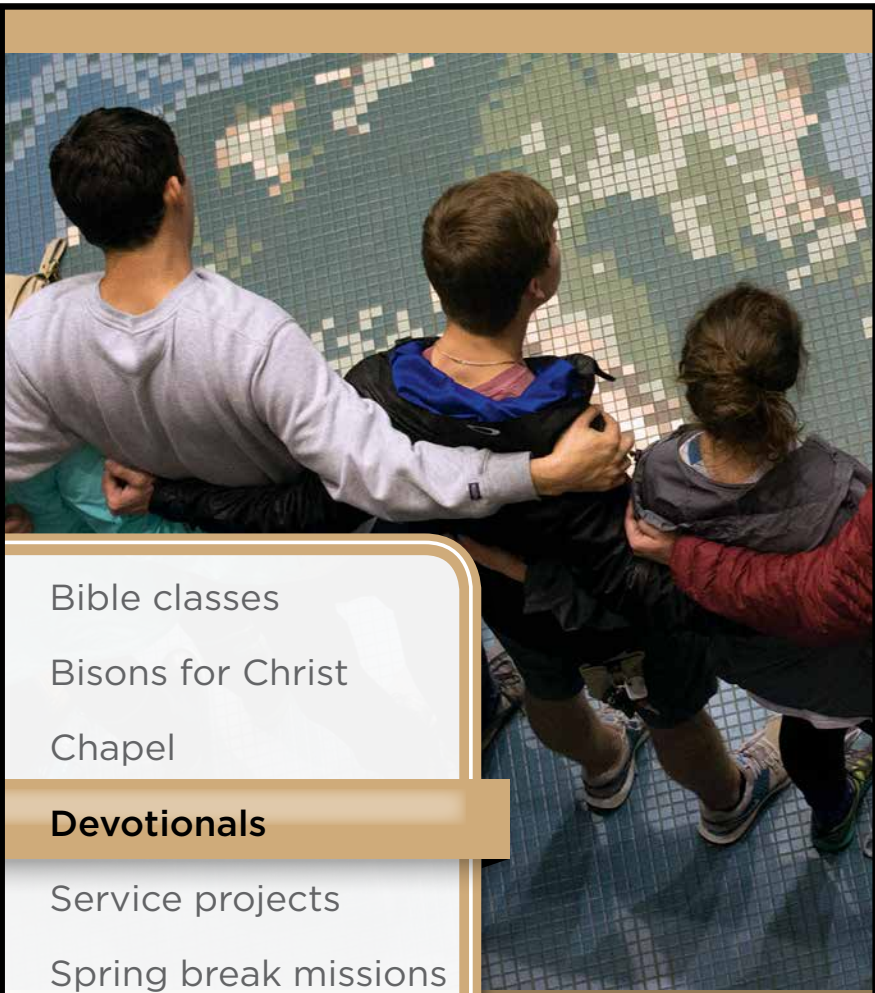
The **Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry** invites applications for a position in organic chemistry beginning in Fall 2016. The successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to excellence in teaching and in research appropriate for an undergraduate department. An M.S. in organic chemistry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

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research and scholarship activities appropriate to the discipline. Experience in leading or contributing to the senior design experience will further distinguish a candidate. Candidates having a B.S. and M.S. degree and a license or certification in an engineering discipline and significant experience in industry or consulting also will be considered. Previous involvement with ABET accreditation would be helpful. Expected start date is Fall 2016. The engineering program started in Fall 2012 and has about 115 students. Fourteen thousand square feet of class and lab space has opened recently in a renovated historic building on campus and additional construction and renovation plans will dedicate a total of 40,000 square feet to the department. The engineering program is strongly connected to the physics program, which has a rich heritage of research and scholarship spanning more than 40 years. The new hire will assist the engineering program in developing a similar heritage of research and scholarship appropriate to the discipline, in a Christ-centered, service-oriented environment. Applicants must convincingly demonstrate how they can mentor ACU engineering and physics students toward leadership roles in industry or academia. Candidates should also demonstrate how they can be flexible, adaptable, and resourceful in supporting this fast-growing program. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/engineering.

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

See acu.edu/academics/provost/positions.html for complete descriptions of these positions and instructions for application. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations of and applications from qualified women and minorities are especially encouraged. All applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and deeply committed to service in Christian higher education. ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities. The university's mission is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.



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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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Hayley Waldron, center, walks down a hallway at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, joined by her husband Harrison's parents, Phil and Donna Waldron.

BOBBY ROSS JR.

WALDRONS: Asking God for a miracle

FROM PAGE 3
their one-year wedding anniversary and their move to her hometown of Nashville, Tenn., where Hayley grew up in the Tusculum Church of Christ.

Next up was supposed to be graduate school at Lipscomb University — Hayley in counseling and Harrison in a combination of fine arts and business.

But between their summer work and the start of classes at Lipscomb, they traveled to Jamestown, N.Y., for the wedding of two friends from Harding.

On Aug. 14, after the rehearsal dinner at the bride's family farm, a friend convinced Harrison to ride on the back of an all-terrain vehicle. As they navigated the four-wheeler across the unfamiliar landscape, they encountered high grass. Before they knew what was happening, the ground gave way to a deep ravine, then plunged 10 feet.

The driver broke his wrist in two places. Harrison was thrown and landed hard between boulders at the

bottom of the ravine, his head bearing the force of the fall.

By the time Hayley got word to Harrison's parents, Phil and Donna Waldron, their son had been flown 15 minutes away to the trauma unit in Erie, Pa., and prepped for emergency surgery to relieve pressure on his brain. The missionary couple, who live and work in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras, rushed to make arrangements and be by his side. Hayley's parents, Tim and Lisa Smith, of Nashville, hurried to support their daughter and son-in-law.

Blessed be the
Caregivers

First in a series

"We didn't know if he would die before we got there," Phil Waldron said.

"My prayer all the way there was that God would just let me see him alive," Donna Waldron said.

Even before they arrived 32 hours later, all were told that Harrison had suffered a devastating brain injury. He was in critical condition. His prognosis was grim.

Before the first surgery, a doctor removed Harrison's wedding band and gave it to Hayley. She wears it suspended on a chain around her



NATALIE HEYEN

Harrison and Hayley Waldron pose for a photo at Niagara Falls before their trip to New York state for the wedding of friends took a tragic turn.

neck and looks at it often.

“I thought, he’s not going to get to wear this for a little while, but I will,” she said. “And I’ll keep it right next to my heart and just remind myself he’s with me, and he’s fighting. ... I cannot wait to put it back on his finger one day when he wakes up.”

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Before the accident, the future seemed so bright — so certain — for Harrison and Hayley, who met and fell in love as freshmen at Harding in 2012.

They hadn’t been together long when a friend of Hayley’s suffered traumatic injuries in a car wreck and later died. Harrison canceled spring break mission trip plans so he could care for Hayley.

“He drove me to Texas so I could see my friend one more time,” she recalled. “Then, he came home with me for spring break and tried to take care of me. ... I knew then that he just really loved me unconditionally already.”

They married in May 2014 at the end of their junior year.

“It was a perfect moment,” Lauren King, one of Hayley’s bridesmaids, wrote in a blog post. “Two people chasing after the Lord first and foremost and experiencing love for each

other in the midst of it. It was a stunning day filled with beautiful love.”

Harding President Bruce McLarty called Harrison and Hayley two of the university’s most joyous and talented students ever. In chapel, at devotionals and at faculty meetings — anywhere people gather for prayer — the Waldrons’ names are spoken.

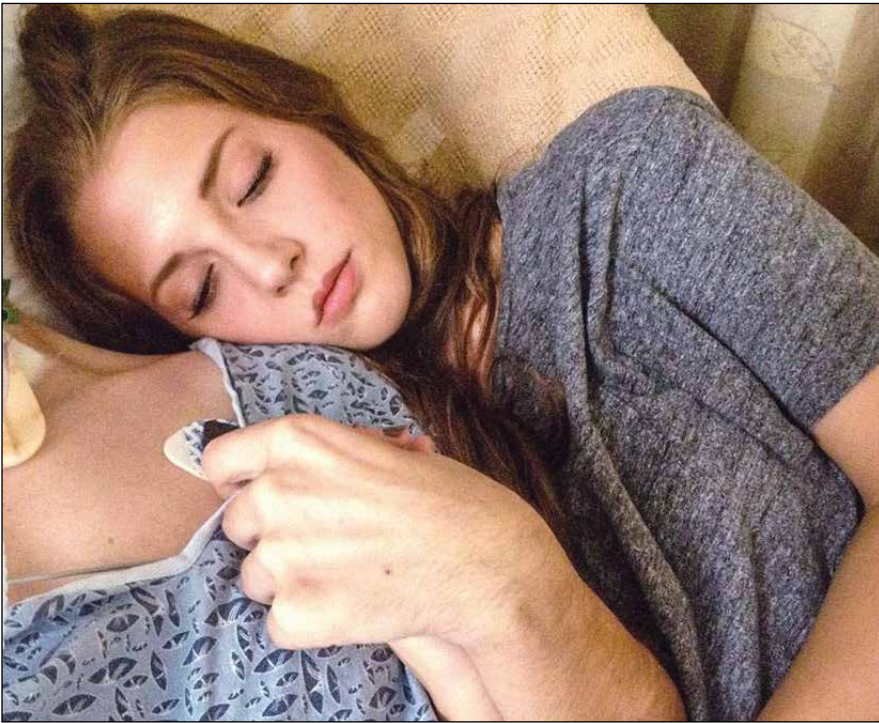
“To see two such beloved and wonderful people going through this experience is breaking our hearts, refining our faith and driving us to our knees,” McLarty said. “The prayer is this: ‘Lord, please bless Harrison and Hayley, and help Harrison to wake up!’ Even our freshmen who have never met Harrison and Hayley feel that they know them and that part of their family is hurting.”

Hayley said she feels those prayers. They sustain her. She tells Harrison many, many people are lifting them up every day.

“I try every afternoon to have a special time to encourage him. I say, ‘God loves you, and he has a plan for your life. And I love you, and I’m here. I’m not leaving.’ I try to reassure him and remind him that we’re a team.”

‘WAIT AND SEE’ TIMES A MILLION

Days 2 through 86 have seen Harrison transferred between facilities, upgraded to stable condition and



DONNA WALDRON

Weeks after the accident, Hayley Waldron climbs into bed with Harrison. She has remained a constant presence by his side since he suffered a devastating brain injury.

diagnosed as minimally conscious.

Hayley writes daily in a journal she says is for Harrison to read later, to know what was happening while he was sleeping. He yawned today. He’s fixating on people as they walk around. Progress, she said.

Christians from the Waldrons’ and Smiths’ home congregations and across the U.S. — and beyond — have fasted, donated to travel funds and helped pay for other expenses.

From her vantage point, Hayley has seen the one-time occurrences become more frequent, even regular.

He can open both eyes, sometimes simultaneously. He is able to give the thumbs-up sign when asked by therapists. Swallowing, yawning, even pressing “yes” and “no” buttons on an iPad are more common.

As to how far Harrison can take his recovery, the doctors cannot say. Nor can they predict a timetable.

“We probably heard ‘wait and see’ a million times in the past three

months,” said Donna Waldron, whose son also remains susceptible to illness and infection because of his weakened condition.

Hayley brushes off the doctors who sometimes give discouraging reports, preferring to focus on her husband’s progress.

“I tell her she’s like the little boy David that didn’t know he couldn’t kill Goliath,” Phil Waldron said. “David just did it. Because of his faith and his courage, he was able to kill the giant. That’s what we kind of think of Hayley.”

“She walks inside this hospital every day, and she sits by his side, and you can’t help but face the harsh possibilities if you do that,” Donna Waldron said. “But she’s chosen to be hopeful, faithful and fully trusting.”

Hayley knows her positivity gives people pause.

“Sometimes people think I’m crazy because I’m like, ‘God is going to take care of this.’ (But) look at what he’s done so far. He kept Harrison alive. He has been healing him. This healing process is not a quick one, but he has been healing him.”



ALYSSA MOORE

A friend created a bracelet as a reminder of prayers for Harrison and used it to raise funds for the family.

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EL SALVADOR

ATACO — Hector and Rachel Cortez, former missionaries to Costa Rica, work with Churches of Christ in western El Salvador.

The couple recently assisted in a “Youth in Action” rally for young Christians and a family seminar designed to help church members mature into deacons and elders. The couple also worked with members of the Corona Church of Christ in California as church members made their first mission trip to the region.

GHANA

YENDI — Across northern Ghana, where many people identify Islam as their faith, Churches of Christ practice outreach, inreach and what they term “up-reach,” including fasting and prayer.

In a recent report to the missions committee of the Nsawam Road Church of Christ in Ghana’s capital, Accra, seven evangelists in northern Ghana detail the churches’ involvement in fasting. At the Tatale church, for example, Emmanuel Kpachin Jagri leads devotionals as the church fasts and prays during the final week of each month. These devotionals include “testimonies to confirm God’s intervention in the course of this spiritual exercise,” the ministers wrote.

At the Yendi Church of Christ, regular fasting helps leaders identify spiritual problems in their congregation, according to the report.

“We may not be able to quantify the degree of impact,” the ministers wrote, “but are vehement that it quenches some amount of troubles in the lives of the members.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

Church members survey earthquake damage in western Pakistan.

PAKISTAN

LAHORE — In this predominantly Muslim country, a few Churches of



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EDWIN INSO

Minister: Philippines needs Samar workers

Minister Edwin Inso prepares to baptize Bobbie Gade and Joel Gade near Borongan City in the province of Eastern Samar in the Philippines. The baptisms followed weeks of Bible lessons with the two men on Saturdays, the minister said, adding that another Church of Christ, in Calbayog on the western side of Samar, recently reported nine baptisms.

“(It’s) great to know that the Kingdom of God on the island of Samar has been growing more and more through the preaching of the Gospel,” Inso said. “There are more — many, many, many more — towns that need to be evangelized. Our goal is to train more workers.”

Christ are doing what they can to help their countrymen in the wake of a devastating, 7.5-magnitude earthquake that struck western Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan. Nearly 400 people died as a result.

The people of the region need food, clean water, warm clothes, blankets and tents, said Asher Kaleem, a church member in Lahore. “We are trying to provide immediate medical support and supplies as well as basic provisions to victims of the South Asian earthquake,” he said.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MADANG — Finding water for baptisms wasn’t easy in this drought-stricken nation north of Australia. But church members persevered and immersed five souls into Christ

in a small pond during the recent Madang Churches of Christ Gospel Meeting.

More than 200 people attended, said Jab Mesa, a minister from the city of Lae who works with Melanesian Bible College. Mesa spoke on “What is the Gospel” from Romans 1:16. His wife, Becky, taught classes for women. The Church of Christ at Omoru hosted the meeting.



Mesa

The drought has put more than 2 million people in Papua New Guinea at risk of famine and disease, according to news reports. Mesa asked Christians worldwide to pray for rain.

SPOTLIGHT

Weathering the storm of AIDS

NYERI, Kenya — In the U.S., few high school students relish the thought of a sex education class — much less one delivered in pouring rain.

But in Kenya, youths didn’t let a downpour stop them from hearing about God’s plan for marriage from missionary Greg Clodfelter.

Clodfelter, a 47-year-old minister for the Queensview Church of Christ in Nyeri, and a team of Kenyan Christians comprise Right Choices, a ministry that teaches school children to combat East Africa’s AIDS epidemic through Bible-based principles of morality.

Once, the team taught at a rural school with no dining hall or auditorium. “The whole school was outside in a field and it started to rain,” Clodfelter said. “‘Great,’ I thought. ‘Lecture’s over.’”

The students refused to let him go and crowded under a four-foot overhang against the wall of their building. Clodfelter completed his presentation in the rain.

“They were so thirsty for the Word of God,” he said. “Living water!”

Clodfelter urges Kenyans to practice abstinence before marriage. Even if they’ve had intercourse, it’s not too late, he says, advising them to become virgins a second time.

Kenya has the fourth-largest HIV epidemic in the world, with 1.6 million people infected. The country has about 1.1 million children orphaned by AIDS. Building more orphanages doesn’t address the root of the problem, Clodfelter says.

“What produces the orphan is the problem,” he says. “Something needs to change. Somebody needs to say something. And finally the church is making noise.”

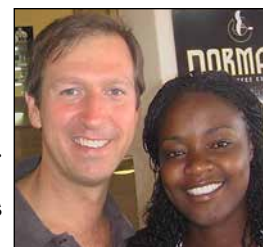


PHOTO PROVIDED

Greg Clodfelter and his wife, Sonia, in Kenya.

EDWARDS: 'She did everything she did to raise us the right way'

FROM PAGE 3

She was almost home after a quick trip with three of the children to get gas for a generator when it happened on Saturday night, Oct. 10.

A vehicle pulled in front of her and forced her to stop. Edwards was shot multiple times at the wheel.

About a month later, her sponsoring congregation, the Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tenn., received word that Haitian authorities had two suspects in custody — and that the abducted 4-year-old was alive and safe, minister Jesse Robertson said.

At press time, JoJo had not yet been returned to the children's home.

The investigation is ongoing, and Robertson said he couldn't comment on possible motives or other details.

DESPITE HARDSHIP AND PAIN, SHE STAYED

Robertson, who preaches for the Estes church in West Tennessee and serves as dean of graduate studies and outreach at nearby Freed-Hardeman University, met Edwards in the mid-1990s, as she and her husband moved to Port-au-Prince to plant a congregation, with support from Estes.

In Haiti, Edwards, a native of North Carolina, was immersed in a sea of need. She started taking in children, mentoring and feeding them.

Widlord Thomas was one of the first.

He was 11 when he came to live with Edwards, after his father lost his job.

Soon after, Edwards' husband left, and they divorced.

"She didn't have anyone but us kids," Thomas said. "We expected her to move back to the U.S."

Instead, "she did exactly what Christ would do: think of others."

Edwards stayed and continued the work, taking in more kids who needed help. Now SonLight gives full-time care to 20 children and serves another 160 two meals per day through its nutrition center.

After the 2010 earthquake, Edwards' work expanded to include development projects, education for Haitian teachers and skills training.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

A few weeks after the 2010 earthquake, Roberta Edwards drives past displaced Haitians in Port-au-Prince. The 7.0-magnitude quake destroyed much of the city.

Members of the Estes church and other U.S. congregations make regular mission trips to assist.

At the time of Edwards' death, 29 Americans, including 18 from Estes, had just arrived for a weeklong medical mission. About a dozen Christian educators also were in town hosting a seminar for Haitian teachers. Healing Hands International, a nonprofit supported by Churches of Christ, sponsored the seminar.

Bobbie Solley was in Haiti coordinating the Healing Hands team. The retired professor, now Healing Hands' director of international education development, began working with Edwards in 2012.

"She had the most faith and trust of any human being I've ever known," Solley said of Edwards. "Whenever she needed something, she would wait on the Lord. She didn't make phone calls."

Edwards translated Solley's seminars into the Creole language as they helped teachers improve their skills. During the trips "we shared what the Lord had done in each of

our lives," Solley said, adding that Edwards "allowed me to be who I was and loved me anyway."

Thomas, now 29, studied at Freed-Hardeman and just married a Christian woman in Texas.

He plans to return to Haiti in January with his bride.

Edwards "loved and showed love to all the people who she came in contact with," he said. "She did everything she did to raise us the right way."

He prays that her work will continue, that more of his brothers and sisters will be blessed to attend universities and that they will give back to transform their community, physically and spiritually.

BROKEN, FLUID HEARTS

"Why do we even go to Haiti?" is a question Robertson heard a few times immediately after Edwards' death.

He responded with the same challenge he issues to church members considering missions in Haiti.

"If you work in Haiti for very long, you will probably get your heart broken," he says, "so decide now that you are prepared to keep working — even after that happens."

The church has a motto: "In Haiti you have to be fluid, because flexible is just too rigid."

"Even saying that, it still taxes us to live up to it," he added.

The Estes church is committed to continuing the work, Robertson said. The congregation has sent elders and counselors to SonLight to be there for the children as they mourn.

John Marble and his wife, Jessica, traveled from Cap Haitien, on Haiti's northern coast, to assist. The couple directs the Cap Haitien Children's Home, another ministry supported by Churches of Christ.

"Roberta would have been there, knocking on our door," had a similar tragedy unfolded in Cap Haitien, John Marble said. "Our main goal here is just to be an American presence."

Edwards trained the children to take care of each other. Haitian Christians — some raised at SonLight — also are assisting.

Marcos Similien lived at the home before attending medical school in nearby St. Kitts and Nevis. He returned to Haiti recently to begin a medical career and is helping to oversee SonLight until permanent house parents are in place.

The children continue to meet for devotionals, Similien said, adding that he takes comfort in Bible stories such as the parable of the rich man and Lazarus from Luke 16.

Even though Lazarus, a poor man, was treated badly in life, he was "carried to Abraham's side" in the hereafter.

Though their mother is no longer on earth, Similien said, the children know they'll be together again someday, *when those gates are open wide*.

SEE UPDATES at www.christianchronicle.org.



Thomas



Solley



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

A few days after Roberta Edwards' death, John and Jessica Marble from Cap Haitien, Haiti, and Marcos Similien, who grew up at SonLight, look after Edwards' children.

Seeing Roberta's legacy, in person

THOMAZEAU, Haiti
'God, I don't get it."
That's what a mission worker once told me, reflecting on the moments of frustration she felt during her years in Haiti.
Her words pound in my brain as I make my fourth visit to the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.
Surely Haiti has suffered enough, Lord. Earthquakes and hurricanes. Cholera and corruption. Surely the Christians who toil tirelessly here deserve to see real fruits of their labor — prosperity, change, hope.
But I don't see that here — just drop-in-the-bucket efforts, Band-Aids. I never go home feeling good. And now we've lost Roberta Edwards.
"God, I don't get it."
I was days away from leaving for Port-au-Prince when I heard about Roberta's murder. I thought about when I first met her, about a month after the January 2010 earthquake.
Manna Global Ministries was coordinating relief teams. I flew into the Dominican Republic and rode with Christians from Fairfax, Va., as they made the five-hour drive from Santo Domingo to Haiti's broken capital — in a truck loaded with rice and beans for our Haitian brethren to distribute.
At SonLight Children's Home, Roberta's kids and U.S. volunteers were hard at work. The older ones moved debris from a collapsed wall.
Under a nearby mango tree was the grave where they buried 15-year-old Nicky, who died when the wall fell.
We set up tents on the property of the Santo Church of Christ, next to SonLight. I interviewed Edwards, her kids and Haitian ministers.
I tried to help move rubble when I could. (Watching a 9-year-old race by me with a wheelbarrow twice as full as mine was humbling.)
Roberta never minced words. I admired her North Carolina directness, her dedication. I honestly don't have many notes about her.

She spent most of our conversations talking about her kids.
I visited her again in 2011. Just a few months ago she called me — to brag on her kids. They had launched a fundraising drive among Haitian Christians for victims of another earthquake — in Nepal.
On this trip, I've interviewed preachers and principals who work with Hope for Haiti's Children, another ministry not associated with SonLight. I've begun to realize what I've missed on my previous visits.
There is hope in Haiti, and it's not in us. We don't bring it. Hope lives in the dedicated Haitians who, stripped of the comforts and crutches to which I cling, recognize their utter dependence on God.
Here in the town of Thomazeau I interviewed Sylvio Joly, who works with a children's home and Christian school overseen by Hope for Haiti's Children. I asked him if he grew up in the Church of Christ and he said he did — in the Santo congregation.
"Hey, I've been there," I said. "Are you one of Roberta's kids?"
"Yes," he replied. "In fact, you've interviewed me before."
I flashed back to the wall, the rubble. We talked about Roberta.
"She always taught me, 'Don't say you can't,'" he said. "You can do everything if you put your faith into what you're doing."
After leaving the SonLight home he studied to become an electrician. Now he's a right-hand man at the orphanage, staffers told me. He helps maintain the water system.
Sometimes he preaches. With the money he makes, he sponsors a student in the Hope for Haiti's Children program.
God, I still don't get it. But I know that you are God and I am not.
I have to keep praying, keep trusting and let you transform my heart the way you've transformed lives through our sister Roberta.

Road Notes



Erik Tryggestad



Erik TRYGGESTAD

Sylvio Joly at Thomazeau.

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Youth Minister

Laurel Church of Christ in Laurel, Maryland, is currently seeking a Youth Minister to help grow and build-up the teens and pre-teens who are either members of the church or who regularly attend worship and participate in other activities with this part of the body of Christ.

For additional information, contact Jeff at:
jeffdockendorf@gmail.com
or see the full job description at:
www.christianchronicle.org.

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PRESIDENT

The National Christian School Association (NCSA) is seeking application for its first full-time President. NCSA seeks, as its new President, a deeply committed Christian, a servant leader and an active member in Churches of Christ. The successful candidate will be fully committed to educational excellence and promote the critical importance of keeping Christ at the heart of every aspect of education at preschool through college levels. The next President should be an independent self-starter. Experience as a chief administrator at a Christian school is preferred. An adept public speaker, a proven fundraiser, with current knowledge in educational trends, and accreditation is required. While an earned doctorate is preferable, an earned master's degree with extensive experience in Christian school administration will be considered.

The President will be expected to provide Christ-centered leadership in developing programs and achieving NCSA goals. He/She will be the Association's "public face" to Christian colleges, the larger education community and governmental entities. He/She will attend all Board meetings, plan the annual NCSA conference, and be responsible for executing all Board policies, and other duties as assigned by the NCSA Board.

Formed in 1980, the NCSA is an educational association of 98 K-12 schools in 26 states, serving more than 30,000 students. All of the current member schools are affiliated with the Churches of Christ, although recent NCSA Board action has expanded membership possibilities to Christ-centered K-12 schools who are committed to New Testament Christianity. NCSA member schools are not-for-profit and independently-operated in most cases by self-perpetuating boards. NCSA leadership and direction has historically been provided by a part-time President under the oversight of a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, composed primarily of 14 presidents or administrators of the member schools.

NCSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), the Census Bureau, and the Council for American Private Education (CAPE). NCSA is also a founding member of the Coalition of Christian School Accreditors (CCSA). The NCSA's accrediting process is recognized by partnerships with AdvancED (a combination of the regional accrediting bodies historically known as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the North Central Association) and with individual state departments of education where appropriate.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a full resume to the Chairman of the Search Committee, with possible follow-up information to be requested. The NCSA Board desires to name its new President in February 2016, to be publicly introduced at the annual Association Board meeting in March 2016 and formally take office on June 1, 2016.

The National Christian Schools Association does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities unless allowed by law.

Interested candidates should send their letters of interest, curriculum vitae, and a list of at least five professional references (with email addresses and telephone numbers) by December 18, 2015 to:

Dr. Royce Money, Consultant, NCSA Presidential Search Committee,
Hunter Welcome Center
ACU Box 29119
Abilene TX 79699-9119
Or, you may reply by email to: moneyr@acu.edu

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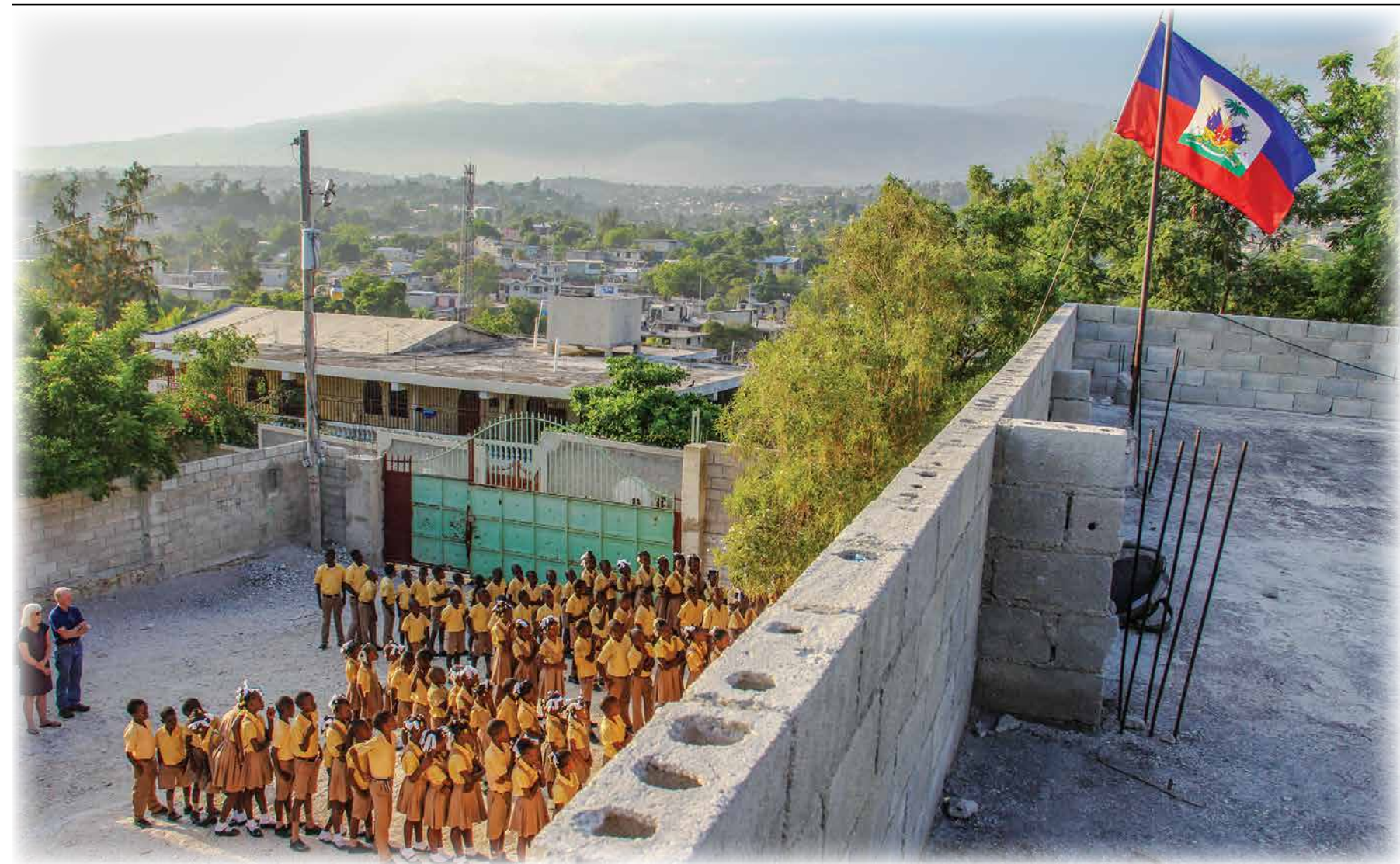
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ERIK TRYGGESTAD

At Cazeau Christian Elementary School, on a hilltop overlooking Port-au-Prince, Haitian children pledge allegiance during a Friday morning flag-raising ceremony.

Finding Haiti's hidden hope

IN A LAND BESET by earthquakes, crime and uncertainty, Christians focus on transforming one child at a time

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Rocks in the water cannot comprehend the misery of rocks in the sun.

The constitution is paper. Bayonets are steel.

— **Haitian proverbs**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

Blue helmets and rifles flash past the windows of an old yellow school bus with “Hope for Haiti’s Children” written on its side.

The armored convoy is a show of

force by the United Nations, here to monitor Sunday’s round of elections.

Violence at polling stations marred the previous round. That won’t happen again, the government has vowed.

More than 40 Haitians are running for president — and more for the national assembly. They’ve all been assigned numbers. Handbills plastered on the city’s cinder block walls urge voters to choose No. 10, 31, 82.

Like the posters, Haiti’s problems are plentiful and hard to miss.

Nearly six years have passed since “*la tranble*” — “the shaking” in Creole. The Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake claimed more than 230,000 lives and left 1.5 million homeless. Walls are rebuilt, their tops plastered with translucent green shards from broken bottles to keep out thieves. Crime and gang violence are daily realities.

Even elections are dangerous.

Rocks in the sun.

Much harder to see is the Cazeau Christian Elementary School. The

school bus driver, Pascal Oreste, swerves from the traffic-clogged main road to reach it, at the end of a narrow alleyway up a steep hill. Maneuvering the bus through impossibly tight turns, he pulls up to the gate just in time for the morning flag ceremony.

The bus riders, from Churches of Christ in Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas, unload as children in mustard-yellow and khaki uniforms salute the Haitian flag. They also pray.

CONTINUED



Students pray at the Dubuisson school, supported by Hope for Haiti's Children.

CONTINUED

Ken Bever, director of Hope for Haiti's Children, gives certificates to the students who have excelled at Scripture memorization.

For the U.S. church members, the school is the first stop on a tour of works supported by the nonprofit, founded by Bever and his wife, Rhonda, as a joint ministry of the Connecticut Valley Church of Christ in Windsor, Conn., and the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince.

The Bevers, now members of the Northeast Church of Christ in Cincinnati, first traveled to Haiti in 1993 and saw scores of children unable to attend school. They launched Hope for Haiti's Children in 1995. The ministry's operating arm is now a non-governmental organization. Jeantyard Elmera, minister for the Delmas church, oversees Haiti operations.



Principal Beatrice and minister Jean Baptiste Chery at the Cazeau school.

In the past 20 years, the ministry has helped establish and fund the construction of 10 Christian schools, enrolling more than 2,500 children. U.S. sponsors pay tuition for 1,440 of them.

Cazeau, a 197-student school with students from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade, has a nearly 100 percent pass rate on Haiti's national exams, compared to 40 percent in the country's overcrowded public



A "tap tap" rolls through Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, amid campaign signs.

schools. The facility also includes a children's home for 36 boys and 36 girls, ages 5 to 17.

"We've got a special goal — to give these kids a good education and to share the Word of God with them," says the principal, Beatrice Chery, speaking in Creole as her husband, Jean Baptiste, translates. Jean Baptiste Chery is a minister and the nonprofit's vice president for Haiti operations.

The principal prays that the students will "see their country change" for the better.

"With God we can make things happen," she tells them. "We need God to continue to help us."

An empty sack can't stand up. If it is God who sends you, he'll pay your expenses.

— **Haitian proverbs**

Nourishing children physically and spiritually, empowering them to serve as leaders and develop their country, is a goal for the nonprofit. That means meals, Bibles and schoolbooks for the students and orphans.

It also means computer classes. Dyna Edouard, a teacher at the Cazeau school for eight years, oversees its new computer club. Even the early grades get experience scrolling and clicking as they learn math and practice English.



Johny and Marieshelle Joseph takes communion during Sunday worship at the Thomazeau Church of Christ in Haiti.

"All of my students, they are so amazing, so smart," she brags. "I know they have faith in life and faith in God."

She worries about them after they leave — especially the orphans. The country's unemployment rate is 70 percent, according to some estimates. Even a good education doesn't guarantee a good job.

"I worry about them finding a place to live," Edouard says, "but I really hope that they keep on trusting in God."

Dieuvella Jean Pierre, 19, is one of the students sponsored through the nonprofit. Her day begins at 4 a.m., when she rises to catch one of the colorful "tap tap" buses for the 25-minute ride to school, assuming the traffic is good. It rarely is.

"If you go after 5:30, it's too crowded, and you have to walk," she says, and she wants to be

there in plenty of time for her 7 a.m. class. She's thankful for the support she receives to pay her school fees, and she hopes to become a physician. Her country needs Christian doctors, she says.

"Haiti can change, people can have hope," she adds, "but it's ... not an easy thing."

Sonja Toussaint has served as a caretaker for the Cazeau orphanage for seven years. Many of her children succeed. Some don't. A few go to the U.S. to study or the Jamaica School of Preaching and Biblical Studies.

Some now serve as administrators at other schools launched by Hope for Haiti's Children.

"Our hope is different from non-Christians," she says. "When



Jean Pierre

we work at doing a good thing, not only is our conscience safe, (but) God can take whatever we're doing and bless it."

People talk and don't act. God acts and doesn't talk.

— **Haitian proverb**

On election Sunday, after two days of visiting schools and orphanages across the region, the U.S. Christians worship with the Thomazeau Church of Christ, 90 minutes northeast of Port-au-Prince. So far, there are no reports of violence from the capital.

"Satan tells lies. The big lie is that if you're God's children, nothing bad will happen," Bever preaches to the 100 or so souls assembled under a brand new pavilion on the 25-acre campus, also home to an elementary school and an orphanage serving 12 children.

Bever tells the Old Testament



Students at the Mirebalais Christian Elementary School take Creole exams.

story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, all tossed into a fiery furnace for refusing to disobey God. Though ready to die, they emerged unburned. When Haitians face tribulations, "are you looking at your problems or are you looking at your power?" Bever asks.

In the children's Bible class — packed wall to wall with children in polo shirts, pillowcase dresses and hair bows — Marieshelle Joseph teaches about the miracles of Jesus.

Joseph works with Hope for Haiti's Children as an office administrator and helps coordinate groups of U.S. volunteers when they visit.

Raised in Gonaives, Haiti, she moved to Port-au-Prince not long after a flood devastated her home-



Bever

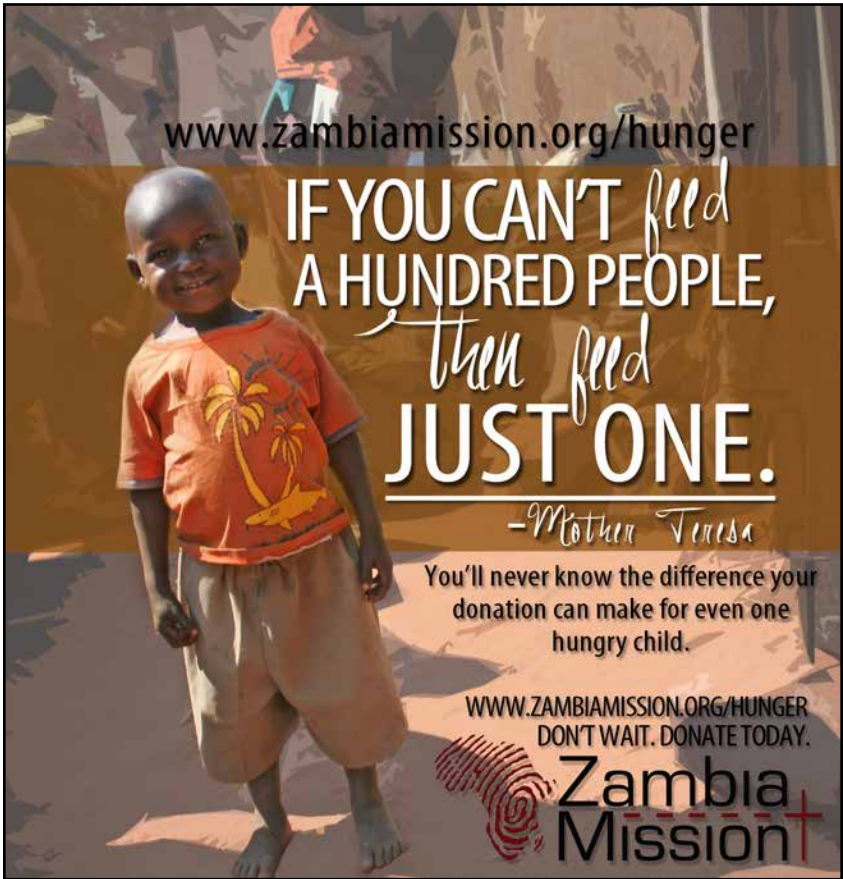
town in 2008. Two years later, the earthquake nearly obliterated her new home. But she found faith at the Delmas 28 Church of Christ. She was baptized and taught in the school there, also sponsored by Hope for Haiti's Children.

Despite her country's countless hardships, she sees positive changes here — small changes, in tiny faces.

"Kids who could barely talk and failed first grade are now thriving," she says. Once neglected and withdrawn, they've become jubilant, academic aces.

She prays that these small steps will lead to better lives — in the now and in the hereafter — for Haiti's future generations.

"I do see hope," she says, "because without hope there is no living ... no life."



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The **Blacksburg (VA) Church of Christ** is seeking a campus minister to lead the campus ministry and evangelistic efforts at Virginia Tech and other local colleges. The applicant must be relatable to college students and be able to work effectively to:

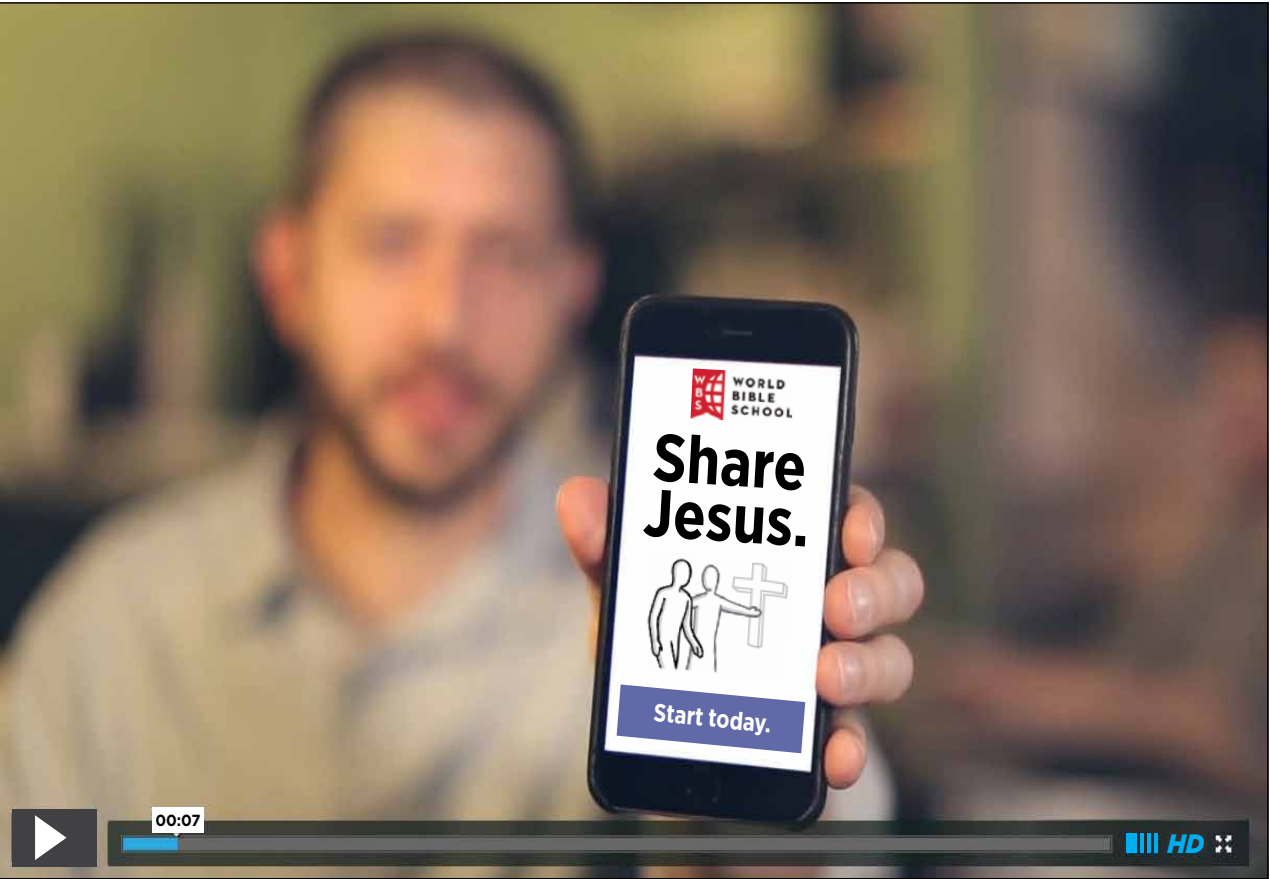
(1) encourage students' spiritual growth and desire to serve in the Kingdom of God; (2) assimilate students into all facets of congregational life; and (3) share and equip students to share the Gospel with non-believers.

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HD

Speaker of Tennessee's General Assembly says her spiritual support system is vital for staying focused on what matters

Beth Harwell on politics, faith and balance

BY ALAN GROVES | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. On Jan. 11, 2011, Beth Harwell was unanimously elected the first female Speaker of the House in the Tennessee General Assembly.

Harwell, who has completed three terms as Speaker, is a graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville. She is one of 13 state legislators who identifies as a member of the Church of Christ.

Harwell's interest in politics began during the Watergate scandal of the early 1970s. While others were losing faith in the political process altogether, Harwell, who remembers watching the hearings with her grandmother, observed the system work out its flaws with stoic fascination.

A native of Pennsylvania, she moved to Nashville to attend Lipscomb. She later earned a master's from George Peabody College and a doctorate in social science education from Vanderbilt University.

Just a few miles from Lipscomb, at Belmont University in Nashville, Harwell served as assistant professor of political science. She often considered putting what she was teaching into action. Since her first election in 1988 she has thoroughly enjoyed seeing the concepts that she once taught, "jump from the textbook pages and come alive," she said.

Harwell and her husband, Sam, have three children — Allie, Sam and Tucker.

Earlier this year, Harwell sat down with *The Christian Chronicle* to discuss her perspective as a Christian woman and politician.

How, if at all, does your faith influence your policy-making decisions?

It influences my values, of course, which affect a couple of different things. Sometimes that might be specific legislation and sometimes it may be the way I conduct myself in the political world, interacting with other members of the General Assembly.



WWW.BETHHARWELL.ORG

Beth Harwell, a 1978 graduate of Lipscomb University, was named Speaker of Tennessee's General Assembly in 2011. In 2012 Lipscomb named her Alumnus of the Year.

What would you say to Christians who are uncomfortable with actively participating in the political process?

Don't be. Stay informed, be in touch with your representative or senator and share your thoughts.

On the state level, you can actually make contact with your state representative or senator and they appreciate hearing from constituents.

Engaging is important if you want your values represented.

Do you have a close relationship with the 12 other members of the General Assembly who identify as members of Churches of Christ?

I do have a good relationship with them. There is also a non-denomina-

tional Bible study from time to time held in the morning, led by members. I attend that as often as I can.

What strategies do you use to stay spiritually active amidst your busy schedule?

I actively set aside time for prayer or personal Bible study. As I said before, the ability to unplug and do that consistently gives me better perspective.

How important is your church family to your personal life, as a spiritual and emotional support system for a stressful career?

Incredibly important. In politics, sometimes it is hard to unplug and refocus. Spiritual support systems are important because they keep

you focused on the most important things in life, like faith and family. If those are strong, everything else falls into place.

Some critics say that Churches of Christ tend to oppress or discriminate against women in the church. What is your opinion on the role of women — both inside and outside the church?

I do not personally see that.

My church family has always been encouraging of me, whatever I wanted to pursue.

I attended Lipscomb, of course and they were also very encouraging — I never felt as though they were discriminatory of me.

When I was elected Speaker, a lot of people made a big deal out of the fact I was the first woman to achieve that. But I am always quick to remind them that it was my male colleagues that elected me and placed their trust in me.

What advice would you give young Christian women who might also be interested in politics?

If you feel led in that direction, do get involved. That doesn't have to mean running for office. That can mean working in politics or volunteering on a campaign.

Get involved in your community and become a part of some causes and organizations you believe in. Being an active member of your community will ignite that desire for public service.

EXPANDED INTERVIEW: www.christianchronicle.org.

ALSO ONLINE: Fred Thompson, a former U.S. senator for Tennessee and actor who once ran for president, died Nov. 1 at age 73. He had roots in Churches of Christ and was baptized in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. Read Bobby Ross Jr.'s profile of Thompson. Search for "Inside Story Fred Thompson."





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

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

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

For more information on either position, contact Dr. Susan Kehl, dean, at skehl@harding.edu, Box 12265, Searcy, AR 72149 or 502-279-4941.

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

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Allen Frazier, dean, at afrazier@harding.edu or Box 10774, Searcy, AR 72149.

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

Submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to Dr. Glen Metheny, chair of graduate school of business, at gmetheny@harding.edu.

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. Ronald Smith, chair, at rsmith@harding.edu or Box 10764, 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 Jeanie Smith, Pharm.D., associate professor, at 501-279-5532, jsmith17@harding.edu or Box 12230, Searcy, AR 72149.

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

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Steven Breezeel, search committee chair, at sbreezeel@harding.edu or Box 12247, Searcy, AR 72149.

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

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

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

SPOTLIGHT

Enrollment records set at universities

Record numbers of students enrolled this fall at **Crowley's Ridge College** in Paragould, Ark., **Lipscomb University** in Nashville, Tenn., and **Oklahoma Christian University** in Oklahoma City.

Lipscomb has 4,686 students — up from 4,526 last year.

Oklahoma Christian has 2,587 students — up from 2,479 last year.

"It's exciting to see OC grow," President John deSteiguer said. "I'm proud of our faculty and staff, who constantly seek innovative ways to teach and serve our students."



deSteiguer

Crowley's Ridge has a student headcount of 226 — up from 223 last year, President Ken Hoppe said.

Fall enrollments at other Christian universities that provided figures:

- **Abilene Christian University:** 4,544, up from 4,421.
- **Florida College, Temple Terrace, Fla.:** 550, down from 555.
- **Harding University, Searcy, Ark.:** 6,033, down from 6,070.
- **Heritage Christian University, Florence, Ala.:** 107, down from 115.
- **Lubbock Christian University, Texas:** 1,958, up from 1,902.
- **Ohio Valley University, Vienna, W.Va.:** 446, up from 424.
- **Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif.:** 850 freshmen and new transfer students, up from 734.
- **Rochester College, Michigan:** 1,176, up from 1,134.
- **York College, Nebraska:** 413, up from 400.

Numbers from some universities associated with Churches of Christ were not available by press time.

SEE AN EXPANDED STORY on Christian university enrollments at www.christianchronicle.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TRENT WHEELER

Nigerian Christian Bible College buys its 62-year-old campus

After more than six decades — and prayers for "the grace and intercession of God" — Nigerian Christian Bible College owns its 20-acre campus, said Trent Wheeler, president of African Christian Schools Foundation. Wheeler, center, and foundation board member Edet Udofia of Murfreesboro, Tenn., sign the documents finalizing the sale as Goodnews Peter, at right, who works with the college, assists. Standing behind them are members of the traditional rulers' council, representing the five tribes in southern Nigeria whose land overlaps the campus.

The months-long negotiations weren't easy, Wheeler said. One of the tribal leaders even demanded a glass of gin before he agreed to sign the documents, but "everyone waited patiently until the supreme chief stepped in and resolved the stalemate," he added.

Decades of storms, the tropical environment and even acts of violence have taken a toll on the campus, which needs about \$150,000 in repairs and upgrades, Wheeler said. African Christian Schools has launched a fundraising drive. See africanchristianschools.org.

CHRISTIAN CAMPS

CAROLINA BIBLE CAMP

MOCKSVILLE, N.C. — More than 800 guests attended the recent fourth annual Carolina Bible Camp Bluegrass Festival.

The event is the nation's only bluegrass festival held at a Bible camp, promoting Bible study and wholesome recreation, organizers said. Worship assemblies are a cappella.

"This year's festival was our best attended so far," event chairman Greg Brewer said. "We're getting the word out about the festival and about the camp."

The festival raises funds to ensure no child is turned away from camp because of an inability to pay.

HIGHER EDUCATION

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Richard Hughes,

who has spent more than 40 years researching religion and culture, has been appointed to a two-year term as scholar-in-residence at Lipscomb University's College of Bible and Ministry.

Hughes, author of "Reviving the Ancient Faith: The Story of Churches of Christ in America," has taught at Pepperdine, Southwest Missouri State and Abilene Christian universities.

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

BURBANK, Calif. — More than 400 Pepperdine friends and industry leaders gathered at the Walt Disney Studios to celebrate the university's launch of the Institute for Entertainment, Media and Culture.

"The institute will not only bring cross-disciplinary opportunities to students, but it will also help students find their space and success in the entertainment industry with the unique Pepperdine emphasis

on faith and service," spokeswoman Alexandra Forero said.

MISSIONS

LET'S START TALKING

HURST, Texas — After 35 years leading Let's Start Talking, Mark and Sherrylee Woodward will transition to emeritus status.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mark and Sherrylee Woodward are transitioning to a new role.

The ministry's board praised the Woodwards' service as it initiates a search for a new executive director. LST uses the Bible to start evangelistic conversations around the world.



THE VOYAGE



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Lesson 1 – Harbor of Peace
Bible Text: John 6: 1-15 (Feeding the 5,000)
Focus: I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)

Lesson 2 – Lighthouse of Hope
Bible Text: John 9:1-12 (Healing of the blind man)
Focus: I Am the Light of the World (John 9:5)

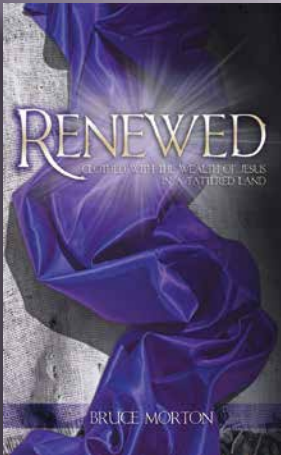
Lesson 3 – Compass of Guidance
Bible Text: John 13:1-17 (Jesus washing disciples' feet)
Focus: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)

Lesson 4 – Lifeboat of Safety
Bible Text: John 20:1-9 (Resurrection of Jesus)
Focus: I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

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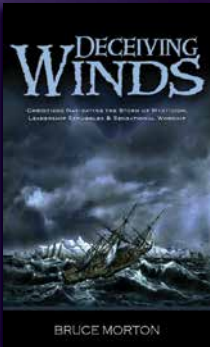
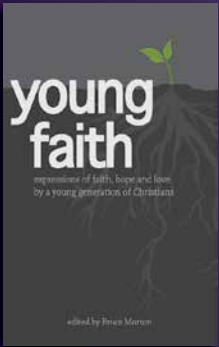
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BY KATIE JONES | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Caleah! Caleah! Caleah!” The crowd chants as young women position themselves on the indoor volleyball court and wait for the serve. “It’s funny,” says Caleah Wells, a 6-foot-1 senior for the West Virginia University Mountaineers, “people know I’m not from around here, so they are always confused when there are 15 to 20 people in the stands screaming my name.

“And when they ask me, I proudly say, ‘That’s my church family.’”

Wells, a native of Las Vegas, dedicates her life to the volleyball court and the church pews around a rigorous schedule of corporate psychology classes.

“She often comes to services directly from practice when she is clearly tired and hungry,” said Ben Jones, preacher for the University Church of Christ in Morgantown, W.Va. “Some of our members regularly attend her home matches, but I think most people are fans of Caleah more than the volleyball.”

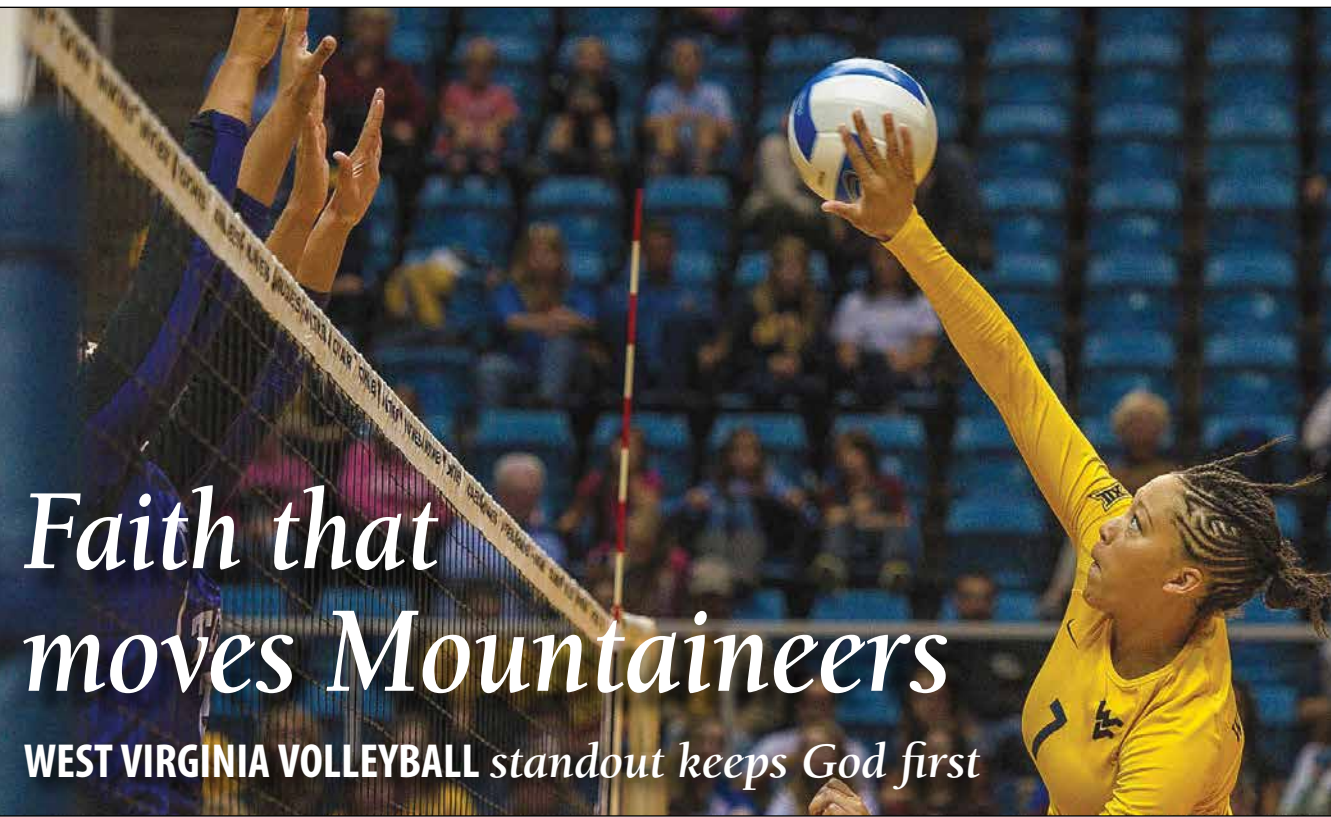
Jill Kramer, former coach for the Mountaineers, also was a fan of the standout player for Red Oak High School in Dallas.

As Wells considered attending the university — a newly minted member of the Big 12 conference — she made sure her visit to the campus included worship with the University church.

She invited Kramer to come along and, to her surprise, her prospective coach said yes.

The experience was “somewhat nerve-racking,” Wells recalls, but Kramer later described how she admired the church for rallying behind the athlete — even before she signed with the Mountaineers.

The invitation only marked the beginning of Wells’ evangelism journey in West Virginia.



Faith that moves Mountaineers

WEST VIRGINIA VOLLEYBALL *standout keeps God first*

Caleah Wells, a standout volleyball player from Las Vegas, plays middle blocker for the West Virginia University Mountaineers.

‘GOD, FAMILY, VOLLEYBALL’

Growing up in a city known for its vices, Wells developed strong connections with the North Las Vegas Church of Christ.

“It was seriously my second home,” she said. “From Bible studies, singing practice and worship on Sundays, my family was heavily involved in the church.”

Her mother, Calinda Wells, said Caleah decided early in her life to make her family’s faith her own.

“She was very aware at 10 years old,” Calinda Wells said. “She made a commitment early that she wanted to follow Christ.”

Caleah’s father, Samuel Wells, is the greatest spiritual influence in the young athlete’s life, her mother said. He often sends his daughter Bible verses via text message

when she gets discouraged.

“I constantly use God’s Word to make her realize this world is not our home,” Samuel Wells said. “All things

work for them who love the Lord.”

The family, including Caleah and her two brothers, moved to Dallas when Caleah was in sixth grade. Transitioning from a small faith community to a city with dozens of Churches of Christ, Caleah said she was surprised that congregations in Dallas seemed to host fewer activities than her previous church.

“Living in Las Vegas, there are way more temptations that capture the people who live there — excessive gambling, excessive drinking,” she said. “So, in order to keep people active, the church *always* had something going on at the building.”

Nonetheless, “I had a difficult time making friends at school, and because of this I really relied on the friends I had at church,” she said. “When I look back, I am so thankful that my parents’ first priority was to find a loving church home.”

Her mother enrolled Caleah in a volleyball league at the local YMCA. She also played tennis, softball and basketball.

At Red Oak, a high school whose

volleyball team was undefeated in its district for more than 20 years, she started for the “B” team and earned a spot on the varsity squad her sophomore year.

Her coach, Arthur Stanfield, saw her potential and “basically gave me private sessions working on blocking and hitting,” she said.

“That was when I decided that I needed to take volleyball seriously,” she added. Her parents decided to enroll her in club-league volleyball.

It was a financial sacrifice for the family — and it competed for her time in the classroom and at church.

At one point she received a letter “about how I was missing so much school,” she said. “If I missed any more I would have to go to truancy court — all for volleyball.”

She worked hard to keep her grades up and went to early church services on Sundays when she had volleyball games. Her parents asked coaches to leave Wednesday nights open on practice schedules so she could attend Bible study.

“Thankfully I had understanding coaches that realized that I was serious when it comes to my priorities — God, family, volleyball,” she said.

See **WELLS**, Page 26



PHOTOS BY STEVEN M. PRUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
Caleah Wells celebrates a victory. As a junior, she put up a season-best 13 kills (point-scoring plays) in a win over Texas Christian University.



Samuel Wells

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WELLS: For athlete, church is a 'second home'

FROM PAGE 25

BIBLE STUDIES AND AWAY GAMES

Caleah Wells had a lot of offers and options for college. She chose West Virginia, 1,200 miles from home, partly because the coach, Kramer, was friends with Caleah's club coach, who recommended her.

Mostly, however, "I really fell in love with the people here," she said. She signed to play for the Mountaineers in 2012 and was one of two freshmen to play in every set of every match during the season.

After Caleah's third season, Kramer resigned and many of her teammates left. Only Caleah and one other senior decided to stay.

Reed Sunahara, the new coach for the Mountaineers, said he appreciates Caleah's decision.

"She could have easily left," Sunahara said. "It means she's a committed person. I know she's going to excel not only on the volleyball court, but in life."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
Caleah Wells, No. 7, at the net for WVU.

Balancing a full course load with weight training, cardiovascular training and twice-a-day practices, Wells still makes time to participate in activities with two campus ministries — sponsored by the University Church of Christ and the Morgantown Church of Christ.

Ben Jones, the preacher for the University church, said, "Caleah has the competitive drive that you would expect from a high-level college athlete, but she is also one of the most relatable members of the congregation."

She's also an evangelist who makes connections outside church buildings, her parents said. She doesn't just invite coaches to church — also her teammates, roommates and friends. She hosts Bible studies.

In addition to interactions with fellow believers, her mother stressed the importance their family places on church attendance.

"She knows she has to have that as an example," Calinda Wells said.

Her coaches have never kept her from worship, Caleah Wells said. "My freshman year, (Kramer) actually *drove* me to church on an away trip," she added. "She took me and picked me up."

ADVICE FOR CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

As she sets and spikes for her teammates — and sets an example for them off the court — Wells encourages other Christian athletes to share their faith.

Her advice for a spiritual-athletic relationship: Remember what comes first — God — and find a school that you would like to attend for purely academic reasons. Personnel change, she said, so find an institution you love. "Find people of like mind," she said. "Being athletes, we are surrounded by temptation. It is very important to have people around you who are going to hold you to your Christian standards."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CALINDA WELLS
Caleah Wells and her mother, Calinda, at Caleah's high school graduation.

"Not everyone is going to understand what you are trying to accomplish with your relationship with God. Teammates are great, but you need a Christian support group.

"Also, know that it is possible to do all these things and keep God first."

NEWSMAKERS

APPOINTED: Allison Garrett, 17th president of Emporia State University in Kansas. Garrett is an executive vice president for Abilene Christian University in Texas and is the former senior vice president for academic affairs for Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City.

**Garrett**

HONORED: Charles Frasier with an endowed professorship, the Charles E. Frasier chair of accounting, at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. Frasier has been a part of Lipscomb's College of Business for more than 40 years. Four Lipscomb accounting graduates took the lead in establishing the professorship.

**Frasier**

NAMED: Charlie E. McClendon, a Living Legend by the Jacksonville City Council in Florida for his 42 years of service and ministry for the Northside Church of Christ in Jacksonville. McClendon and his wife, Ida, recently celebrated their 57th anniversary.

**McClendon**

RECOGNIZED: Abilene Christian University's Omega Gamma chapter of **Sigma Delta Pi**, the national collegiate Hispanic honor society, as Honor Chapter for the second consecutive year by the national directors. Advisor **Beatriz Walker** helped the chapter earn the honor given to only 12 of the nearly 600 chapters in the U.S.

NEW ELDERS: Carl Bowens, Larry Cain, Tom Finley, Fred Herring, Dean Smith and Jack Ulmer, the Lewisville Church of Christ in Texas.

NEW MINISTER: Shawn McElroy, young adult minister for the Edmond Church of Christ in Oklahoma.

Milestones

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

Birthdays

100th: Ethel Terry, Dallas, Texas. **95th:** Durward T. Dodd, Lemoore, Calif. **95th:** Milton McWhorter, Wichita Falls, Texas. **94th:** Billie Brister, Phoenix, Ariz.

Anniversaries

Deryl and Joan Clevenger, 66 years



Deryl and Joan Clevenger of Hart, Texas, plan to celebrate 66 years of marriage Dec. 9. Their church home is Garland Street Church of Christ in Plainview, Texas, where Deryl has served as elder. Both attended Abilene Christian College, and Deryl graduated with a degree in agriculture. He farmed all of his adult life.

They have two daughters, Dr. Iona (Neil) Baldrige of Lubbock, Texas, and Dee (Dale) Gannaway of Hobbs, Texas. Their son, Duane, is deceased but his wife, Marie, is another daughter and sister. They have eight grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Jim and Gloria Elliott, 60 years

Jim and Gloria (Brannam) Elliott celebrated 60 years of marriage Dec. 27, 2015. They lived in New Jersey their first 28 years of marriage. In

Ruth Branum 1909 — 2015

Ruth (Gawf) Branum went home to be with the Lord on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015, at the age of 106. She was born in Okaha, Okla., on Aug. 16, 1909.

Memorials

70th: Robert Jerial and Frances Williamson, Broken Arrow, Okla. **65th:** Ray and Kathy Boyd, Fredericksburg, Texas. **65th:** Bob and Ruth Lawrence, York, Neb. **50th:** John and Janis Barnhill, Gatesville, Texas. **50th:** Terry and Sheilah Bellew, Riverside, Calif.

She lived in Muskogee, Okla., most of her life. Ruth and her husband, Victor Branum, were married in 1928 and were grocers for 30 years, opening their first store in Muskogee in 1929.

As a Christian woman, she saw the beauty of God's world in people, flowers and nature. She was a faithful member of the Church of Christ in Muskogee, serving as an elder's wife, mentor, children's Bible school teacher and hostess to the loveliest wedding and baby showers. She was known for her gracious hospitality, beautiful gardens and strong faith.

Ruth blessed friends and family with flowers, plants and produce for decades. She and her husband were strong promoters of Oklahoma Christian University, where Vic was one of the original incorporators and trustees.

Ruth was an active volunteer — beginning with making bandages for soldiers during World War II. She volunteered at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Volunteers of America, Muskogee Regional Medical Center and served faithfully as a member of the Chandler Road Church of Christ in Muskogee.

During the last year of her life, she



was not only loved by her family and friends, but also by her new friends and caregivers at Aberdeen Heights Assisted Living, Seasons Hospice and at Clarehouse.

She is survived by her son, Richard Branum of Fort Smith, Ark., and daughter Eleanor Miller (Dan), of Tulsa, Okla.; grandchildren: Richard

continued on Page 33

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

EDITORIAL

Giving thanks for those who serve the vulnerable

All too often, headlines remind us about the fragility of life and the immediacy of our mission to preach Christ to a dying world.

- **In Stillwater, Okla.,** we report on the tragic loss of four lives and the campus ministry working to help a university community heal.
- **In the impoverished** nation of Haiti, we follow the stories of Christians as they grapple with the loss of a murdered missionary.
- **From Los Angeles,** we learn of a minister who died after preaching a sermon to his congregation.

We pray for the families and the faithful affected by these sudden, unexpected losses.

We also recognize that an increasing number of us must say longer goodbyes as we care for aging loved ones. Across the nation, we hear stories from *Christian Chronicle* readers who have become nearly full-time caregivers for their elderly parents.

As the baby boomer generation retires, the demand for such care increases.

These conversations with our readers have inspired us to launch a new series, **Blessed be the Caregivers**. We want to highlight Christians who are serving others in ways we might take for granted. We begin this month with the story of a Christian wife and parents caring for the victim of a brain injury as they pray for him to awaken.

In an upcoming issue we'll tell the story of grown-up children as they reverse roles and care for aging parents. We also hope to feature Christians who care for special-needs children and other vulnerable populations.

Too often the caregivers among us go unnoticed. They struggle with physical and spiritual fatigue.

We pray that this series will help highlight approaches Christians can take to put our faith into action as we serve those who continually serve others.

May God give strength to the weary and increase the power of the weak, as Isaiah 40 tells us.

May we be renewed and inspired to serve.

Blessed be the Caregivers

TELL US ABOUT THE CAREGIVERS in your life. Send suggestions for our series to letters@christianchronicle.org. Please include your name and home congregation.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Monty Daffern, director of the University Center, leads a prayer for the Wednesday night university class at the Stillwater Church of Christ in Oklahoma. About 120 students from Oklahoma State University attend.

Outsiders and insiders

"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.'"
"So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests."

— Matthew 22:8-10, New International Version

My mother was burned by the church, so she warned me to be wary, And a picture was painted with paint that was tainted, And church became a place that was scary.

...

Church was a building; I was an outsider looking in, And a perception was formed and developed deep within.

That church was a place for the worthy, and I did not belong, And it took someone from the inside to reach me on the outside. To teach me I had it all wrong

...

And it came through action followed by word. Because a Gospel that is lived is a Gospel that is heard.

And what's absurd is I was blinded by deception, wounded by rejection. But because someone was His reflection, I experienced resurrection.

...

His love has no exceptions. That's the Gospel truth. He loves the exiled and broken, not just those in the pews. And I refuse to believe that His love can be earned.

Because it wouldn't be the Gospel if it was something we deserved.

...

Outsiders and insiders, all welcome to the table. Not because we are worthy, but because He is able And because He is able, a beautiful cycle begins Where outsiders become insiders to welcome outsiders in.

In the Word



Christiana Muir

CHRISTIANA MUIR is a recent graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., with a degree in theology and ministry. She attends the Ethos Church of Christ in Nashville, where she is training to plant churches. Her dream is to help reconcile the divide between churches and outsiders — like she used to be — by helping congregations consider ways they can serve missionally in their communities.

Should Christians watch football?

A faithful fan shares his conflict

As a follower of Christ, I am increasingly conflicted about the game I love — football. Since 2007, I have been blessed to write about the National Football League for a variety of publications. I spend about 13 hours per week researching and writing about all aspects of the game — free agency, the draft, training camp, fantasy football and everything in between. My articles have appeared in *USA Today*, fantasy football magazines (remember those?) and on a couple of websites.

In football, there is a sense of community unlike any other sport. It unites players and fans from all backgrounds. People of all ages, sizes, races and religions come together to root for their team. People of affluence and influence share a love of the game with others from across the socioeconomic spectrum.

At the University of Missouri, we've witnessed the power of football to effect change in a school's administration.

Love of the game influences the vacations fans take and the TV packages they purchase. In a way, it reminds me of the kind of church Luke describes in Acts 2:44: *"All the believers were together and had everything in common."* Faithful football fans have the opportunity to introduce others to the greater community of Christ.

But there's also danger in our love of football. After Sunday worship, as we watch our favorite players, we can't resist cheering when one delivers an eviscerating hit — a hit that leaves his opponent lying flat on the field. But that player has family and friends who vicariously feel the hit themselves, sitting in the stands or watching from home.

The days of just "getting your bell rung" or "having the cobwebs knocked loose" are long gone. We know that these hard hits take a toll on players amateur and professional.

For decades, former players have suffered from neurological ailments

and other consequences of playing the game they love. The symptoms last for decades.

Often, I'm tasked with writing about the implications of a player's change in circumstance — due to the way he performs (or fails to perform) on the gridiron or due to injury. I discuss the triumphs and disappointments of football.

It's difficult to fathom the reality of a player whose career is suddenly over because of one vicious hit. It's sobering.

Recently we mourned the loss of Ben Hamm, a junior linebacker for Wesleyan Christian School in Bartlesville, Okla., who died after suffering a head injury during a Friday night football game. He was a dedicated member of the Dewey Church of Christ.

"He was very passionate about life, passionate about his school, about football, about his family and — most importantly — he was passionate about God," Rocky Clark, the school's superintendent, told *The Tulsa World*.

His story is not unique. During that same week, two other high school football players died from injuries on the field. Schools across America have focused on training players how to hit — and to look for signs of concussions. And still this happens.

This game we love to watch devastates families.

What is the answer? Should we stop watching? Should I keep my own 10-year-old son from playing?

The conflict within me continues as the football season marches on.

At the end of every NFL game, I am thankful to see players of both teams — who were bashing into each other only moments before — circle around midfield, hold hands and offer up a prayer to our Father.

As I pray for the safety of the players, I also pray for the opportunities we have to be the light of Christ to our fellow fans.

JEFF TEFERTILLER is a deacon of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

Views



Jeff Tefertiller



ABILENE
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Dean, College of Business Administration

Dr. Darryl Tippens, COBA Dean Search Committee Chair
darryl.tippens@acu.edu

Abilene Christian University invites nominations and applications for the position of dean of the College of Business Administration (COBA), an exceptional AACSB-accredited program comprising the Department of Accounting and Finance, the Department of Management Sciences, the School of Information Technology and Computing, and an online MBA offered at the ACU Dallas campus. The college is committed to excellent teaching and learning that integrates faith, leadership, business and technology.

Reporting to the provost, the dean is responsible for the college's strategic planning, program development and assessment, alumni relations, and COBA's administrative affairs, including the recruitment and retention of faculty and students. The dean is responsible for ensuring the academic and spiritual integrity of the college; is responsible for all program activities within COBA; and provides intellectual and spiritual leadership to faculty, students and staff to ensure the fulfillment of the institution's mission. The dean is dedicated to academic excellence and the Christian mission of the whole university.

The ideal candidate will hold an earned doctorate and have leadership experience in higher education with a strong record of scholarship, teaching and service. The candidate will exhibit an understanding of the nature and purpose of Christian higher education; have a strong record of working collaboratively with faculty, staff and administrators within a department, college and university; and will be a dynamic advocate for the college and the university, dedicated to working with ACU's Advancement Office in fundraising.

See *acu.edu/coba-dean* for a complete description of this position and instructions for application. **Applications received by Jan. 15, 2016, will receive full consideration. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.** Nominations of and applications from qualified women and minorities are especially encouraged. All applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and deeply committed to service in Christian higher education. ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities. The university's mission is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

Couple's story of Ebola and faith is worth telling – and retelling

Kent, bud. We got your test results. And I'm really sorry to tell you it is positive for Ebola."

These words, spoken by Dr. Lance Plyler to his friend, Dr. Kent Brantly, would soon resonate around the world.

In **"Called for Life: How Loving Our Neighbor Led Us Into the Heart of the Ebola Epidemic,"** Brantly and his wife, Amber, along with contributing writer David Thomas, detail the physician's fight for his life — and how his harrowing journey drew a global audience into West Africa's Ebola crisis.

Kent, Amber and their children are a part of the congregation where I preach. We are thankful for their story, and we rejoice that now others can hear what we have heard from them.

The book basically divides into two parts. The first details the Brantlys' life story leading up to Kent's diagnosis. They share a short history of themselves, including their courtship and decision to become medical missionaries.

They give a brief description of living and working in Liberia. Kent offers heart-gripping narratives of patients he treated — many of whom died from Ebola.

The second part reads like a medical thriller. It walks us through the details of Kent getting sick, being diagnosed with Ebola and the fight for his life. The Brantlys give a step-by-step account of the progression of his sickness and recovery interjected with their thoughts and feelings. Needless to say, the story grips the emotions.

The book alternates between Kent and Amber as storyteller. This style becomes particularly powerful during the description of Kent's illness. The book reads as a biography, yet along the way, the physi-

cian passes on pieces of spiritual wisdom on such topics as calling, compassion and the idols of comfort and fear.



Steve Cloer

The book contains funny moments, such as Kent's awkward proposal to Amber without a ring. It has terrifying moments — when Kent grabs the ankles of a Liberian man in a last-ditch effort to keep him from leaving the mission clinic with the dead corpse of a family member who had Ebola.

Then there are redemptive moments, such as the tender description of Kent's first embrace with Amber after a month apart, during which they were uncertain if they would see each other again.

The writing is honest and real. The Brantlys do not shy away from hard questions. (Why was Kent saved as others died?) They do not hide difficult moments in their story, including Amber's response

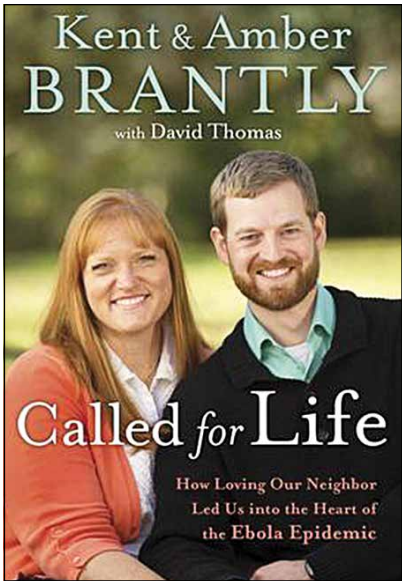
when she heard the diagnosis. Rather, the book reads as if one were having a conversation with both of them.

"Called for Life" is easy to read and can provide great inspiration for church members seeking to deepen their faith. Throughout the book, the Brantlys speak of God's mission, God's faithfulness and God's mercy. Though God calls us to mission, he walks with us in trial and gives us what we need to be faithful to our calling. The Brantlys repeat this theme throughout the book.

This is a story worth telling and re-telling. It was a moment when, as Amber told Kent after he made it to Emory hospital, "The whole world was watching you."

And while the world was watching, God was glorified through faithful servants.

STEVE CLOER is the preaching minister for the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas.



★★★★★

Kent Brantly, Amber Brantly and David Thomas. **Called for Life: How Loving Our Neighbor Led Us into the Heart of the Ebola Epidemic.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: WaterBrook Press, 2015. 240 pages. \$17.36.

BOOK EXCERPT

On superficial conversations

Stories are powerful, and shared stories of faith can help change lives. Many of us feel our stories aren't worth sharing. Perhaps we grew up in Christian homes and don't think our lives are all that interesting. Or perhaps our stories are too personal, or we're not sure where to begin.

In **"Get Personal: The Importance of Sharing Your Faith Story,"** Erin K. Casey discusses the urgent need for our stories and offers tips on how to share them. Following in an excerpt from the chapter **"How Superficial Conversations Hurt Us All."**

To learn more or to download a free 30-day journal to help you discover and share your story, visit **ShareYourFaithStory.net**.

The world we live in is hard. From the time sin entered the world, it has been crouching at the door (Genesis 4:7).

All too often we welcome it in with open arms. Then, like Peter, we come to ourselves and weep bitterly (Matthew 26:69-75). We learn from our mistakes and from what the Holy Spirit reveals to us in Scripture. Through God's grace, we find the Way out of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13, John 14:6). We turn to God in prayer when we can't take another step, and He provides unfathomable peace (Philippians 4:7).

All of those moments transform the way we live and think. And they are exactly the kinds of things we don't share with others because "it's too personal." And so, we talk about our children, or sports, or the weather.

The outcome of all this small talk is social connections in churches instead of meaningful relationships that can embolden us to love and live like Jesus. When we don't share our honest, sin-scarred stories, we present the illusion of perfection. And that hurts us (the church and the individuals that comprise it) in several ways:

- Keeping up appearances is stressful, exhausting work.
- The false belief that everyone else "has it all together" causes people to expect they'll be judged rather than loved by their church family.
- When Christians are hurt by or are grappling with sin, they feel they have no one with whom to share their struggles.

Outside the church, talking about T-ball or whether or not it's going to rain this weekend is fine, but when we stop there we miss out on opportunities to make an eternal difference in people's lives. Now, please hear me: I'm not saying you should accost every person you encounter with your God stories the moment you meet them. We are meant to be the aroma of Christ both inside and outside the church — not a stench that puts people off (2 Corinthians 2:15).

However, I do believe that when we share our struggles and how God has comforted and pulled us through hard times, our relationships can be stronger and our Christianity more effective.

My challenge to you — and myself — is to get personal. Share the hard stuff, the stories that hurt to tell, as well as those that are joy-filled. God isn't superficial; we shouldn't be either.



Erin K. Casey

ERIN K. CASEY is a wife, mom and author who recently served as a missionary in Ireland for 18 months, along with her husband, Brian, and youngest son. Her home congregation is the A&M Church of Christ in College Station, Texas. The family now lives in Florida where Erin and Brian volunteer as middle-school Bible class teachers.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

FOR FICTION FANS

Karen Kingsbury. **The Friends of Jesus.** New York: Howard Books, 2015. 240 pages. \$19.99.

Bestselling author Kingsbury turns her pen to biblical fiction, offering six stories that reveal how getting to know Jesus changed the lives of Simon the Leper, Martha, Jairus, Mary Magdalene and Peter.

More Christian fiction: James L. Rubart's latest novel, **The Five Times I Met Myself**, tells of a man who is given the chance to meet himself as a younger man and change his life's course.

FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Kyle and Kelsey Kupecky. **The Chase: Trusting God with Your Happily Ever After.** Ada, Mich.: Revell Books, 2015. 192 pages. \$14.99.

This married couple offers a dating guide for Christian women, sharing their own story of how they met under circumstances orchestrated by a good God.

For humor and honesty: In **All Groan Up: Searching for Self, Faith, and a Freaking Job!** millennial author Paul Angone encourages twenty-somethings to find their "signature sauce," that one special thing they can offer the world.

FOR INSPIRATION

100 Illustrated Bible Verses. New York: Workman Publishing Co., 2015. \$12.95.

This book will appeal to visually oriented people who will enjoy framing these images or using them for meditation on God's Word. Or

frame the images yourself for many inspirational gifts.

More for creative types: Who says coloring books are just for kids? Check out **Beauty in the Bible: Adult Coloring Book** by Paige Tate. The book includes a set of gel pens and colored pencils.

FOR PRAYER WARRIORS

Stephen and Alex Kendrick. **The Battle Plan for Prayer: From Basic Training to Targeted Strategies.** Nashville, Tenn.: B&H Books, 2015. 208 pages. \$16.99.

This companion book to the film **"War Room"** reminds Christians that prayer is a first line of defense, not a last resort. Other inspirational gifts include DVDs of recent Christian films including **"Do You Believe?"** and **"Old-Fashioned."**

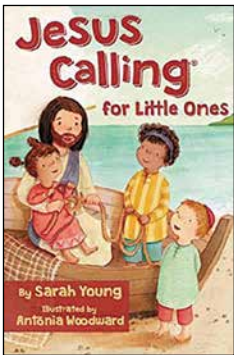
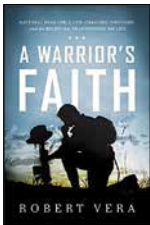
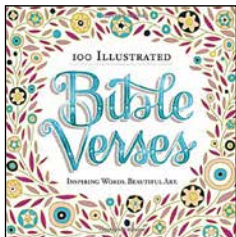
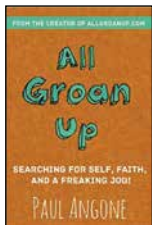
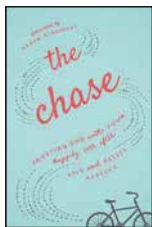
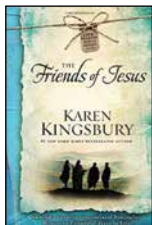
For readers who enjoy memoirs: The soldier featured in the film **"American Sniper"** is the subject of **A Warrior's Faith: Navy SEAL Ryan Job, A Life-Changing Firefight, and the Belief that Transformed His Life** by Robert Vera. The book explores the life Job lived after he was shot in Afghanistan.

FOR CHILDREN

Sarah Young. **Jesus Calling for Little Ones.** Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2015. 26 pages. \$8.49.

Following the success of "Jesus Calling," Young presents a board book for preschoolers to begin learning of God's presence in everyday life.

CONTINUED



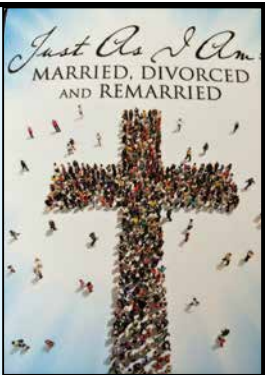
Just As I Am:

Married, Divorced and Remarried

This book is written primarily for those who have been married, divorced and remarried and have come to Jesus for salvation. Many of you have suffered enough guilt, rejection and/or suspicion because a previous marriage did not work out and you have started over in a new marriage relationship. This book proves that God accepts us just as we are -- even if we are "married, divorced and remarried."

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Wayne Dunaway

The **Sunnyside Road Church of Christ** located in Decatur, Ill., is seeking a **Full-Time Pulpit Minister.**

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

Please visit our website to learn more. www.sunnysideroadchurch.com

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

821 North Sunnyside Rd
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The 38-year-old AMEN Ministry connects Christians in the United States Military with local churches of Christ both overseas and in the U.S.

Please send name, email, and other contact info to:

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amen@amenministry.info
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--Name Withheld

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

Weldon Langfield

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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 sermons, teaching bible classes, promoting Christian fellowship and evangelistic minded.

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

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Email: sroberson@acch4kids.org

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Acch4kids.org

GIFT GUIDE

CONTINUED

A personalized gift: Young children will enjoy **My Little Book of Blessings**, available from ISeeMe.com, which can be customized to include children's names and the names of friends and family members for whom they might pray.

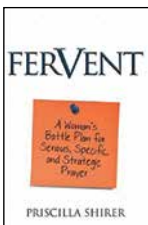
FOR WOMEN

Eric Metaxes. **Seven Women: And the Secret of Their Greatness.** Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2015. 256 pages. \$26.63.



Metaxes, bestselling nonfiction author follows up his successful "Seven Men: And the Secret of Their Greatness," with biographies of well-known women of faith including Joan of Arc, Mother Teresa and Rosa Parks as well as lesser-known women.

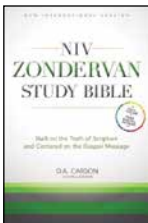
More on prayer: Women might also appreciate **Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer** by Priscilla Shirer, which guides women in praying over areas such as their passion, focus, identity and family. Shirer encourages women to write out their prayers.

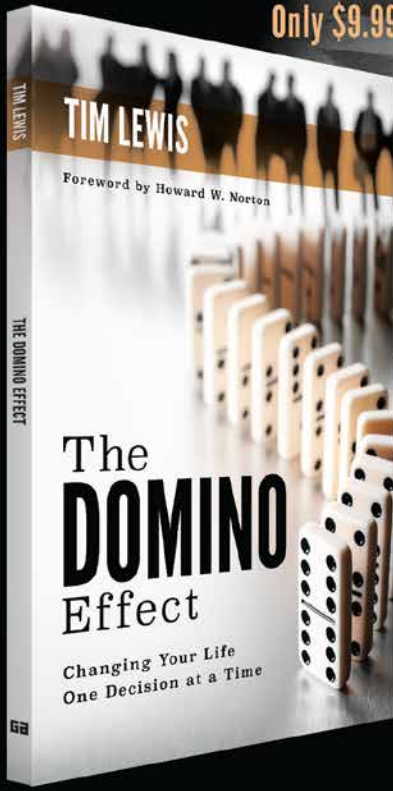


FOR BIBLE STUDY

D.A. Carson, editor. **NIV Zondervan Study Bible.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2015. 2,912 pages. \$49.99.

This massive Bible is almost a commentary set combined with Scripture. Each book's introduction and notes were written by a different scholar, and it includes 28 articles on theological topics such as mission, justice and *shalom* (peace). Another new study tool is the **NKJV Journaling Bible** from Holman Bible Staff, which includes lined margins for note-taking, prayers and questions.





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TIM LEWIS
Foreword by Howard W. Norton

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If you base every decision on the Word of God, then one good decision will lead to the next; it's a domino effect. If you are really writing your life story one day and one decision at a time, then you have the power to determine how your story ends. But everything hinges on tipping the first

Dec. 1 Lighting of the Green with Amy Grant. Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. www.lipscomb.edu, (615) 966-1000.

Dec. 1 Big Blue Christmas. Lubbock Christian University in Texas. www.lcu.edu, (806) 720-7219, terri.warren@lcu.edu.

Dec. 3 Pepperdine Choir and Orchestra Christmas Concert. Smothers Theatre, Malibu, Calif. chelsea.sutton@pepperdine.edu.

Dec. 4 Benefit Dinner. Guest speaker, Dr. Kent Brantly. Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. gmcknight@fhu.edu.

Dec. 12 Pied Pipers Christmas Show. Harding University, Searcy, Ark. (501) 279-5315.

Jan. 15-16 Medical Missions Seminar. "The Ripple Effect ... One Act of Compassion." Fort Worth, Texas. www.ihcf.net.

Jan. 20-23 Sunset Vision Workshop. "Written in Stone." Lubbock, Texas. www.sibi.cc.

Jan. 23 ElderLink Houston. West Houston Church of Christ. (325) 674-3722.

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

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

March 11 CAPS Conference: Alumni Reception. Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif. (310) 568-5510, brittany.sorrentino@pepperdine.edu.

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

March 29 Free Lecture, Miroslav Volf. Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City. www.oc.edu/mcgcaw.

March 31-April 4 All-Africa Missionary Retreat. Cape Town, South Africa. robert@angolateam.org.

Apr. 30-May 1 Arlington Church of Christ 75th Anniversary. 20 N. Irving St., Arlington, Va. www.arlingtonfamily.org, (705) 528-0535.

FULL CALENDAR, www.christianchronicle.org

Milestones

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

continued from Page 27

grandchildren Richard Dale Branum, Melissa Branum, Monna Miller Gilpin (James), Mike Miller (Holly) and Matt Miller; great-grandchildren Andrew Gilpin, Meghan Gilpin and Annie Miller; sisters Rubye Cox (age 111) of Bristol, R.I., and Rose Shloss, (age 103) of Sarasota, Fla.; sister-in-law Thelma Gawf of Omaha, Neb.; numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, Victor Austin Branum; her parents John and Lenora Belle Rodgers Gawf; brothers Laverne, Elmer, and J.C. Gawf and sister Frances Gawf Rogers; daughter-in-law Helen Branum and nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Hope Harbor Children's Home, P.O. Box 1047, Claremore, OK 74018 or In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083.

Floyd L. Coppedge

1935 — 2015

On Sunday, Sept. 27, at 6:10 p.m., Dr. Floyd L. Coppedge was united with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and with his wife, LaNell, who preceded him in death by only five weeks, as well as many other loved ones who have gone on before.

At the time of his passing from this life to his eternal reward, he was surrounded by his family and embraced in love and honor as the patriarch of our family.

He will be remembered for a distinguished career devoted to excellence in teaching and learning. He was loved by many as the prin-



cipal of Douglas High School, as chair and professor of education at Oklahoma Christian University and as Oklahoma's Secretary of Education under Gov. Frank Keating.

While he had many exceptional accomplishments, he will most significantly be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will continue to be cherished as a mentor, leader, tutor and role model. He will always be respected for his dedication to our Heavenly Father and his unwavering relationship with Christ. Many have admired him for his dignity, his eloquence and generosity.

All who met him, will miss him, for to have met Floyd was to know him. It only took moments for people to see him for his honest self and in that same moment, to find themselves drawn to his kindness. He was a man whose true inner character exuded from his every step and every word.

Lavon Henley

1932 — 2015

Lavon Henley of Daphne, Ala., passed away on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015, at the age of 83, leaving behind a legacy of dedication to Christ and his community.

A native of Andalusia, Ala., he earned a bachelor's from Georgia State University and a graduate degree from Ohio State University before launching a successful career as a hospital administrator. Throughout his 37 years in the healthcare industry, he developed six new hospitals while building a reputation as an expert in employee recruitment and a champion of struggling organizations.

Though he excelled professionally, he was most passionate about walking with Jesus, spending time with family and helping others. Married for 64 years to his loving wife Virginia, Henley reared two sons and served as an elder, Bible class teacher and spiritual mentor in his various church homes. A gifted

musician, he was a respected worship leader and could often be found praising the Lord in song. He also sat on the Board of Directors at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., and Rainbow Omega in Eastaboga, Ala., among others.

Henley relished his role as "Granddad" to his five grandsons and seven great-grandchildren, tirelessly supporting their individual pursuits and accomplishments. In addition to his love for the Lord, they will remember him for his masterful storytelling and his ability to build and fix just about anything.

During his fight with cancer, Henley maintained his signature sense of humor and remained active in his home congregation at the Spanish Fort Church of Christ in Alabama.



His positivity, kindness and generosity will be greatly missed.

Donations in his memory can be made to either the Lavon and Virginia Henley Family Endowed Scholarship at Faulkner University, 5345 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36109, or Rainbow Omega, P.O. Box 740, Eastaboga, AL 36260.

Brent McFarlin, 49, Arlington, Texas, Oct. 29. **Kathryn Brown, 102,** Hillsboro, Ohio and Georgetown, Ky., Sept. 5.

Memorial/Honor Gifts

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in honor of Jack Zorn and in memory of Bill and Kathryn Brown and Jack Mauersberg.

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

Without getting too technical, we're looking for the best engineering faculty to join our team.

We've developed the specs to add three full-time, tenure-track faculty members to Lipscomb University's Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering in August 2016—in civil and environmental, electrical and computer, and mechanical engineering.

Key responsibilities will include teaching, advising and undergraduate research. We're especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community.

- An earned doctorate in engineering is highly desirable.
- Extensive professional experience as well as a B.S. and M.S. in the appropriate engineering area will be considered.
- Candidate should ideally be a P.E. or have the ability to become registered.

To learn more about specific qualifications and to apply, visit www.lipscomb.edu/hr/faculty or contact Justin Myrick, college dean, at justin.myrick@lipscomb.edu. Application reviews will begin on Dec. 15, 2015, and will continue until filled.



THE PAPERLESS HYMNAL

1 - Be Thou My Vision

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In 61 years of service, Stafford North has done whatever needs to be done

He had just come from a preaching appointment, but he still made time to meet each of us and ask about our college plans.

He talked about the debate team he was coaching, a drama he was directing and an opera he and a fellow professor, Harold Fletcher, were preparing.

Then he pulled out his ukulele and played us a tune.

That's what I remember about my first encounter with Stafford North in 1952. A group of us had driven from Tulsa to Bartlesville, Okla., to visit a freshman friend at Central Christian College, where North had recently begun teaching.

Six decades later, North has retired from the college, now known as Oklahoma Christian University.

His is a distinguished and varied career. He's served as everything from instructor of speech and physical education to executive vice president. His most recent title: Distinguished Professor of Bible.

When I enrolled at Central, I had already made up my mind that I wanted to take speech with North. It may have been the most useful and practical course I took as an undergraduate.

North completed his master's at Louisiana State University after graduating at the top of his class from Abilene Christian College. In 1954 he took a two-year leave of absence to finish his doctorate at the University of Florida. That's where he met and married JoAnne Boswell, who has served at his side for all the years that followed.

By the time North returned to Oklahoma, I had been hired to teach English. The Norths and McBrides enjoyed a marvelous relationship — that still exists.

In the mid-1950s, as college administrators prepared to move the campus to Oklahoma City, North was assigned the job of working with architects to make sure the space was fully utilized and suitable for educational purposes. This kind of

planning became a standing assignment for him — all the way to 1993.

In 1956 North became Dean of Instruction. His efforts helped make the college a baccalaureate-granting institution. He led the faculty in the utilization of a system of taped lectures and workbooks

Insight



Bailey McBride

for basic ideas and concepts. The Mabee Learning Center and his leadership were recognized nationally.

As a vice president for OC, North was responsible for all internal operations. As his dean of academics, I under-

stood that at the meetings I would know all that was occurring for students, administrators and staff.

He is committed to creating community. He and JoAnne hosted an annual Fourth of July party for all of the OC families. The Norths provided the venue, the games and lots of grilled chicken. We all got to know each other's children through these parties.

During the early 1980s he took the assignment of designing Enterprise Square to teach the principles of the free enterprise. The project won international recognition for OC.

Although he has accepted all the assignments he was ever given, his greatest goal is the spiritual development of students. He and JoAnne fed and entertained countless students in their home. They continue to demonstrate how faith in God is the best part of life.

Anytime Stafford North speaks in chapel, his message is Christ-centered. Despite retiring, he will continue to teach the personal evangelism class he began years ago.

He firmly believes that every Christian should be a soul-winner.

He has also proven in his 61 years of service that he can do whatever needs to be done — truly a man for all seasons.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.



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Campus Minister Search

The **Church of Christ in Commerce, Texas**, is searching for a campus minister who can work well with students attending **Texas A&M-Commerce**.

For a complete job description and application information, please visit us at:

**commercechurchofchrist.com/
campusministersearch**

Application deadline is **January 30, 2016**.

Please send cover letter, resume, and completed questionnaire to:

ministersearch@commercechurchofchrist.com

Youth Minister Needed

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

The applicant must be grounded and schooled in the scriptures—preferably through a Christian university or a missions program—exude passion and enthusiasm for the Lord’s work and possess at least two years of prior youth ministry or missions background within the Churches of Christ. A status of married is preferred, but not required. Salary is commensurate with experience.

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

**Eastside Church of Christ
c/o Matt Carver, Minister/Evangelist
4025 College Ave.
Terre Haute, IN 47803**

mcarver1184@hotmail.com

www.eastsidechurchofchrist.us

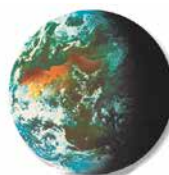
Songbooks for the Philippines

The **churches in the Phillippines** love to sing songs of praise from our English hymnals! If you or your church have any unused song books in good condition that you would like to donate, please contact:

Gary Davis

**garyidavis@yahoo.com
916-947-6853**

We can make arrangements for them to be sent to the **North Metro Church of Christ in Sacramento, CA**. Then, we will get them sent to churches in the Philippines.



The Christian Chronicle®

Vol. 72, No. 12 | December 2015 | www.christianchronicle.org

God, family, volleyball

When she first visited West Virginia University, Caleah Wells invited her prospective coach to church. Learn more about the athlete's faith. **25**



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