



FRANCESCA VOLPI

A separatist fighter carries a live artillery shell through the former meeting place of the Petrovsky Church of Christ in Donetsk, Ukraine. Militants seized the building in October 2014 and renamed the region the Donetsk People's Republic.

Peace in the valley

IN UKRAINE, *Christian refugees pray – and sing – for their divided homeland*

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

IRPIN, Ukraine

He was oppressed and afflicted ... cut off from the land of the living. For the transgression of my people he was punished."

In high, haunting soprano, a chorus of women sings the words of Isaiah 53 in Russian.

Around them, the seated congregation responds, "Holy God, holy strength, holy immortal one, have mercy on us."

The 120 souls, gathered for a weekend singing camp, represent Churches of Christ across Ukraine, once part of the



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Ukrainian Christians, many of them refugees, participate in a singing camp.

Soviet Union. Some are widows, orphans. Now, many are refugees.

Militias claiming fealty to Russia drove them from their homes in eastern Ukraine. They watched armed men rip the signs

from their church buildings, telling them they should be Russian Orthodox instead. Some were held at gunpoint. Others watched their friends die.

Here, on a cool spring afternoon, they huddle in a pavilion at a forested retreat center west of the capital, Kiev.

They know not what tomorrow holds for their shattered country. So, today, they sing.

"I feel so good to be around my Christian brothers and sisters," says Tamara Bessarab, as her daughter, Helen Strakhova, translates her words into English.

Twenty-one years ago, Strakhova

See **UKRAINE**, Page 12

A muy buena church plant

IN THE DALLAS AREA, *a Spanish-speaking congregation experiences growth and offers potential lessons for reaching the burgeoning Hispanic population.*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ARLINGTON, Texas — In the heart of Dallas-Fort Worth, a growing Hispanic congregation celebrated two more baptisms on a recent Sunday.

Members sang the Spanish version of "This is the Day" as the Arlington *Iglesia de Cristo* (Church of Christ) welcomed a newly converted couple.

"Definitely, God is working," said Jesús Rodríguez, a native Puerto Rican who moved from Arizona to Texas with his wife, Carmen, to help plant the church. "This is a great opportunity to explain the Gospel to many, many people."

Two-and-a-half years after the congregation's launch, weekly attendance tops 100.

Leaders of Texas-based Great Cities Missions — best known for recruiting and training missionaries for Latin America — see the Arlington church plant as a model for reaching Spanish speakers in the U.S.

"We want to see more churches planted by Hispanic teams in predominantly Hispanic communities in major U.S. urban centers," said Scott Emery, a former missionary to Chile who is Great Cities Missions' director

See **ARLINGTON**, Page 15



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Jesús Rodríguez teaches the adult Sunday school class at the Arlington *Iglesia de Cristo*.

Generations of Excellence

MATTHEW JOHNSON
Freed-Hardeman University
Class of 2019

DR. JENNY JOHNSON
B.A., Freed-Hardeman University
J.D., Vanderbilt University

DR. MICHAEL JOHNSON
B.S., Freed-Hardeman University
M.S., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

After graduating from FHU, Mike and Jenny Johnson completed doctorates at Vanderbilt University, hers in law and his in mathematics. In 1999, they brought their talents, degrees and family to FHU. They strengthen their alma mater by inspiring the best in their students, while providing additional learning opportunities through the Honors College and FHU Abroad. They have fostered this same quest for excellence in their own children, as well. Their son Matthew, with a perfect ACT score, will be a full-time student at FHU this fall. The Johnsons help make Freed-Hardeman a university **WHERE FAITH AND REASON CREATE CHRISTIAN LEADERS.**



FREED-HARDEMAN
UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON | MEMPHIS | DICKSON
WWW.FHU.EDU | 1-800-FHU-FHU-1

Has 'food for the stomach' become an idol?

MADILL, Okla.

Twenty pounds of rump roast and pork chops, 40 pounds of chicken and 10 pounds of sausage.

These mountains of raw meat got me thinking about fasting.

Recently, a group of women, including myself, gathered in the kitchen of the Madill Church of Christ to slice, dice and prepare meals for our freezers.

Planning and cooking for families

often seems tedious, time-consuming and downright frustrating. So it was a nice change to chop, measure and make a big mess with sisters in Christ as we talked and laughed together.

After two and a half hours that Saturday morning, all 15 of us went home with five Ziploc-bagged main courses, ready for the freezer.

While chopping bell peppers, I met a fellow homeschooling mom, Lauren Albright of Gordonville, Texas, who was reading a book I had just finished called **"Integrative Nutrition: Feed Your Hunger for Health and Happiness"** by Joshua Rosenthal.

This book, along with my recent reading of Richard Foster's **"Celebration of Discipline"** convinced me that I need to be more mindful of my body and decide if anything I was eating or drinking has

See **FOOD**, Page 4

Inside Story



Kimberly Mauck



LYNN McMILLON

Christians celebrate heroes of faith

James O. Maxwell, longtime minister and administrator for Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, speaks during the 71st annual Church of Christ National Lectureship in Chicago. Maxwell presented biographical sketches of outstanding Christian leaders and delivered an evening sermon during the lectureship.

RELATED COVERAGE, Page 6

Recovery by – and for – the church

MINISTRIES SEEK to restore the struggling and reclaim the role of faith

BY RACHEL PATE | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MT. JULIET, Tenn.

We're all Christians. We all struggle," said James Harper. "It's about time we admitted it."

Harper, a member of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ, sees recovery from all sorts of vices — substance abuse, pornography, inability to control anger — as an essential function of the Lord's body.

Too often, those who struggle — including Christians themselves — think of the church as a place for the

recovered rather than those recovering.

In 2009, the church's pulp minister, David Shannon, visited a congregation using Celebrate Recovery, a faith-based program for those seeking to overcome "hurts, hang-ups, and habits," according to the program's website.

"David knew some of my background," Harper said, "including various addictions and struggles. So he called and asked if I would be willing to look into a

program to implement at Mount Juliet."

The result is Recovery — Through Christ, a 12-step program that focuses Jesus as the higher power and the Bible

See **RECOVERY**, Page 24

A church for the hurting, broken

The Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas, enjoys a spiritual revival as its ministers to wounded souls.

CHURCHES THAT WORK, Page 17

Ministers and the student debt monster

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES tout efforts to make theological training more affordable for preachers.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Abilene Christian University says it's taking steps to crack down on the tens of thousands of dollars in debt accumulated by many ministry students.

The Texas university implemented a 50 percent tuition discount for Bible majors two years ago.

Now, the ACU Graduate School of Theology is launching an "affordability initiative" that officials say will lock in a fixed tuition rate for individual students and cut the total degree cost by more than 40 percent.

"We know that ministers serve in contexts where they may earn less than other professions, and we are committed to helping ministers graduate with less debt," ACU Bible Dean Ken Cukrowski said. "Doing so helps reduce the burden of financial pressures and allows ministers to serve more effectively in churches and other ministry contexts."

Other universities associated with Churches of Christ say they, too, are confronting the debt monster.

"Student debt, especially for low-paying jobs like schoolteachers and preachers, is a subject we are passionate about addressing," said Bruce McLarty, president of

Harding University in Searcy, Ark. A few years ago, Harding officials were stunned to learn that some students enrolled in the university's Center for Advanced Ministry Training accrued more than \$60,000 in debt, McLarty said.

"At that time, all of these non-traditional students — 24 and older —



McLarty

See **DEBT**, Page 26



HARDING

U N I V E R S I T Y

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

FACULTY POSITION AVAILABLE FALL 2015

CARR COLLEGE OF NURSING. Seeking full-time faculty member prepared in adult medical-surgical nursing for the undergraduate nursing program. The successful candidate should maintain an active, unencumbered nursing license; be eligible for RN licensing in the state of Arkansas; have a minimum of a graduate degree in nursing with potential for pursuing doctoral education; and have nursing practice experience. Teaching experience is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching classes and clinical undergraduate courses; working collaboratively in shared governance with administration and faculty; teaching in state of the art facilities; and participating in program development, implementation and evaluation.

Contact Dr. Susan Kehl, dean, at skehl@harding.edu or Box 12265, Searcy, AR 72149.

Songs FOR WORSHIP AND PRAISE



NEW BLENDED HYMNAL

"Incredible!" "Very impressive!"
"Beautiful book!"
"Well balanced selections!"

Features include:

- ★ 1007 hymns
- ★ Highest quality binding
- ★ Large # traditional hymns
- ★ Latest contemporary hymns
- ★ Over 545 songs recorded

Hymnbooks
\$12.99 each**
Maroon or Navy Blue
Soft Bonded Leather
\$34.99 each
Maroon or Navy Blue
PowerPoint Software
\$699.00
**Qty discounts available

PRAISE HYMNAL

- 307 Praise & Worship songs
- Four-part shape note music
- Each song recorded a cappella on 14 CD's
- Power Point projection slides available
- Most complete all contemporary book ever
- Soft Cover

Soft-back \$14.99

Power Point & book \$325

TAYLOR PUBLICATIONS LLC 1-800-995-2802
www.taylorpublications.com

YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR CHURCH HYMNALS & A CAPPELLA RECORDINGS



www.christianchronicle.org



LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A POLICE ESCORT and scores of supporters awaited Hunter Hanner as he returned to Abilene, Texas.

Hanner, a longtime member of the Southern Hills Church of Christ in Abilene, spent six months in a Dallas hospital fighting a paralyzing disease. "I prayed to God, 'I don't want to die. I have lots to do. Don't be finished with me yet,'" he said. Go online to read Laura Akins' report on Hanner's miraculous recovery.

While you're there, sign up for our **weekly email newsletter** — and never miss a headline.

FOOD: Our stomachs can be spoiled children

FROM PAGE 3

become an unhealthy addiction to something not beneficial, as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:12 ("*I have the right to do anything, you say — but not everything is beneficial.*").

Reading "Celebration of Discipline" convicted me in many ways, but one was fasting — a practice I had never before tried.

After a couple of "partial fasts" (skipping two meals), I realized that my caffeine and sugar addictions were real, and that my bursts of impatience and irritation at my children during the hungry times of my day were serious sins that I needed to face. I was placing my own, minor physical needs before those of my children.

As Foster describes, our stomachs are much like spoiled children. They will throw fits when they don't receive what they want, but their needs are much less than what we usually give them. Food is so readily available to us that we mindlessly eat, training our bodies to crave food every few hours.

Jesus never commanded that we fast, but from what he said in the sixth and ninth chapters of Matthew, he apparently expected it.

As I learned from my reading of Foster and from my own fasting experiences, fasting humbles our soul (Psalm 69:10), is a way to worship God (Acts 13:2) and makes us rely on God for sustenance (Matthew 4:4).

As a parent — and especially as head cook and grocery shopper for a young family — it's easy to get in

the mindset that my husband is the "breadwinner" and I am the provider of food for the family.

That's how I felt as I left the fellowship hall. My legs ached like I had just finished a 5K. My hands were cramping. It was a good weary, the same kind of tired I feel after a long day of homeschooling, exercise, cooking, cleaning, childcare and, of course, working as Reviews Editor for *The Christian Chronicle*.

But what I provide for my family — quick, homemade dinners — is not nearly as important as the bread of life. And, as beneficial as family dinners are, they are not as beneficial to our spiritual lives as fasting can be.

Each of our bodies is different, and often we harbor addictions that may be tied to real sins. Mine were.

In our country — and even in our churches — we worship our hunger. Food has become an idol.

As wives and mothers, we have a responsibility to feed our families without allowing our stomachs to become our gods — false gods that exert control over our moods, words and actions.

As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:13, "*food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.*" Let us place God before our stomachs, before food, even before our families. These things are all beneficial and good for this life, but not for the next.

CONTACT kim.mauck@christianchronicle.org



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EASTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oregon congregation proclaims: 'Marriage is alive and well in Portland'

When five couples who are members of the Eastside Church of Christ in Portland, Ore., celebrated 50th wedding anniversaries in 2014, church leaders thought it might make an interesting note in *The Christian Chronicle*. But when church leaders counted, they realized that

— in all — 16 member couples have been married 50 years or more. The 200-member congregation shared a photograph of 12 of those couples with this note: "Marriage is alive and well in Portland." The church's longest-married couple: Elmer and Eleanor Lewis (64 years).

GEORGIA

MARIETTA — Thereasa Winnett, a member of the East Cobb Church of Christ, was honored recently as a Daily Point of Light. The honor by the Points of Light Foundation recognized Winnett's work with a ministry called Teach One Reach One.

"Many churches and ministries have wonderful volunteers who love children dearly and want to impact young people and their parents for God," Winnett said of Teach One Reach One's focus. "Unfortunately, many do not have the tools, materials or training to be as effective as they could be in their ministry."

For more information, see www.teachonereachone.org.



Winnett

IDAHO

MERIDIAN — Seventy-five men from seven congregations attended the recent Treasure Valley Men's Rally, focused on the topic "Cross-Training: Putting Christ at the Center of Our Lives."

The Linder Road Church of Christ hosted the rally. Tim Pyles, minister for the Broken Arrow Church of Christ in Oklahoma, spoke. Idaho churches represented included the Boise Church of Christ, the Central Church of Christ in Rupert, the Nampa Church of Christ and the Mountain Home Church of Christ.

"God is blessing the Great Northwest," said Clint Davison, minister for the Linder Road church.

NEW MEXICO

ARTESIA — The 60-year-old Hermosa Church of Christ has a new building and a higher-visibility location next to a Wal-Mart. The church, which has an average attendance of 320, intends to use the new facility "to its fullest capabilities to serve the city of Artesia and to glorify God in the process," elder Doug Rodney said.

The new auditorium seats 585 and can be expanded to serve 700.

"The congregation itself remains vibrant and active with seven elders, 16 deacons, two preaching staff members and a secretary," Rodney said. The church supports seven mission points and plans to open a Christian preschool in September.

UTAH

CEDAR CITY — A new Church of Christ has formed in this southern Utah community.

The Grace and Truth Fellowship began with 15 Christians who met in a member's home before moving services to a wellness center, member Jody Nowak said.

The church name "strikes a new balance between dependence on grace and an honest commitment to search for truth," Nowak said.

WASHINGTON

TUKWILA — Online giving is quick and easy — and can help church members increase their generosity.

So says James A. Maxwell, minister for the Tukwila Church of Christ and a relationship manager for Pushpay.com. "Pushpay's core values have actually helped my ministry," said Maxwell, who served the Holgate Church of Christ in Seattle for 10 years before planting the Tukwila congregation last year. "I would like more congregations in our brotherhood to benefit from online and mobile giving."

For more information, see www.pushpay.com.

SPOTLIGHT

Kentucky Walk4Water

PADUCAH, Ky. — The Broadway Church of Christ, working with Healing Hands International, raised \$23,000 through its recent second annual Walk4Water. More than 600 people from the church and community joined in the fund-raising effort.

"We have been working with Dr. Mani Padidipali in southeast India to provide clean water and living water to many souls," said Ginger Moore, wife of church elder Mike Moore.



MIKE MOORE

Georgia Leigh Moore and Savannah Whitley participated in the Walk4Water.



Terry D. Wallace, minister for the West Oak Grove Church of Christ in Hernando, Miss., speaks. during the 71st annual Church of Christ National Lectureship in Chicago. PHOTOS BY LYNN McMILLON



Zeola Hall of Trenton, N.J., and Martha Wright of Greenville, N.C., at the lectures.



Brenda Jones of Memphis, Tenn., speaks on "Connecting Sisters to Christ and to Each Other" during a women's luncheon.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

The National Lectureship

BY JOY McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CHICAGO
'Celebrating the Covenant" was the theme of the 71st National Lectureship, an annual gathering of predominantly black Churches of Christ. Chicago-area congregations hosted this year's event.

Alice Lynch, a member of the Compton Avenue Church of Christ in Los Angeles, has missed only two National Lectureships in the past 32 years. Her husband, Jake, an elder of the congregation, also attends faithfully.

"It's a family reunion, so we don't like to miss this," Alice Lynch said. "It also helps me being a leader's wife."

The lectureship has changed — for the better — through the years, she said, although many of the speakers are the same.

"The speakers are more mature

and dedicated," the retired book-keeper said. "As you mature, you learn that it's not about me but about the kind of people you are and what you stand for."

Her favorite part of the four-day schedule is the women's program.

"The lectures are very practical," she said, "and you leave here with something to take home and share with others."

Many young women from her congregation aren't able to attend because of their work schedules, so Lynch says she tries to hear as many lectures as possible and share what she learns with the women when she returns to Los Angeles.

Churches in Memphis, Tenn., will host the 2016 National Lectureship.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? Have you attended a faith-based conference, gospel meeting or lectureship? What did you like? What could be improved? Share your experiences at www.christianchronicle.org or email erik@christianchronicle.org.



Alice Lynch has attended the National Lectureship faithfully since 1983.



LaMaria DarDar of Fort Worth, Texas, listens to speaker Terry Wallace.



Church leaders Kevin Bethea of Baltimore, Howard Wright of Atlanta and Willie Rupert Jr. of Baltimore at the lectureship.

Lubbock Christian University

DISTINGUISHED alumni AWARDS

2015



Distinguished Alumnus of the Year
Denny Bullard ('67)
*Sr. Vice President
Pioneer Natural Resources*

Denny Bullard received an A.S. from LCU in 1967, and went on to achieve a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from Texas Tech University in 1970. Denny has worked for Pioneer Natural Resources for the last 18 years, overseeing operations of Pioneer Pumping Services, the company's well stimulation fleet, and for Premier Silica, Pioneer's industrial sand mining operations. He is also responsible for the Health, Safety, Environmental Services and Operations Training departments.

During his career, Denny has worked on both onshore and offshore projects ranging from South Africa and Tunisia to the North Slope of Alaska. He worked for Conoco, Inc. for 14 years, Damson Oil for seven years, and Parker and Parsley Petroleum for six years.

Denny has served as a deacon at the Weber Road Church of Christ in Corpus Christi, Texas and at the Bammel Road Church of Christ in Houston, Texas. Denny and his wife, Patti, have two children and three grandchildren.

...

F.W. Mattox Award
Recognition of Excellence and Outstanding Service to the University

The Associates of LCU (1958-Present)

This very special organization, whose membership is comprised of alumnae and other amazing women deserving of an alumnae-by-choice recognition, has faithfully supported Lubbock Christian University since 1958.

As a result of their diligence, and individual and collective talents, the Associates have raised almost \$3 million for LCU.

The Associates' commitment to student programming has expanded the opportunities for hands-on academic training. They have also been the moving force in renovation of various student spaces through their 57-plus year history with the university - construction of the Home Economics Building during the 60's, which is now home to a vibrant Behavioral Sciences area; renovation of the historic Arnett House, which served as the first administration building for the university and now serves as home to the LCU Associates; the remodeling of Johnson Hall and refurbishment of Katie Rogers Hall, as well as numerous other smaller projects during the years that have resulted

in enhancement of student community spaces and to the student life of LCU students.

...



Young Alumna of the Year
Elizabeth Ryan ('02)
*Attorney and Commissioner
NM Game and Fish Commission*

Elizabeth (Atkinson) Ryan graduated summa cum laude from LCU with a B.A. in Humanities (emphasis in pre-law), and a minor in Biblical studies. She received her J.D. cum laude from Texas Tech University School of Law, where she served as the Executive Student Writing Editor for the *Law Review*.

Beth is a respected attorney in New Mexico, specializing in oil and gas matters, including title examination, transactions, operations and regulatory. She partnered with Joel M. Carson III in Roswell, New Mexico creating Carson Ryan LLC after her energy practice grew at a rapid pace in 2012 and 2013. Prior to that, Ryan practiced oil and gas law in some of the top oil and gas law firms in the Rocky Mountains.

In January 2011, Governor Susana Martinez appointed Ryan to New Mexico's Environmental Improvement Board (EIB), where she served as Board Secretary until the end of her four year appointment. In January 2015, the NM Governor appointed Beth to the post of Commissioner, New Mexico Game and Fish Commission. She has since received Senate confirmation. Beth is an active member of Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico. She is also a published author on issues ranging from appellate review to oil and gas topics.

Beth and her husband, Zack ('02) have two children.

...



Gary & Pat Estep Award
Outstanding Contributions in the Sciences
Dr. Willie K. Sang ('75-'78)
*Chief Research Officer
Kenya Medical Research Institute*

Willie Sang is a highly regarded medical researcher in Kenya and known among the international medical community.

While a pre-med student at Lubbock Christian University from 1975 to 1978, he was active in campus life and a member of the cross country team, being named all-American in 1977. After

leaving LCU, he went on to Texas Tech University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Biochemistry.

During his career, Willie has worked at Kenya Medical Research Institute and the Centre of Microbiology Research. He is currently a Principal Investigator for the US Army Medical Research Unit-Walter Reed dealing with global emerging infections and response systems.

In 2010, Willie was appointed to the East African Public Health Laboratory Networking Project to coordinate Antimicrobial resistance studies in Eastern African countries, namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

Willie serves as a deacon at Rainbow Church in Nairobi. He and his wife, Magdalene, have four children.

...



K.C. Moser Award
Excellence and Outstanding Service to the Church
Tim and Rebecca Talley ('79)
*Campus Minister and
Associate Campus Minister
Broadway Church of Christ*

Both Tim and Rebecca (Henderson) Talley are 1979 graduates of LCU. Tim received his masters degree in Bible from ACU in 2000, and Rebecca in Bible and Ministry from LCU in December 2014.

Tim was the Singles Minister at Broadway Church of Christ from 1979 until 1985. Tim currently serves as the Campus Minister and Rebecca serves as the Associate Campus Minister. They are both heavily involved in reaching out to and engaging with international college students.

The Talleys served in the mission field in East Africa from 1985 until the end of 2012. During Tim's first 12 years in Kenya, he was involved in rural evangelism, church planting, and leadership training among the Giriama people. In 2006, the Talleys moved to Tanzania where Tim spent his time in leadership training and church maturation. Rebecca developed both a children's Bible school curriculum and a pre-school curriculum in Swahili. She also continued to teach women's Bible classes and served in community development while on the board of HURUMA, Tanzania.

Tim and Rebecca have three adult daughters and two young granddaughters.



DEPLOYED

IN AN UNCIVIL WAR: THE APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

JULY 1-3, 2015

**More speakers and events
make Summer Celebration
2015 the best ever.**

Registration is now open!
summercelebration.lipscomb.edu/register

Lipscomb University • Nashville, Tenn.



WWW.SKYQUAD.COM

For New Orleans church, a colorful new tradition

Deron Thomas and J.J. Woolridge show off their decorated eggs at an inaugural Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Hollygrove Church of Christ in New Orleans. The 6-year-old church plant organized its own hunt after partnering for years with the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ, its sponsoring congregation. "In an effort to stay in our community and for the convenience of our members — most of whom have large families and do not have cars and walk to church — we started a new tradition," said August Marsalis, who works with the church youth. The Hollygrove event drew 70 people.

N.C. governor applauds church's carnival for special-needs children

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory declared April 11 as "Special Needs Day at Brooks Avenue Church of Christ." The proclamation coincided with the church's 15th annual spring carnival for children with special needs.

"It can be very challenging and demanding for families to take care of children with health conditions," McCrory said, as quoted by ncpoliticalnews.com. "The carnival is an event that the special-needs community looks forward to every year because they can relax and simply enjoy the day and each other."

Nearly 1,200 people attended the carnival, which featured bounce houses, inflatable slides, face painting, food, snow cones, a petting zoo and many smiles, the *Raleigh News and Observer* reported.



KATE BOWSMAN

Luke Flanders holds a bunny at the 2012 carnival for children with special needs, hosted by the Brooks Avenue church.

This was the first carnival since the sudden death of deacon Barry Woodhouse, 54. Woodhouse and his wife, Paula — inspired by their daughter Melissa — started the Brooks Avenue church's ministry for children with special needs.



College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Gregory Straughn, Dean • ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-9210

The **Department of Engineering and Physics** invites applications for two or more talented engineers for its new and rapidly growing engineering program. These tenure-track faculty positions offer excellent opportunities to contribute to and substantially shape the new program. Applicants should have especially strong skills in teaching, scholarship and mentoring students. Ideal candidates will have a Ph.D. in mechanical, electrical or another engineering discipline, demonstrated potential to teach effectively in our program's curriculum, and experience in research and scholarship activities appropriate to the discipline. Experience in leading or contributing to the senior design experience will further distinguish a candidate. Candidates having a B.S. and M.S. degree and a license or certification in an engineering discipline and significant experience in industry or consulting also will be considered. Previous involvement with ABET accreditation would be helpful. Expected start date is August 2015. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/engineering.

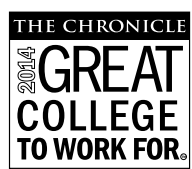
College of Business Administration
Dr. Rick Lytle, Dean • ACU Box 29300, Abilene, Texas 79699-9300

The **Department of Management Sciences** invites applications and nominations in writing for an instructor or tenure-track faculty position in marketing, beginning in Fall 2015. The candidate will be expected to teach lower- and upper-level marketing courses and others as assigned; mentor students; and accept departmental, college and university committee assignments. To support ACU's mission as a teaching institution the candidate should exhibit excellence as a classroom teacher. The College of Business Administration is accredited by AACSB International and faculty members are expected to maintain a program of intellectual contributions in the form of peer-reviewed academic presentations and publications. A terminal degree in marketing or a related field is preferred; a master's degree combined with significant professional experience in marketing and commitment to ongoing professional development is acceptable. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/coba.

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

ACU is affiliated with the fellowship of the Churches of Christ. All applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and deeply committed to service in Christian higher education. The mission of ACU is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities.



Operations Manager

Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp is seeking qualified individuals to fill the position of Operations Manager (OM). Responsibilities include operational and maintenance duties on more than 450 acres of unspoiled natural beauty in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Strong people and communication are required and handyman skills preferred. This unique opportunity is full time during 10 weeks of summer camping session and part time in the off-season. Compensation includes private housing and utilities and off-season flexibility for outside employment or personal interests.

More details are available at:
www.wcyc.org
SearchCommittee@wcyc.org

PULPIT MINISTER POSITION

Holmes Road Church of Christ in Lansing, Mich., is a multicultural church that seeks a Bible-based pulpit minister to anchor and help facilitate a ministry team in encouraging spiritual and numerical growth. Holmes Road believes the church exists to reach the lost and save souls. We have established elders and deacons, a youth ministry, and an active women's group. You can find more information about the position at: www.holmesroadcoc.org.

Send cover letter, resume, two personal references, three professional references, and a recording of two current sermons to:

Minister Search Committee
321 E Holmes Rd, Lansing, MI 48910

USA Missionary Wanted

Orchard Hills Church of Christ
in Covington, Indiana

We desire someone who is:

- a family man with teenage children or older
- mission minded (two-three years experience)
- passionate for the lost
- able to encourage, teach and equip others
- able to ground new converts in the truth

We offer:

- a great town on the Wabash River
- "old-fashioned" friendly people
- modern 4-bedroom home by church building
- campground and disc golf on site

Contact Ray Nasser for more info:
(217) 442-3561 or ray4mail@comcast.net

Freehold Church of Christ in Freehold, N.J., is seeking a Full Time Lead Evangelist.

- Central Jersey, approx. 1 hour from Manhattan, N.Y.
- salary \$50,000/annual
- Housing not provided
- Preferably married, but not required
- Strong desire to reach the lost
- Strong leadership & organizational abilities a plus

Contact Lian Powlette via email:
lionpow3@optonline.net or
by cell 732-824-7399

www.freeholdchurchofchrist.com

SPOTLIGHT

Christians respond after Nepal quake

KATHMANDU, Nepal — “If you hear about an earthquake here, we’re totally fine.”

That was the message Steve Holladay got from his 19-year-old daughter, Savannah, at 1:50 a.m. on a Saturday. Holladay, a member of the Greenville Oaks Church of Christ in Allen, Texas, said his daughter and the Youth With a Mission (YWAM) team she was leading in Nepal were in a church building when the 7.8-magnitude quake hit.

Now the team is volunteering in hospitals and serving survivors of the Himalayan nation’s worst earthquake in 80 years. More than 4,600 people died.

Four members of Churches of Christ in Nepal were reported among the casualties at press time.

The quake destroyed at least one church building in the Makwanpur district near Kathmandu, said Dev Lal Moktan, a Nepali Christian living in Connecticut.

Church-supported ministries, including Eternal Threads, Christian Relief Fund, White’s Ferry Road Relief and Healing Hands International are surveying needs and collecting funds to help the survivors.

“This has been the craziest experience of my life,” Savannah Holladay said in a social media post. “But through the craziness I have found a greater revelation of God’s grace and protection.”

SEE WWW.CHRISTIANCHRONICLE.ORG for updates and links to contribute to relief.



SARAH JACKSON

Savannah Holladay with a child she serves in Nepal.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fatted calf for everyone: French Christians sing ‘Once Upon a Parable’

More than 170 people — 100 of them visitors — squeezed into the auditorium of the Marseille Church of Christ in France to witness “a powerful gospel presentation through the musical ‘Once Upon A Parable,’” missionary Craig Young said. Young’s wife, Katie, directed the program, presented by 25 children and teens from the church’s Club Cool and the Harmony Chorus. “The outreach to the neighborhood combined a great effort of preparation and a generous job of inviting family and friends,” Craig Young said. “God is working, and we are seeing the fruit in the lives of so many people.” The Youngs are celebrating 25 years on the mission field.

GUATEMALA

POPTUN — A Church of Christ in the this Central American town recently appointed their first elders — Alex Juarez and Lucas Pop.

The two men are the first elders among Churches of Christ in Peten, Guatemala’s northernmost state, said Paul Crites, a missionary with the San Cristobal Church of Christ in Mixco, Guatemala. The elders and church member Cristobal Simon Perez rotate preaching, song leading and other duties and train other members to do the same “so that they no longer have to rely on a full-time, financially supported



DANA WOODS

Paul Crites, right, speaks to the new elders of the Poptun Church of Christ.

preacher,” Crites said.

The School Avenue Church of Christ in Mountain View, Ark., has played a key role in the Poptun church’s development, said Crites, who has worked with the congregation for the past seven years, teaching church leadership and encouraging self-governance.

KENYA

NAIROBI — About 70 Christian women attended the Jipe Moyo Women’s Seminar hosted by the Eastleigh Church of Christ. “Jipe moyo” is Swahili for “take heart.”

“God’s children are spiritually wealthy, but many of us don’t act like it and often choose to live as paupers,” missionary Charlotte Hackett said of the event’s theme.

MONGOLIA

ULANBAATAR — A mission team reports baptisms in this Asian capital, north of China.

Church members launched Mission Mongolia 2015 in response to 10,000-plus student registrations in World English Institute, a ministry

that teaches English using the Bible.

Thirty-six Mongolians and the seven-member team met for their first worship April 19. The team includes workers with Bear Valley Bible Institute International.

“It was a blessed first meeting,” said Tom Langley, WEI president. “There are seekers here. We must continue to pray for fruit and a permanent establishment of the Lord’s church.”

ROMANIA

PITESTI — Cindy Rieck and Ann Newton, church members from Baytown, Texas, taught Bible lessons to 81 women, representing seven Churches of Christ, in this Central European city recently. An additional 43 attended a women’s ministry event in the city of Craiova.

About half of the participants were visitors, missionary Harvey Starling said, and they “came from all walks of life. Several from the small towns ... live on farms. Among the others were teachers, nurses, pharmacists, shop clerks, secretaries and several retired ladies.”

Degrees Designed for Real World Ministry. Degrees Designed for You.



BACHELOR OF ARTS

The B.A. is a 128-hour program designed with an emphasis on preaching and communication of the gospel. Includes Christian service mentoring and mission work each semester.



MASTER OF MINISTRY

The Master of Ministry is a 36-hour program that seeks to enhance the service and leadership of persons who are engaged in ministry.



MASTER OF ARTS

The Master of Arts is a 36-hour program that enables students to read and interpret biblical texts in their original languages. Students will engage in rigorous academic research.



MASTER OF DIVINITY

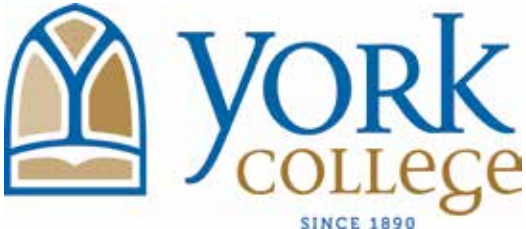
The MDiv is a 75-hour program that equips students for leadership in a congregation. Students will develop a holistic ministry plan that addresses the needs of a Christian community.



All programs are available anywhere in the world via Distance Learning.

HCU Office of Admissions
www.hcu.edu * 256.766.6610
PO Box HCU, Florence, AL 35630





York College, a four-year Christian liberal arts college in York, Nebraska, is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions:

- Full-Time Faculty Position: Psychology
- Full-Time Faculty Position: Education
- Director of Spiritual Development

For full job descriptions and application information, please visit www.york.edu/employment.

York College
Christ-centered Education that Transforms

HONOR your father and your MOTHER

She taught you how to highlight your bible

Bless her on MOTHER'S DAY with a gift that tells her YOU GOT THE MESSAGE

ZambiaMission.org/MOM



Living Waters: The Water of Life

John 4:13-14



51st Pan American Lectureship

November 8-15, 2015
(Cruise Dates)

Christ-Centered ♦ Mission-Focused
Life-Changing ♦ Enlightening ♦ Challenging
Motivating ♦ Enriching
Inspiring ♦ Uplifting

Lectures aboard the Caribbean Princess
— CRUISE PORT —
Houston, Texas
— PORTS OF CALL —
Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Mahahaul (Costa Maya), Mexico; & Island of Cozumel, Mexico





— LECTURESIP COORDINATORS —
Dan Coker ♦ David Duncan ♦ Don DeLukie
Jim Frazier ♦ Jeff Jenkins ♦ Kelley Grant
Bruce McClarty ♦ Howard Norton ♦ Paul Shero
— SPONSORED BY —
Jackson Street Church of Christ, Monroe, LA
— FOR MORE INFORMATION —
318/377-0182 — www.lectureship.org



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

GENERATIONS OF FAITH: Denis Bondarenko, 23, and Eugene Gromov, 76, rehearse at a singing camp in Irpin, Ukraine. Bondarenko, a native of Donetsk, and his congregation moved to Kiev. Gromov lives in Poltava, in central Ukraine. God, working through Americans, saved his life twice, he says. During World War II, when Nazis occupied Ukraine, an American pilot was able to get food to his family. Fifty years later, American Christians brought the Gospel.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

SERVING REFUGEES: Marina Noyes, left, swaps stories with refugees living in a former social services building in Kiev. Noyes and fellow members of the Vinograder Church of Christ in Kiev have adopted the families, providing food, fellowship and care. Two families from the east have children with special needs. One Muslim family fled persecution in Crimea. The Christians study the Bible with those interested and have baptized some of the refugees.

UKRAINE: For the future church, ‘we need to survive’

FROM PAGE 1
translated for a massive gospel campaign as nearly 200 members of Churches of Christ in the U.S. descended on the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk. Freed from the yoke of communism, Ukrainians embraced the Good News. Hundreds were baptized — including Strakhova on the campaign’s final day.
The effort birthed the Petrovsky

Church of Christ, which grew to 400 souls, shepherded by Ukrainian elders. Strakhova’s husband served as a deacon. By 2001, both of her parents were baptized. Eastern Ukraine, once dominated by atheism, became the country’s “Bible belt.” Churches of Christ flourished.
Then came the war. It started in Kiev, as masses of protesters forced Ukraine’s pro-Russian president

from office. To the south, in Crimea, supporters of Russia rejected the new government. Russia annexed the peninsula, though few other nations recognize the action.
Soon after, pro-Russian separatists took up arms in eastern Ukraine. A militia now occupies the Petrovsky church’s building in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic. The church’s members who remain worship in secret.
“We are scattered all over the country,” says Bessarab, who fled Donetsk in January after watching a bomb kill one of her coworkers.
She and her husband bought tickets for a bus that never arrived. They begged a taxi driver to accept their last 3,000 *hryvnia* — about \$150 — to drive them nine hours west to safety. For the first two hours, artillery exploded around them.
Singing with her fellow Christians distracts Bessarab from those images.
“It’s always good to be in fellowship with one another,” she says, “especially in times of troubles.”

Oklahoma, he preaches for a small Church of Christ in Cherryvale, Kan., and returns to Ukraine to coordinate the singing camps.
“We train preachers extensively, which is good,” he says. “I believe we also need to invest equally in training churches to sing.”
Among the attendees are students and graduates of the Ukrainian Bible



Grischuk

Institute — which recently relocated from Donetsk to Kiev. Dmitriy Grischuk, who teaches at the school, operates a ministry called Let’s Love, which provides aid to thousands of refugees from the east and Crimea, now living in central Ukraine. Through the ministry, church members distribute food, clothing and Bibles to the refugees.
Across Kiev, congregations including the Vinograder Church of Christ are reaching out to serve the refugees in their neighborhoods.
“God is expanding the borders of his glory,” Grischuk says. As they serve, he says, Christians learn “what it means to trust God.”



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Stan Bryan was part of that 1994 campaign. A rancher in northeastern



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

UNITED VOICES: Stan Bryan leads a two-hour festival at the conclusion of the singing camp. The Oklahoma rancher finds a cappella songs in Russian — some from the Orthodox tradition — and teaches them to participants. “I am trying ... to give people a vision of what can be done in our churches,” Bryan says, “if there is some leadership to gather and train people to sing.” The festival also included a Russian-language version of “There’s a Stirring.”

PRAYERS FOR RESTORATION

Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin ... the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

The Ukrainians who sing these words from Isaiah see God’s hand at work in spite of their troubles.

Refugees who never knew God are asking about the hereafter — and opening Bibles.

And church members from the east are revitalizing congregations in central Ukraine. Bessarab and her husband have settled in Poltava, where a small Church of Christ had split over doctrinal issues.

A minister from Donetsk, who graduated from the Ukrainian Bible Institute, also moved to Poltava as a refugee. He reunited the Christians and helped them resolve their differences. Now the congregation is growing again, Bessarab says.

As the camp concludes, a small group sings the classic hymn “Peace in the Valley” in English. Bessarab’s daughter, Strakhova, says it’s the collective prayer of every attendee.

After the camp, Strakhova will return to Crimea, where she helps oversee a program for orphans.

Life is hard on the Russian-controlled peninsula, she says, but she feels a burden to serve the

Church of Christ she helped plant there. Nearly half of its 40 or so attendees are orphans.

“Anything may happen — only God knows,” Strakhova says. “We need to survive for the sake of the future generation. We have some young people in the church. For their sake, we need to stay and survive, to help them to develop as Christians.”

A small group from a Church of Christ in Mariupol also will return to their city in eastern Ukraine, where shelling and gunfire have claimed hundreds of lives.

“We’ve seen people torn apart,” says Jenya Chugayev, one of the church members. “If not for the church, if not for the volunteers, Mariupol would cease to exist. All of us are united in prayer — Orthodox, charismatics, Baptists. We all gather to pray, crying out to God.”

The Bible tells them there will be wars, that “brother will attack brother,” says Artum Kirilanko, another church member. God’s Word also assures them that he will not abandon them in their time of need.

As they pray for peace, they plan for the day when God, working through his church, will restore their city.

SEE VIDEOS from the singing camp and additional coverage at www.christianchronicle.org.



FRANCESCA VOLPI

Leonid Krezhanovsky, center, stands in front of the former home of the Petrovsky Church of Christ, flanked by the pro-Russian separatists who seized the building.

Heroes, Satan and Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine

Heroes live here — more than I can count.

I’ve talked to so many people in this Eastern European nation who inspire me — and make me laugh.

As pro-Russian separatists have taken their homes and threatened their lives, our brothers and sisters in Christ have maintained their faith and their sense of humor.

One minister, held hostage by separatists, somehow convinced his captors he was an Orthodox priest. So they listened as he preached to them. Before his release, armed militants were bringing him gifts and asking him for blessings. (I’m told the story is even funnier in Russian.)

On my previous visit here in 2011, I witnessed baptisms in the Black Sea during a gospel seminar in Crimea. Then my hosts from Eastern European Mission drove me to Donetsk to see the amazing TV ministry of Sasha Prokopchuk.

Now Crimea flies the Russian flag, and Donetsk is under the control of the separatists. Some say they want to establish an Orthodox state — and think that, “if we’re supported by Americans, we’re spies,” one Ukrainian minister told me.

I didn’t attempt to enter Donetsk, but reporters from SKY News and Al Jazeera America did.

They interviewed Leonid Krezhanovsky, an elder of the Petrovsky Church of Christ, once the largest congregation in the city. Militants seized the church’s building, but the elder visits them to maintain a “friendly, working relationship,” Al Jazeera reports.

“I tell the boys that I love them all the time, just as I love the Ukrainian soldiers,” Krezhanovsky said. “We’re all brothers, and killing each other is against what the Bible says.”

Many of Petrovsky’s members moved westward as the violence increased, but Krezhanovsky stayed behind to serve the church, which meets in apartments scattered across the city. The reporter for SKY News attended a worship service and asked the elder if he was afraid that the militias would stop them from meeting.

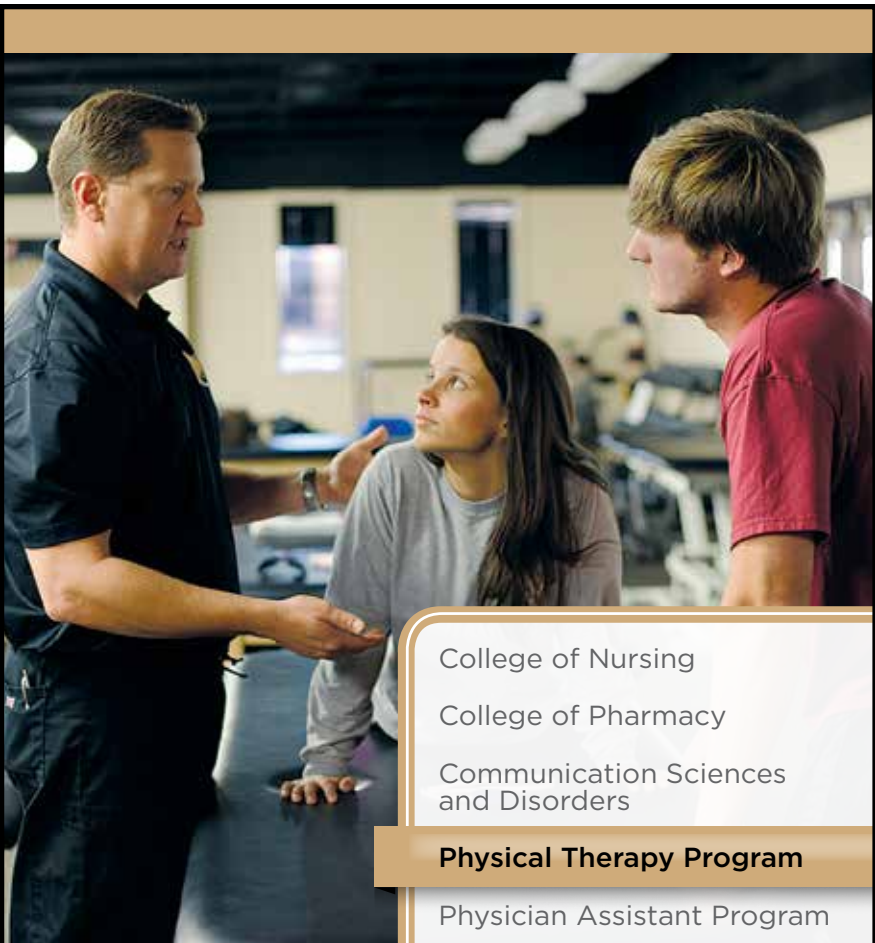
“We’re not afraid,” he replied, “because the first Christians were also persecuted. And they weren’t afraid to preach Jesus Christ.”

As he addressed the congregation huddled in the apartment,

Road Notes



Erik Tryggestad



College of Nursing

College of Pharmacy

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Physical Therapy Program

Physician Assistant Program

Premedicine

Improving spiritual and physical wellness

Harding University’s physical therapy program strives to create physical therapists equipped with the ability to improve the spiritual and physical wellness of the world. Started in 2011, the three-year program leads to a Doctor of Physical Therapy. The initial graduating class had a 100 percent first-time board exam pass rate. There is a strong focus in medical missions with students traveling to Zambia where they practice what they’ve learned. Students are taught patient-centered care that ensures optimal physical therapy outcomes delivered through the highest standards of Christian service.



HARDING
FAITH, LEARNING AND LIVING

Harding.edu | 800-477-4407
Searcy, Arkansas



As they remember the Cold War,
Slovakian Christians pray for Ukraine

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — She remembers the days when she couldn’t go up the river to Vienna, only down the river to Budapest.

Standing at the gates of Bratislava Castle, Zdenka Hammerlikova pointed to the Danube River. Her city, once part of Czechoslovakia, stood at the western boundary of the Iron Curtain. Twenty-six years after the fall of communism, she does what she never dreamed of doing as a child — giving tours to visitors from western Europe and the U.S.

She also worships God, freely, as part of a small Church of Christ.

Roman Halamicek, the church’s minister, was 10 when the Berlin Wall fell. His grandfather, a Catholic, once lost a job because he wore a cross around his neck.

Now, the Christians in Bratislava watch the news from the country on their eastern border, Ukraine, as pro-Russian separatists seize territory.



Halamicek

“It brings shivers and sadness to my heart,” Halamicek said. “I’m sad for the people on both sides. In the light of the Sermon on the Mount, it is hard to justify any violence. And war is always violent.

“The oppressed need freedom from the oppressors. The oppressors need freedom from their wicked desires to rule over others. ... My prayer is that both sides find freedom in Jesus.”

When communism collapsed in



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Tony Coffey, minister for the Ranelagh Church of Christ in Dublin, Ireland, thanks Zdenka Hamerlikova for a recent tour of downtown Bratislava — and her devotion to Christ. Coffey hosted a church retreat for Christians in Slovakia.

Central Europe, it was a time “full of hopes, full of fresh air, full of new breath,” he said. “Nothing seemed impossible in the fall of 1989.”

Missionaries planted Churches of Christ throughout the region. Many struggled to thrive as the missionaries returned home, Halamicek said.

Embracing newfound freedoms, many Slovaks entered “the bondage of materialism,” he said. “Consumerism captured the hearts of many.”

The minister said he sympathizes with the Ukrainians as they struggle to overcome the aftermath of their communist past.

“We are learning that freedom is not that easy,” he said. “The battle for freedom happens every day in our hearts.”

ROAD NOTES: Minister shows faith under fire

FROM PAGE 13

Krezhanovsky urged them not to take up arms, reminding them of Jesus’ words on the cross: “*Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do.*”

“Right now Satan is trying to put hate and anger into our hearts,” he said. “We have to keep the peace.”

I long for the day when I can shake his hand and tell him how humbled I am by his faith. That faith is alive in Ukraine — in Christians

living as exiles in Kiev and under threat of violence in Donetsk.

Scattered like the first century church, they are spreading the true Gospel, blessing the lives of the people they encounter.

I pray — and I believe — that the conflict in Ukraine will be remembered as one of Satan’s greatest failures. And that’s no joke.

CONTACT erik@christianchronicle.org

ARLINGTON: Church plant enjoys growth despite challenges

FROM PAGE 1

of U.S. teams. “We are in need of good candidates for such teams and in need of partnering churches willing to support them.”

Nationwide, the fast-growing Latino population has hit 54 million, up from 22 million a quarter-century ago, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In Arlington, the number of Hispanic residents exceeds 100,000 — over a quarter of the city’s total population of 380,000, census data shows.

For years, the North Davis Church of Christ — a 600-member congregation in the shadow of the home stadiums for the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers — felt a need to connect with Arlington’s burgeoning Latino population, former minister Doug Peters said.

“We lovingly supported a small group of Spanish-speaking members to ‘do their own thing’ off to the side, sharing small parts of our facility as an appendage to the body,” Peters, now a Bible professor at Oklahoma Christian University, wrote in a report.

“Predictably, these efforts stagnated and never gained traction,” he wrote. “We needed an effective strategy.”

That strategy came in 2011 as Great Cities Missions and three Arlington Churches of Christ — Hillcrest, Woodland West and North Davis — partnered to develop the Hispanic church plant.

Great Cities Missions trained a missionary team that included Jesús and Carmen Rodriguez, supported by North Davis, and Omar and Cesia Corpus, supported by Woodland West.

Hillcrest offered the use of its facilities, seeing the new flock as an answer to prayers.

“When I moved into this neighborhood, it was 98 percent Anglo,” said Vicky Pierce, a member since 1969.

Now, most residents in the east Arlington neighborhood are Hispanic.

Sunday attendance at the Hillcrest church — which formed in 1957 and reached 400 members — has



Members of the Arlington *Iglesia de Cristo* (Church of Christ) pray after a recent baptism. The Texas church plant has grown to weekly attendance of more than 100.

fallen below 100. Many longtime members who once lived in the neighborhood now commute.

“The congregation here has put this building up for sale prayerfully multiple times and never gotten what they felt like was an answer from the Lord,” Pierce said. “So we just kept saying, ‘God’s got a plan.’”

‘THERE IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE’

The Arlington *Iglesia de Cristo* has enjoyed growth despite challenges.

This past summer, *The Christian Chronicle* interviewed Omar Corpus at the 12th annual *Reunión Nacional de Predicadores* — which means National Meeting of Preachers — hosted by the Northside Church of Christ in Benton, Ark.

At the meeting, Corpus talked excitedly about the church plant. He stressed the need to practice friendship evangelism instead of relying on door-knocking, which he said is more effective in his native Mexico than in the U.S.

In the months following, however, Corpus and his family ran into visa problems, forcing their return to

Mexico and leaving the Rodriguezes to handle the Arlington ministry.

In another case, team members trained by Great Cities Missions enjoyed success growing a Spanish-speaking congregation at the old Rosemont Church of Christ building in Fort Worth but later faced internal strife that damaged their efforts.

“We can’t forget that there is a spiritual battle going on,” Emery said. “Satan doesn’t want us partnering with Hispanic teams to plant effective churches here in North America.”

Gabriel Rodriguez, son of Jesús and Carmen, and his wife, Jonelle, hope to join the Arlington team. They are undergoing assessment by Great Cities Missions and, if all goes satisfactorily, will be supported by the Woodland West church.

“Jesús and Carmen were a little overwhelmed when they lost their only teammates,” Emery said, “so the churches acted quickly to bring in reinforcements in order to keep things going well.”

If he joins the team, Gabriel Rodriguez will lead the Spanish-

speaking worship and work with the teens, who — unlike their parents — prefer Bible class in English.

“Culturally, we still try and preserve some of the Hispanic-ness of it even if we conduct everything in English,” he said. “We sing songs in Spanish.”

‘WE WANT THIS FLOWER TO GROW’

As it targets future locations for church plants, Great Cities Missions is eager to help with recruiting, training, strategic planning and missionary care, Emery said.

However, the parachurch organization needs partners, he said.

“Interest in the Hispanic community is growing among Churches of Christ,” Emery said. “But too many aren’t acting on that interest.”

Jim Holway, a minister for the Sunset Church of Christ in Miami, coaches Hispanic church planters through the Florida-based Latin American Mission Project.

Holway endorses Great Cities Missions’ plan to nurture domestic teams.

At the same time, he advocates a multipronged approach, embracing alternatives such as video training of Hispanic church planters by Texas International Bible Institute in Houston.

“We have a huge opportunity, but we’re losing the battle to win the Hispanic community,” Holway said.

However, in Arlington, the Hispanic group already outnumbers its host congregation.

The church plant has boosted the spirits of Hillcrest members who recognize the changing demographics, long-time minister Woody Woodrow said.

A recent joint assembly by the Spanish and English speakers filled the auditorium with 192 souls.

“It’s just been wonderful to see all these new faces here,” Woodrow said. “We’re not helping them in terms of salary. But in terms of physical plant facilities and supplies, we are very much involved and positive. We want this flower to grow, blossom and flourish.”

BOBBY ROSS JR.



Texas

Population: 26,448,193

Racial/ethnic groups:

- 44 percent white,
- 38 percent Hispanic,
- 12 percent black, 4 percent Asian, 1 percent American Indian, 1 percent other.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

One Nación

Under God

Seventh in a series

SEE MORE STORIES about reaching Hispanics in the U.S. with the Gospel. Find the “One Nación” tab under “Series” at www.christianchronicle.org



JUST IMAGINE...

...BECOMING PART OF A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Imagine an institution of higher learning that is unique in the way it combines a Christian world view with quality academics.

...BEING MORE THAN A FACE IN THE CROWD

Imagine the pursuit of your higher education where you can truly grow as an individual.

...GETTING INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION

Imagine attending one of the nation's top ranked Universities where the faculty and staff care about your education and spiritual growth.

admissions.ovu.edu

1 Campus View Drive | Vienna, WV 26105-8000 | 877.446.8668

U.S. News & World Report ranked
OVU 27th among Tier I schools
in the south region. Tier I denotes
the highest-ranked schools for each
region evaluated by U.S. News.
This is the 5th consecutive year
OVU ranked as a Tier 1 School.



FOR LEARNING. FOR FAITH. FOR LIFE.



Residential Counselor Job Opening

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

Come be a part of this ministry! We offer competitive pay and excellent full-time benefits including medical, dental, life insurance, disability, retirement and paid time-off.
To apply, call **Dana Lawson, 486-2274 x225**, or visit us online at **www.tennesseechildrenshome.org**.

CAMPUS MINISTER WANTED

University of Delaware

The Newark Church of Christ (www.newarkcoc.org) sponsors a campus ministry at the University of Delaware and has had a full-time campus minister since 2000. It is a University-recognized club, Blue Hens for Christ (bluehensforchrist.net). Campus ministry receives financial support from the Delaware Christian Campus Ministry Foundation (dccmf.org). We have a campus house including an office and library near campus with operational management by the Foundation.

Our requirements are at least a B.A. in Bible, Master's preferred, and some experience. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Health insurance is supplied. We would appreciate a resume, a brief description of your pathway to faith, and copies of two sermons you have preached. We are hoping to fill the position 7/1/15 to allow time to prepare for the fall semester.

Contact: Darrell Swanson at darrellkeith@verizon.net or 302-453-8456.

P O Box 2070
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-734-6720



j.wright@childhaven.com

House Parents Needed! Seeking couple of great faith with love for teens to serve 14—18 year youth. Childhaven provides excellent salary and benefits and hires both husband and wife full time. Become a part of an outstanding and supportive team! For more information, contact Executive Director, Dr. Jim Wright, at phone or email address above. To learn more, visit www.childhaven.com!



PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

Daniel and Falcia Torres sign to the song during the Sunday worship service of the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas, as Samantha Branch interprets for the deaf.

A church for the broken, hurting

IN URBAN FORT WORTH, a 123-year-old congregation enjoys a spiritual revival as it ministers to wounded souls

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

FORT WORTH, Texas

To understand the heartbeat of the Southside Church of Christ, go to the HOPE class. HOPE — which stands for Heavenly Options for Pain and Emptiness — meets right after the Sunday morning worship assembly.

Part adult Bible study, part 12-step Christian recovery group, the class draws a ragtag collection of addicts, ex-convicts and street people — all

focused on the healing power of Jesus Christ.

“When you go to the hospital, you don’t have to confess you have a disease, do you?” group leader Dan Leaf asks the more than 60 struggling souls. “The church is a hospital for sinners.”

His words inspire an enthusiastic round of clapping and “Amens!”

Some in the group have been sober for years. Others measure recovery in days, not weeks.

A few still smell like alcohol.

“Falling down is not as bad as not getting up,” Leaf assures the group. “It doesn’t matter how many times we fall down — God is walking us home.”

STORIES OF HOPE

“Hear Kent,” says the marquee sign outside the Southside church building, inviting friends and neighbors to the congregation’s recent



Leaf

third annual “Day of Hope.”

Kent — that would be Kent Brantly, the missionary doctor who survived Ebola — needs no introduction after making international headlines.

Brantly and his wife, Amber, were Southside members for five years while he completed his residency at nearby John Peter Smith Hospital, which serves Tarrant County’s poorest residents.

“This church prayed for us and

CONTINUED



Social service organizations set up booths for the “Day of Hope,” an annual outreach event hosted by the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas.

‘I’ve left church before to turn tricks up on Hemphill (Street). God is a God of restoration, and I’m forever grateful for this church and my relationship with Jesus Christ.’
— Andrea Herrington, member, Southside Church of Christ



Member Cari Barker paints a girl's face during Southside's “Day of Hope.”



Donnie Thomas raises his hand to share during the HOPE class at the Southside church. The addiction recovery group meets each Sunday morning and Wednesday night.



Minister Steve Cloer preaches on reconciliation at the Southside church.



Brian Scott stands holding his child as the congregation sings songs of praise. The Southside church worships first, followed by Bible classes, each Sunday morning.

CONTINUED
sent us off to Liberia as missionaries,” Brantly recounts, offering his “story of hope” as 350 people devour plates of freshly cooked Texas barbecue in an open-air tent on a blue-sky Saturday. As children play in bounce houses, get their faces painted and laugh at a clown who makes balloon animals, other Southside members share their stories, too. Although their faces are not famous, their stories of overcoming are equally compelling. “I’ve left church before to turn tricks up on Hemphill (Street),” Andrea Herrington says, describing her 15-year journey from prostitute and drug addict to church food pantry volunteer and mother of a Christian university student. “God is a God of restoration, and I’m forever grateful for this church and my relationship with Jesus Christ.” The first time Michael Craft visited the church, he came from a “dope motel” and failed to shower.

Southside Church of Christ

LOCATION: Fort Worth, Texas.
ELDERS: Joe Bullock, Brent Davis, Jim Gardner, Kent Hatcher, Alan Hegi, Monty McNair, Barry Riley and Kent Smith.
STAFF: Preaching minister Steve Cloer, local missions ministers Dan and Kathy Leaf, youth minister Matthew Morgan, discipleship minister John Scott, children's minister Bekah Weatherford and college minister Chris Jeter.

“And y’all hugged me and showed me unmerited favor,” he reminds his fellow Christians. “I saw love in action. I saw grace.” Craft didn’t change overnight, he says, but Southside members “loved me ‘in’ my addiction and ‘through’ my addiction.”

A PLACE OF MISSION AND MERCY
Don’t let the grand white pillars and tall steeple fool you.

The magnificent, red-brick building of the Southside church suited the neighborhood when it opened in 1959. But more than a half-century later, the chandeliers that hang from the auditorium ceiling belie the wounded souls afforded prominent places in the shiny wooden pews each Sunday. “One nice thing about this congregation, they don’t judge anyone when they walk in the door,” said elder Kent Hatcher, who works with the

HOPE group. “They greet everyone like anybody else and make them feel welcome.” Located next door to a bail-bonds business, the church sits along a major city bus route amid homeless shelters, drug treatment centers and social service agencies. A decade ago, Southside’s attendance averaged about 300. In recent years, that number has jumped by more than 50 percent — hitting 450 to 500 most Sundays, church leaders said. The 123-year-old congregation, which once contemplated relocating to the suburbs, has experienced a spiritual and numerical revival since adopting a vision to become “a place of mission, mercy and transformation.” The worship assembly remains traditional. The outreach focus does not. “First, we want to be a church of missionaries to our neighborhood,” preaching minister Steve Cloer said, describing the church’s vision. “Second, we want to be a church of mercy where anybody who needs food, clothes and love can come and find it. Third, we want to be a church of transformation, where people’s lives are being changed.”

HOPE AFTER A SPLIT
The roots of Southside’s own transformation can be traced to the late 1990s. That’s when a young mother named Jane Pearson — an addict staying at a Salvation Army treatment facility for women and their children — crossed the street to attend worship. At the time, the church was still healing from a major split several years earlier, elder Alan Hegi said. The split had cut attendance in half and left the remaining members reeling. “We had gotten very inwardly focused and become very proud of ourselves,” Hegi said. “Those of us who stayed — there was a lot of prayer, a lot of tears, a lot of soul searching.” But when Pearson sat down in Bible class, placed her cigarettes on

the table and asked how God might help turn around her life, the church discovered a new direction. “We had all been like, ‘Woe is us, all our friends have left, and our church is limping along,’” Hegi recalled. “And that was God’s answer to a prayer,” he said of Pearson’s visit.

GOD’S CALLING
Along with its recovery ministry, the Southside church feeds hundreds of families per month through its food pantry and community garden. The congregation supplies a building on its property for a neighborhood children’s health clinic that last year recorded 2,500 patient visits. Members tutor neighborhood children at the church building on Tuesday nights and volunteer in the public schools. The church provides financial support for member Melissa Zenteno

to serve as a full-time chaplain with One Safe Place, a Fort Worth nonprofit that helps victims of domestic violence. Angela Hurtado, mother of Desmond, 10, and William, 8, said she first came in contact with the church through the food pantry. She became involved in the HOPE class and the deaf ministry. “I got baptized here,” she said. “I was a recovering addict at the time. They supported me no matter what I did.” Her boys love to pray each night, she said, thanking God for the church’s role in their spiritual development. But not every story has a happy ending. “It is very hard to work with broken people,” said Leaf, who joined the ministry staff in 1998. “There are a lot of disappointments. You can’t hang on

to those disappointments. You’ve got to move on and see the bigger picture that God is working on.” The recovery ministry shapes the church’s culture. “When you add 60 to 70 people who are in recovery into your worship assembly, that just changes the dynamic,” Cloer said. “We’re a church for the broken. We’re a church for the hurting. We’re welcoming in anybody. It keeps the missional edge there.” For his own part, Cloer moved into the neighborhood with his wife, Lindsay, and their three children: Joshua, 8; Bethany, 5; and Lydia, 3. The couple chose to send their children to the low-income elementary school down the street and become actively involved. The Cloers enjoy the eclectic nature of the inner city and befriended the homeless man who lives in their alley. “We definitely feel this is where God has called us to be,” Steve Cloer said.



Hegi



Hurtado

What makes a church work?

FOR 10 YEARS, *The Christian Chronicle* has featured congregations that are evangelistic, biblical, united and visible. Minister Steve Cloer surveyed leaders of 25 of these churches, looking for trends to help Christians live missionally.

What does an elder need to be doing to help his church be outwardly focused? What about the minister? How should elders and ministers work together to help their congregation be on mission?

In the past three years, I have researched these questions, with assistance from *The Christian Chronicle's* "Churches That Work."

Since 2005, the *Chronicle* has highlighted Churches of Christ that — while not perfect — are examples of "evangelistic, biblical, united and visible" congregations.

I surveyed the elders and ministers of 25 of these congregations, asking them about their personal background, individual leadership practices, what the elders and ministers did together at their congregation and how they understood their roles. I also asked them to rate their congregation on certain missional behaviors such as hospitality, risk-taking, service and evangelism. More than 100 elders and ministers responded.

I then ranked the congregations based on how the leaders responded and visited the four congregations with the highest rank. I sat down with the preacher, the elders and the other ministers on staff. I observed their worship assembly and, when possible, their elders' meetings.

I gathered my notes from my visits and analyzed the survey to see if there were any common themes that emerged. Were there certain patterns that the elders and ministers exhibit that foster a missional focus in their congregations?

I found five.

1. The elders functioned as nurturing pastors. Elders focused their attention on people. Rather than dwelling on budgets, buildings and programs, they spent the majority of their time *with* people. They prayed often *for* people. They encouraged

people. They were available.

The net effect was a nurturing, stable environment where the church felt empowered — instead of controlled — to step out in faith as disciples of Christ.

2. The ministers functioned as missional catalysts. The elders' focus on pastoring creates space for the minister to gently push the congregation to live God's missional vision. This happens in a variety of ways.

One minister consistently described to the congregation what God is doing among them and their neighborhood in hopes of inviting the congregation to participate.

Another concentrated on mentoring, teaching and equipping members to be missionaries where God places them.

There are other avenues, but all the ministers consistently kept the idea in front of the church that God calls them to something bigger than just taking care of themselves.

3. The ministers and elders functioned as a team. They developed a high level of trust and respect for one another. They understood one another's roles and giftedness. They were not envious or power-hungry. Rather, they relied on each other.

This teamwork develops through longevity. The ministers at the four churches I visited had been at their congregations for at least 20 years.

Also, they spent plenty of informal time together — in recreation or fellowship. In fact, one minister described his elders as if they were his family. This teamwork produced a harmony as the elders pastored and the ministers led toward God's missional vision.

4. Leaders walked through the wilderness. Maybe the most surprising result was that all four churches that I visited had moments of wilderness, or spiritual difficulty. They shared with me about church

Views



Steve Cloer



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Youth minister Matthew Morgan greets a family at the Southside church in Fort Worth.

splits, elder resignations, staff moral failures and theological controversies that created difficult moments in the past.

But what set these churches apart was how they handled the wilderness. They did not react by making surface-level changes or knee-jerk decisions. Rather, they continued to trust God's leadership. They looked to God to see what he was teaching them. As a result, the wilderness actually became preparatory and formative for the future doors that God opened for their congregation.

5. The church cultivated a missional identity. In many ways, this is the result of the other four trends. Because of the pastoring, missional leadership, teamwork and time in the wilderness, the four congregations found unique ways to engage their local context.

One congregation created a missional culture through short-term mission experiences and participation in local mission efforts.

Another congregation focused on equipping enlisted men and women from a nearby military base for ministry. As a result, this church sent out 500 disciples in 10 years.

One church had an "inside-out" strategy. They worked hard to be a sign and foretaste to the reign of God.

So, when new people walked in, they would say, "God is present here!"

These five patterns are not ground-breaking or earth-shattering. But they do illuminate a path.

What should leaders be doing to help their church engage the mission of God in their neighborhood?

- **If you are an elder,** love the people of your church. Be a good pastor by creating an environment where the congregation feels free — not restricted — to follow God's call and live as a missional disciple.

- **If you are a minister,** recognize your role as a witness of the Gospel. Spend time in the neighborhood and community to see what God is doing. Begin to cast God's vision of redemption, and challenge the congregation to participate.

As both sets of leaders work together as a team following God's lead — even through the wilderness — God's spirit will form congregations into a missionary people.

STEVE CLOER is preaching minister for the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas — featured in this month's "Churches That Work." He is completing his Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary. He and his wife, Lindsay, have three children. **Contact** scloer@sscofc.org.

10 YEARS OF CHURCHES THAT WORK

In a way, we've come full circle

In the 10 years since *The Christian Chronicle* launched the Churches That Work series, we've featured 29 congregations in 24 states.

Steve Cloer, preaching minister for the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas, the latest church featured, also had a connection to the first congregation we wrote about, the Highland Street Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn.

In 2005, Cloer was a graduate student at Harding School of Theology working on Highland's staff. Former Highland preacher Harold Shank, now president of Ohio Valley University, remains a mentor for Cloer.

RELATED EDITORIAL, Page 28

- 1. Highland Street Church of Christ**
Memphis, Tenn. • www.highlandcc.org

2. Metro Church of Christ
Gresham, Ore. • metrocofc.org

3. Fairfax Church of Christ
Fairfax, Va. • fxcc.org

4. Southern Hills Church of Christ
Dallas • facebook.com/SHCCDallas

5. Northern Hills Church of Christ
Spearfish, S.D. • northernhillschurchofchrist.com

6. Cordova Church of Christ
Rancho Cordova, Calif. • cordovachurch.com

7. Orange Avenue Church of Christ
Eustis, Fla. • www.myoacoc.org

8. Canyon Church of Christ
Anthem, Ariz. • canyonchurch.org

9. Anchorage Church of Christ
Anchorage, Alaska • anchoragechurchofchrist.org

10. Lynn Street Church of Christ
Parkersburg, W.Va. • lynnstreetchurch.com

11. White's Ferry Road Church of Christ
West Monroe, La. • wfrchurch.org

12. Dalton Gardens Church of Christ
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho • dgchurch.org

13. Pitman Road Church of Christ
Sewell, N.J. • pitmanroadchurchofchrist.org

14. Northwest Church of Christ
Chicago • northwestchurchofchristchicago.com
- 15. Fifth Ward Church of Christ**
Houston • fifthwardcoc.info

16. Park Plaza Church of Christ
Tulsa, Okla. • parkplaza.org

17. Sunset Church of Christ
Miami • sunsetonline.com

18. North Canton Church of Christ
North Canton, Ohio • northcantonchurch.org

19. Holgate Church of Christ
Seattle • www.holgatecoc.com

20. Mt. Juliet Church of Christ
Mt. Juliet, Tenn. • www.mtjuliet.org

21. Church of Christ in Marshalltown
Marshalltown, Iowa

22. Laurel Church of Christ
Laurel, Md. • laurelchurch.net

23. Northwest Church of Christ
Westminster, Colo. • nwcofc.com

24. Great Falls Church of Christ
Great Falls, Mont. • gfcc.faithsite.com

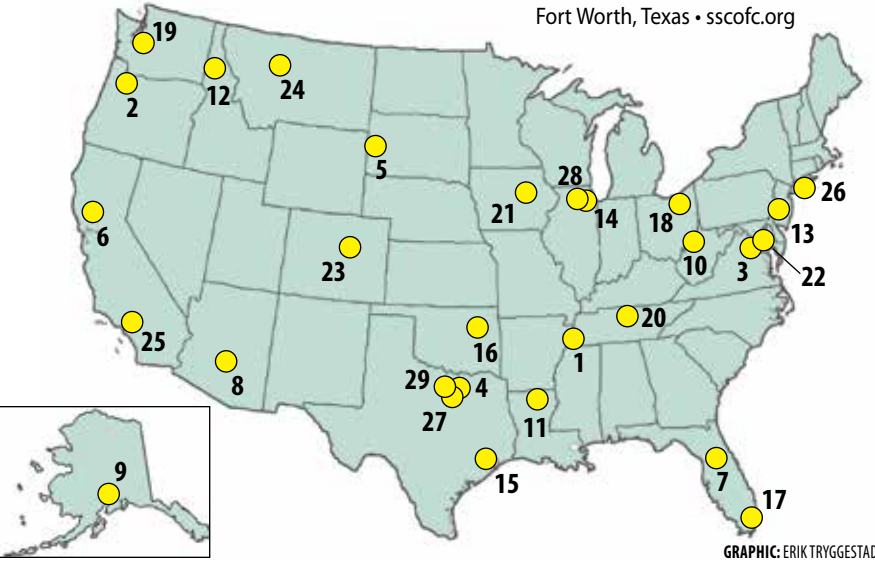
25. Crenshaw Church of Christ
Los Angeles • crenshawchurchofchrist.com

26. Long Island Church of Christ
Central Islip, N.Y. • licoc.org

27. North Davis Church of Christ
Arlington, Texas • northdavischurch.org

28. Iglesia de Cristo en Elgin
Elgin, Ill. • iglesiadecristoenelgin.com

29. Southside Church of Christ
Fort Worth, Texas • sscofc.org



OCTHINKTANK

HOUSTON AREA WIDE ELDER'S WORKSHOP

JUNE 6, 2015

DISCUSS TOPICS SUCH AS:

REINFORCING OUR SCRIPTURAL BASIS
THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CHURCH

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: KENT ALLEN,
OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

The OC Church Growth Think Tank has been addressing church growth with over 500 years of collective church of Christ experience, a great respect for our scriptural basis, and a keen understanding that some of our customs and practices are not accomplishing the Great Commission. The primary speakers at this workshop will be those Think Tank members.

MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
900 Echo Lane, Houston, Texas 77024

Register online at mcoc.org under "Event Registration."

This event is organized by the Oklahoma Christian University Church Growth Think Tank and is being sponsored by Memorial Church of Christ, Fifth Ward Church of Christ, Champions Church of Christ, and the Christian Array E-Magazine.

THE
PAPERLESS
HYMNAL

1 - Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art,

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

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

For PowerPoint® slides in Spanish: www.himnosenpantalla.com

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

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

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



BY THEIR FRUIT YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEM...Matt. 7:16

The Raleigh Church of Christ seeks a full-time evangelist who genuinely loves the Lord and defines his ministry as preaching, teaching, and equipping others to serve Christ. With an average Sunday morning attendance of 220, we are a diverse body of believers inspired by God to live by a spirit of humility while speaking the truth in love. If you desire to be considered for this position or would like to learn more about the RCOCC, please go to the following link:

www.rccapplication.com

Pulpit Minister

The **Chula Vista Church of Christ** in sunny San Diego, Calif., is prayerfully seeking a dynamic Pulpit Minister to lovingly present God's word in a balanced approach involving life experiences and applications that will help motivate and inspire our congregation to positive action for God.

For details, visit **www.cvcoc.com** (preacher search)



MSCH is offering a wonderful job opportunity along with a spectacular view and close access to the beautiful **Rocky Mountains**.

We are seeking a loving Christian couple to care for school-age boys and girls. Benefits include housing, food, insurance, salary and more.

For information contact:

Randy Schow, Director
(303) 776-6841 or
14780 N 107th Street
Longmont, CO 80504

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 three elders and three 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 N Sunnyside Rd
Decatur, IL 62522

Youth Associate Minister

The **Malakoff Church of Christ** in Malakoff, Texas, is looking for a Youth Associate Minister to lead and develop our youth, coordinate all youth activities and assist in local evangelism.

Send inquiry to:

Malakoff Church of Christ
Attn: Lavelle Layfield, Elder
rllayfield@aol.com

CAMP FOR SALE

Does your church need a youth camp? Rustic youth & family camp on 43.95 acres in the beautiful mountains of southern Colorado. All offers welcome for consideration!

For more information contact
Brant at 719-248-9892 or visit
www.ruralamericanrealty.com

Rural American Realty
1900 E 25th St, Hays, KS 67601

"I was in prison and you came to visit me..."

42ND ANNUAL

JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP

2015

MEMPHIS, TN
JUNE 10-12
HIGHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

Grow your outreach to the incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and their families. Learn in breakout sessions focused on ministry volunteers, motivating the church, understanding the incarcerated, and the jail and justice systems—as well as panel discussions, morning devotionals, and keynote speakers.

\$70 registration fee includes: dinner two nights, lunch two days, workshop t-shirt and bag.

For more information, call:
901-272-3700 EXT 104

View workshop schedule and register online at:
WHYHOPEWORKS.ORG/PRISON-WORKSHOP



HOPEWORKS



'God doesn't need us to be perfect'

SERVING THOSE WHO HUNGER requires prayerful preparation and action, says Amber Foster, missionary in Honduras

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As a shy, unassuming freshman at Oklahoma Christian University, Amber Foster never saw herself serving Christ on a foreign field.

Fifteen years later, she has served as "Mama Amber" to countless souls in the Central American nation of Honduras. Her ministry, Breaking Chains, serves the marginalized, street population in the capital, Tegucigalpa.

By meeting basic needs and developing relationships, she and her team act as a gateway toward a relationship with Christ.

The oldest of 11 siblings in a blended family, she learned from her mother, who gave equal amounts of love to biological and foster children. Amber Foster earned a degree in family studies and child development and served in Honduras through the Helpers In Missions (HIM) program of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. After a two-year apprenticeship, she remained in Honduras, assisting in church plants and children's ministry before founding Breaking Chains in 2009.

"I have watched my single life grow into a family of hundreds," she said. "I have five kids that I consider mine, who I have had a hand in raising and know their hearts intimately. Watching them grow — and growing with them — is one of my greatest challenges and is definitely my greatest joy."

How did you decide to do mission work?

I didn't so much choose to do mission work as much as mission work chose me.

Leaving home to go to college was the hardest thing I had ever done, and I had no intention of ever being more than that three-hour drive from my family again.

But as a horribly shy freshman in my church's college class, I put my name on a list to go to Honduras. I can only attribute that decision to the Holy Spirit working in my life — and I regretted it almost immediately. I told all of my friends that I would never go on another mission trip.

Once in Honduras, despite the



KELCY NASH

Amber Foster and a few of the children she serves in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

virus that ran through all of us, I felt at home. I fell in love with the kind, shy church members we worked with — who would fight tooth and nail for anything they thought would help their families but rarely realized what treasures they were themselves.

I had never encountered such great physical or emotional need before. Their extreme need seemed to create in them a hunger for God that we in the U.S. were trying desperately to cover with our things and accomplishments.

I wanted to feel that hunger, and I wanted to help fill those needs. I continue to be blessed to be a part of God's work filling those needs.

Describe how you share the Gospel.

I pray that my life shares the Gospel in myriad ways. My ultimate goal is to share the Gospel with love.

Our ministry shares the Gospel through church services, Bible studies, a homeless shelter, a feeding program, childhood education and inviting mission teams and interns to share in the work here throughout the year.

It is our goal to empower those that

we work with — both Honduran and North American — to seek a relationship with Christ that goes beyond good works and transforms their lives into a daily, deepening relationship with him and everyone around them.

How do things work as a single woman who oversees young boys?

Our ministry works with teens and families striving to leave the street behind and better their lives. Many of the people living on the street are older teen boys who have suffered in such a way that they believe theft and drugs are their only way out.

Much of the pain and abuse in their lives has been at the hand of men.

Being a woman has given me the ability to reach out to these young men without the inherent distrust they have toward men. They are willing to slowly open up their hearts to me once they realize I have no desire to hurt them and no intention of leaving.

I work hard to maintain the mother/child relationship and establish appropriate boundaries so that

their trust can grow in a safe and healthy environment.

What is the value of short-term mission work?

Short-term mission work is dear to my heart. It is the reason I ended up in Honduras. I have had the blessing of watching countless team members develop a deeper relationship with God because of time spent on the mission field.

That being said, I think the manner in which short-term mission teams are prepared is vital. Effective short-term missions are based on relationship building. Completing tasks often provides a catalyst through which relationships can grow naturally, but a trip with only tasks as a goal is sure to feel empty for both sides of the mission.

What would you say to those considering mission work?

If you wait until conditions are perfect and you are completely "ready," you will never go. God doesn't need us to be perfect. In fact, the less perfect we realize we are, the more he can use us. Don't let being single be Satan's excuse to stop you.

Do put a hedge of support around yourself. You need to be purposeful about developing a support group that you trust. Be completely honest with those people. The people might change, but you need to know who

you can turn to when Satan tries to convince you that you are in this alone.

God will provide all that you need, but that is very

often a Christian family member speaking God's love into your life.

Don't minimize the importance of fellowship in your Christian walk — regardless of where you end up.

SINGLE WOMEN IN MISSIONS, adapting to a new culture and the joys of Honduras: Amber Foster addresses these issues and more in our expanded Dialogue. See www.christianchronicle.org.

Breaking Chains
Learn more about this ministry, serving the urban poor in Honduras, at www.bchonduras.org

RECOVERY: Church is ‘the original support group’

FROM PAGE 3
is the ultimate authority for obtaining peace in a life filled with struggle, hardship, dysfunction and addiction. It's one of many ministries launched by members of Churches of Christ across the U.S. in recent years. The goal of these programs goes beyond restoring those who struggle into a right relationship with God, organizers told *The Christian Chronicle*. The programs seek to help restore the church itself to what it was always meant to be — a body of believers that seeks, saves and serves the lost. “God didn’t create us to get through life alone,” said Debbie Banks, a women’s co-facilitator for the ministry. “He gave us the church as the original support group.”



Banks

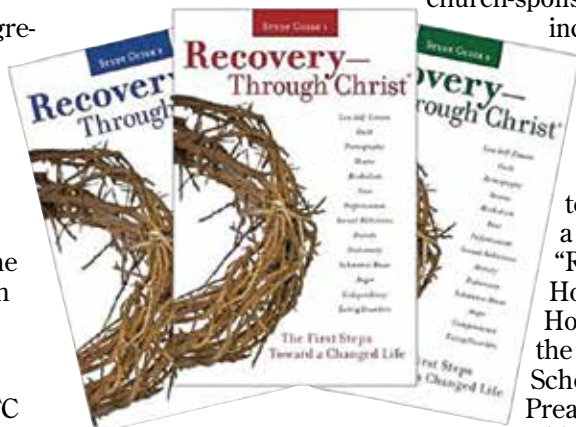
FIRST STEPS OF FAITH IN TENNESSEE
Back in Tennessee, participants in Recovery — Through Christ, or RTC, meet on Thursday nights at the Mt. Juliet church’s building for a time of worship, fellowship and healing. It’s called First Steps — a nine-month program in which participants move through the 12 steps of recovery with three accompanying

study guides. Each meeting includes a devotional, a discussion-style lesson and confidential, small-group sessions. Facilitators and co-facilitators undergo mandatory training to preserve the safety, credibility and integrity of the program. They cannot, however, serve as therapists, so participants complete assessments to ensure that those who need professional help are advised to receive it. Since 2010, about 150 people have visited First Steps at least twice, organizers said, and dozens have graduated from the program. Two years ago, organizers added a weekly program called Step Zero. It serves as a maintenance course for those who have completed First Steps — and as a preparation course for those waiting for a new program to begin. Organizers plan to add a 12-week Bible class curriculum called Transformations, focusing on how to love self, others and God the way God intended. David Stanfield, a graduate of the First Steps program, now serves as a facilitator and trainer for the recovery ministry. “I learned that, after breaking through my shame and hatred of the struggles in my life, I am a child of God, and he still loves me,” Stanfield said. “He never stopped.”

OPENING EYES ACROSS THE SOUTH
The Mt. Juliet ministry has grown beyond the walls of the church building. Other congregations, including the Crieve Hall Church of Christ in nearby Nashville, Tenn., and the Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tenn., have launched RTC programs. “RTC has opened my eyes to a truly Christ-centered approach to recovery,” said James Wood, who coordinates the program for the Crieve Hall church. “This approach is much better than a traditional Alcoholics Anonymous program.” Harper, director of Mt. Juliet’s RTC program, has been invited to speak at universi-



Harper



Members of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ produced three study guides to accompany the First Steps program of the Recovery — Through Christ ministry.

ties associated with Churches of Christ, including Heritage Christian University in Florence, Ala., and at church-sponsored events including Polishing the Pulpit in Sevierville, Tenn. Harper teaches a course, “Restoring Hope to the Hopeless,” at the Nashville School of Preaching and Biblical Studies, a program overseen by the Crieve Hall church. Eventually, Harper hopes to add programs specifically for teenagers and the families of those struggling with addictions and other life-controlling issues. But his main objective is to continue to create a safe environment within the church for change. “God accepts me regardless of my past,” he said, “and loves me enough to change my future.”

WEBSITE: www.recoverythroughchrist.org

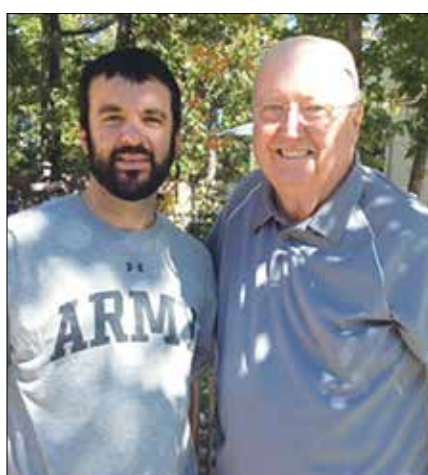
In rural Arkansas, Christians seek to save, heal and make whole

BY RACHEL PATE | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE
About 430 miles west of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., a Church of Christ has launched a recovery ministry in the rural countryside of Jessieville, Ark. “God — and this program — saved my life,” Russ Vanderhoof said of the program, SOZO. Church members derived the name from a Greek word meaning “to save, to heal, to make whole.” Like the Mt. Juliet church’s Recovery — Through Christ ministry, SOZO combines the traditional 12-step recovery model, used by substance abuse programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, with intense Bible study and faith-based learning.

“I wanted to give recovering people a way to blend spirituality and recovery,” said Bob O’Dowd, director of SOZO. He also was inspired by the success of Celebrate Recovery. So, when the Village Church of Christ in Hot Springs Village, Ark., launched the program in 2012, he got involved. Now SOZO is a stand-alone organization. Unlike many other recovery ministries, SOZO is a live-in residency program specifically for men. Participants live on campus for three months before enrolling in a job-placement program that assists them with their reentry into society. In this phase, the men continue to

receive support in their recovery. Justin Smith is one of the souls served by SOZO. “I am a grateful recovering alcoholic and drug addict,” Smith said. “I owe my recovery and second chance at life to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and SOZO.” He began his recovery journey two years ago at a 28-day treatment center in California. He eventually made the trip to Jessieville and now serves as the ministry’s assistant director. “The unique combination of what we’re doing here at SOZO really changed my life,” he said.

WEBSITE: www.sozorecoverycenters.com



Justin Smith and Bob O’Dowd direct the SOZO recovery ministry.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — Hundreds of Harding students participated in the recent ninth annual Bisons for Christ, the university's day of service. More than 150 student-led projects took place in the Searcy and Little Rock areas.

"As Christians, we're called to show people the love of Christ," sophomore Will Francis said. "I think that this is a great way to help out the community and show others Christ's love through service."

Francis, a guard on Harding's men's basketball team, helped clean a house and performed yard work such as pulling weeds and raking leaves with the rest of the team.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb's Beaman Library seeks funding to help digitize 455 reel-to-reel sermons of the late Batsell Barrett Baxter, the pioneering "Herald of Truth" television speaker who died in 1982.

Baxter's sermons need to be reformatted to maintain relevancy with today's audience, special collections librarian Elizabeth Rivera said.

"Biblically sound and scholarly information is often timeless, but its original format rarely is," Rivera said. "Therefore, it is our desire to preserve the contents of these reel-to-reels and make them more accessible to patrons and constituents."

For more information, see www.bit.ly/BBBSermons.

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LUBBOCK, Texas — After a recent chapel assembly, Lubbock Christian University kicked off a 24-hour Bible reading marathon.

Students decided reading the New Testament and spending time in prayer and reflection would be a source of strength for the end of the semester, said Susan Blessingame, dean of liberal arts and education.

Besides reading in 30-minute shifts, students prayed for each other and the East African nation of Kenya after recent terrorist attacks.

With finals approaching, Blessingame said, "we needed something to remind us to take time with Scripture and prayer."



CHRISTAL HOUSTON

Olympic gold medal winner touts bone marrow registry at York

Track and field athletes at York College in Nebraska surround Earl Young, a 1960 Olympic gold medal winner in the 4-by-400-meter relay. Young, an alumnus of Abilene Christian University in Texas, is a bone marrow recipient who focuses on recruiting more donors onto the national registry.

At York, Young discussed his journey to the winner's platform and the faith that got him through his 2011 bout with acute myeloid leukemia. To view his chapel talk, see www.christianchronicle.org.

At right, student Emily Lutz swabs her cheek to register as a bone marrow donor during a drive hosted by York in partnership with Earl Young's Team and Delete Blood Cancer. Morgan DeBoer and Troy Kelly volunteer their time to register donors. For more information, see www.earlyyoungteam.com.



K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

GOODPASTURE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MADISON, Tenn. — Goodpasture Christian School is fighting to keep a sex club from opening near the school. After the local government passed a zoning amendment to stop the club from locating in a vacant building near Goodpasture Christian, the property's owners are trying a new tactic.

"Now the swingers' club has said they wish to be permitted not as a club but as a church, since they feel there should not be any opposition to a church," said Ricky Perry, the school's president and CEO. "In my opinion, it is a feeble attempt to circumvent the state and local laws."

Perry asked for prayers "for God's will to be done and that this challenge will actually result in an opportunity for God's people to unify and, in a loving way, protect young people from these kinds of unsavory influences."

YOUTH TRAINING

LADS TO LEADERS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — "The Best Kept Secret" is a new documentary highlighting the 42-year history of Lads to Leaders and its founder, Jack Zorn.

The production debuted this spring at the organization's six convention sites and later aired on the Dish Network.

"This documentary is a great tool for introducing Lads to Leaders to people who have never heard of the program and for sharing the history of L2L with those who have been involved with the program for years," said Roy Johnson, the organization's executive director. "It's a stunning tribute to Lads to Leaders and Dr. Zorn."

The documentary was filmed by a professional production company and funded by a benefactor.

For information on buying the DVD, see www.lads2leaders.com.

SPORTS

NASCAR journalist was a man of faith

FORT MILL, S.C. — Steve Byrnes, who reported on NASCAR for Fox Sports, died April 21 after a two-year battle with cancer. He was 56.

Byrnes was a member of the Church of Christ at Gold Hill Road, which he attended with his wife, Karen, and their son, Bryson.

Two days before his death, fellow journalists and NASCAR drivers paid tribute to Byrnes at the Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee. The April 19 race was named the Food City 500 in Support of Steve Byrnes and Stand Up To Cancer. Every participating car bore Byrnes' name.



Byrnes



FIND YOUR HOME ON THE Range AT ONE OF OUR NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITIES:



Christian Care Senior Living Community
Allen, Texas



Christian Care Senior Living Community
Lakewood Village - Fort Worth, Texas



Christian Care Senior Living Community
Mesquite, Texas

www.ChristianCareCenters.org
Full Continuum of Care Available

000700
100885
000813

2nd Annual Angel Fire New Mexico Symposium

July 23-26, 2015

“Who is God? His Goodness & Severity”

Confusion—even among “Christians” as to the meaning of faith in God is beyond description. People say they believe in God but have no idea who it is they believe in or what difference that should make in their lives. For detailed information on the program, places to stay and things to do, please go to our website www.angelfiresymposium.com or visit our Facebook page, Angel Fire Symposium.

You really don’t want to miss this one!

DEBT: Minister finances tackled

FROM PAGE 3

were receiving a 40 percent tuition discount,” McLarty said. “So we sat down and looked at how to make sure we were not training people for ministry jobs that they could never afford to do because of student debt.”

As a result, the university enacted a 100 percent tuition discount for that program and asked that supporting churches or a spouse provide the living expenses, he said.

That approach, McLarty said, “put us in a much stronger position to sit down with a prospective student and demand that their financial house be put in order before they start our program.”

Other examples:

- **At Lubbock Christian University** in Texas, undergraduate Bible majors receive a 50 percent tuition discount that can be stacked on top of other scholarships, Executive Vice President Brian Starr said. Also, “LCU offers graduate Bible degrees through online and short course formats that make it possible for working ministers to earn a graduate degree from where they are,” Bible Dean Jesse Long said. “This makes our graduate programs both more convenient and financially feasible.”

- **At Freed-Hardeman University** in Henderson, Tenn., endowed merit scholarships benefit students in all majors, but the amount designated for Bible majors “far exceeds that of any other major,” said C.J. Vires, vice president for academics and enrollment.

- **At Ohio Valley University** in Vienna, W.Va., ministry students received an average of \$13,000 in scholarships this past academic year — roughly two-thirds of the total cost of \$19,000, President Harold Shank said. “In addition, churches in the larger region offer summer paid internships that range from \$2,500 to \$5,000 for 10 weeks,” Shank said.

- **At Crowley’s Ridge College** in Paragould, Ark., students seeking a bachelor of arts in biblical studies receive 50 percent tuition scholarships, President Ken Hoppe said.

- **At Lipscomb University** in Nashville, Tenn., the Doctor of Ministry degree offers the lowest tuition rate on campus — 50 percent

less than other graduate programs, Bible Dean Leonard Allen said.

“That program is already filled for this fall, so we think ministers are finding the costs appropriate and manageable for their finances,” Allen said.

Back at ACU, two-thirds of 2013 graduates — across all disciplines — took out student loans, according to figures reported to *U.S. News* and confirmed to *The Christian Chronicle*. Those borrowers’ average debt load: \$42,585.

Doug Foster, a professor of church history at ACU, said he was astounded to discover a few years ago that some couples were graduating with debts — including student loans and credit cards — topping \$100,000.

“I arranged with some financial advisers in Abilene ... to give free debt counseling to the families who would accept it,” Foster said.

David Owens, minister and elder for the Wetzel Road Church of Christ in Liverpool, N.Y., said debt is a big issue for many going into ministry today.

“When I began ministry in 1984, I came out of school with about \$10,000 in loans, and my first ministry job paid about \$18,000,” Owens said. “So I owed about half of my first year of salary.”

But for many recent ministry graduates, the price tag is much higher.

Michael Dion, youth and worship minister for the Wetzel Road church, said he and his wife pay \$800 a month in student loan payments.

Their combined debt exceeded \$65,000 when they graduated from a Christian university four years ago.

“Going into ministry wasn’t ever a doubt in my mind,” Dion said. “So having to get a college education to do that was a means to an end.”

Still, he said, “If I didn’t have that type of debt, life would certainly be different.”

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY in Florence, Ala., has set a goal of graduating every student with no loans to repay. Read that story and an online-exclusive interview on preachers and debt with Harding School of Theology’s Steve McLeod at www.christianchronicle.org.



Dion

Keepers of The Chronicle

We want to express sincere gratitude to these individuals who have committed themselves to supporting The Christian Chronicle's mission to inform, inspire and connect Churches of Christ, using the Keeper's program.

ALABAMA

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Aldred
Mike and Libba Murphree

ARIZONA

Billie Mae Brister
Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Hunnicutt

ARKANSAS

Anonymous (4)
Mr. and Mrs. Pat J. Bell
Ms. Wilma F. Dinger
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Doan
Dr. and Mrs. Austin Emery
Mr. and Mrs. H. Jarrell Gibbs
Mr. and Mrs. Max Gore
Dr. and Mrs. Bill W. Oldham
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Rollmann
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sloan
Sharron E. Smith
Mr. Jack C. Spaulding
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Webb

CALIFORNIA

Dr. and Mrs. W. David Baird
Mr. and Mrs. Larry E. Bradley
Elaine R. Curtis
Ms. Lucia C. Dean
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Marcinkoski
Ms. Norma J. Norman
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald F. Reutlinger
Lois J. Robinson
Mrs. Elmeda Stinson
Mrs. Leona M. White

COLORADO

Mr. Phil Basham
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Hendrick

DELAWARE

Anonymous (1)

FLORIDA

Mrs. Clotelia H. Lindsey

GEORGIA

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis M. Stewart

ILLINOIS

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Gulley
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Lankford
Mr. and Mrs. Gene H. Muehring
Hazel S. White

INDIANA

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry M. Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Bohan
Ben and June Kemp
Mr. Leo Parrish
Ms. Patricia A. Stout
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn A. Wilson

IOWA

West Side Church of Christ

KANSAS

Ms. Rosalee M. Armstrong
Ms. Betty Jean Keeler
Mr. and Mrs. John Van Winkle

LOUISIANA

Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Flowers
Ms. Sue Kendrick

MARYLAND

Anonymous (1)
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Shandor

MICHIGAN

Mr. and Mrs. David Harvill
Mrs. Geneva S. Jones

MINNESOTA

Mr. Albert J. Ogren

MISSOURI

Chris A. Brosey
Jim and Lyn Gattis
Dr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Miekley
Mr. and Mrs. Jack F. Moore
Mr. Bob J. Nossaman

MONTANA

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff A. Lair

NEBRASKA

Mr. and Mrs. H. Dean Howard

NEW JERSEY

Ms. Anne L. Peoples

NEW MEXICO

Mrs. Nena A. Brannan

NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. Perry L. Potter

OHIO

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chappell

OKLAHOMA

Anonymous (3)
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Antwine
Frank and Gwen Brewer
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cassity
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Chitwood
Ms. Debra C. Colvin
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Craddock
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Duncan
Mr. and Mrs. Gerd Fecht
Mrs. Carol Gaither
Mr. and Mrs. Royce C. Gambill
Mr. and Mrs. Larry J. Gordon
Mr. and Mrs. Terry J. Hale
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight D. Herron
Mr. and Mrs. Earle Hoover
Mr. and Mrs. Olen V. Hurst
Mrs. Radell Jean
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. John Kerley
Ms. Mary Ann Lane
Mrs. Wanda G. Lutz
Mr. and Mrs. Quinton Martin
Mr. and Mrs. T. J. McNeely
Mrs. Jeane McWhirter
Mrs. Eleanor J. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Passmore
Ms. Joyce L. Reid
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen L. Richmond
Mr. and Mrs. Ottis F. Sharp
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Stangeland
Mr. T. E. Taber, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Terrel Taylor
Claudia Tripp
Dr. and Mrs. Virgil R. Trout

Drs. Steve and Beth Walker
Karen White
Sue S. Wiley
Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Worcester

PENNSYLVANIA

Ms. Emmagene Blank
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin E. Perry

SOUTH CAROLINA

Anonymous (1)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Vig

TENNESSEE

Anonymous (1)
Mrs. John W. Beckloff
Mr. and Mrs. Gary M. Clark
Ms. Louise G. Clites
Mrs. Mary W. Dover
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Elliott
Ms. Betty M. Keller
Mr. Earl Priest
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Roe
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Samples
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Watson
Pat E. Wilson

TEXAS

Anonymous (2)
Mr. Alvin M. Acker
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Andrews
Mr. John R. Bazy
Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Beall
Mr. and Mrs. Mart Buchanan
Susan Carver
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Coffman
Ms. Betty A. Colburn
Dr. and Mrs. C. Bruce Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Don R. Dolezalek
Mrs. Marjorie R. Duffy
A. F. (Pete) and Doretha Fitzhugh
Mr. and Mrs. Mark S. Garrett
Mrs. Bonnie Gibson
Charles and Johnnie Graham
Randy and Jennifer Gray

Dr. and Mrs. Jack L. Hardage
Mrs. Louise Harris
Ms. Leta R. Hatfield
Mrs. T. A. Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Bud Key
Mrs. Brownie L. King
Mr. and Mrs. Max L. Macon
Ms. Vera I. Maninger
Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Montrose
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Bright Newhouse
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Niccum
Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Oliver
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn E. Organ
Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Parks
Mrs. C. Elaine Pate
Mrs. Betty J. Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Art Reese
Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Reist
Nelda D. Roberson
Ms. Lynda J. Robinson
Ms. Nellie H. Saringer
Mr. and Mrs. Hyman D. Sauer
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Snowbarger
Mr. Robert Souders
Mrs. John C. Spencer, Jr.
Mr. Al Stathopulo
Ms. Eloise Wimbish

VIRGINIA

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Riley

WASHINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Cash
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Fox, Jr.

WEST VIRGINIA

Anonymous (1)
Mr. Vernon Franklin
Snowie Sayre

We also salute a growing group of monthly supporters giving on our website from Ala., Ark., Calif. (2), Colo., Fla., Mich., and Pa.

EDITORIAL

Churches That Work, at work

We couldn't help but notice a few holes on our map. Big ones. Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas — all are states where we have not yet featured a congregation in Churches That Work, our ongoing series that turns 10 years old this month.

That's where we need your help. What churches in these states exemplify the four traits of Churches That Work?

Biblical: Making Christ-centered Bible instruction central to their mission.

Evangelistic: Reaching the unchurched at home and abroad.

'We're not ranking congregations, nor are we looking for perfect churches. Rather, we seek churches that are healthy, strong role models.'

United: Possessing a spirit of internal vitality and unity.

Visible: Known and appreciated for service in their community.

Look at the map on Page 21. Tell us where else we have holes. What other congregations should we add to the list?

Please don't misunderstand our intentions.

We're not ranking congregations, nor are we looking for perfect churches. Rather, we seek churches that are healthy, strong role models.

When we launched the series in 2005, our goal was (and still is) to promote vigorous, healthy churches in the U.S.



During a 2006 interview, Raymond Williamson talks about the Fighting Addiction in Truth and Healing ministry he mentors at the Southern Hills Church of Christ in Dallas — the fourth congregation featured in Churches That Work.

"We are not trying to suggest that these churches are better than others," said Bailey McBride, our editor when Churches That Work began. "Ideally, the series will inspire all churches to influence their communities to honor God and seek after him."

A few months after we launched the series, we began to wonder if "Churches at Work" might be a better name.

Ten years is a long time. Sadly, some congregations that we featured in the past have faced leadership turmoil or internal strife since we reported on them. But that shouldn't deter us from seeking to identify and highlight congregations that meet the criteria outlined.

In some cases, churches that would have made excellent Churches That Work have been

featured in other formats, such as our recent Page 1 story on the Pearl Harbor church that has served thousands of military families.

We are pleased that this series has become one of our most popular features. We want to continue to share what we see when we visit congregations across the nation that practice innovative, effective methods of ministry. We want to highlight churches that make a difference in their neighborhoods.

Email your suggestions for this series to **letters@christianchronicle.org**, write us at our mailing address below or go online to **www.christianchronicle.org** and look for "contact us."

And watch these pages in the coming months for our 30th Churches That Work feature. (Hint: It may not fit on that map.)



Our mission: Inform, Inspire, Unite
www.christianchronicle.org
Phone: (405) 425-5070; Fax (405) 425-5076
Mail: P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100
Delivery: 2501 E. Memorial Road, Edmond, OK 73013

facebook.com/ChristianChronicle
 twitter.com/InformInspireCC
President and CEO: Lynn A McMillon
lynn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org
Editor: Erik Tryggstad
erik@christianchronicle.org
Chief Correspondent: Bobby Ross Jr.
bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

Advertising Manager: Tonya Patton
tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org
Advertising Assistant: Kelcy Nash
Reviews Editor: Kimberly Mauck
kim.mauck@christianchronicle.org
Administrative Assistant: Lynda Sheehan
lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org
Administrative Assistant: Joy McMillon
joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org
Editorial Assistant: Laura Akins
Editor Emeritus: Bailey McBride
bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org

TO SUBSCRIBE:
See **www.christianchronicle.org** or
email **joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org**
or call (405) 425-5070.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
letters@christianchronicle.org

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

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

Advertising contains commercial messages from those who purchase the advertising space. News coverage, opinion columns, reviews, letters to the editor and advertising do not necessarily represent the views of or constitute endorsement by the

editors, the staff, the Board of Trustees of The Christian Chronicle or Oklahoma Christian University.

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

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



Unit 3: A city on a hill

IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY wing of a Tennessee women’s prison, a Lipscomb professor finds a community where ‘the Devil is busy ... but God is busy too.’

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”
— 1 Corinthians 12:12

Will you teach the workshop in Unit 3?” That one question changed everything about my experience at the Tennessee Prison for Women. “Who is in Unit 3?” I naively asked. “The loneliest people in the prison,” the administrator replied. My friend Terra and I teach classes at the prison through Lipscomb University’s LIFE Academy program. Traditionally, the program puts “free-worlders” from outside the prison side-by-side with “inside students” as they study together, learning from Lipscomb faculty members and each other. But Unit 3 is different. It’s the prison’s maximum security unit. Women are locked in their cells for 23 hours per day. Set on a hill apart from the rest of the compound, Unit 3 allows no visitation. When we arrived for the first class there, a bold

Kathy was shot in the face during a meth exchange. She has no eyeballs, yet her eye sockets remain open. Trauma has forged these women into a family. Patty never came to class after the first night without a hymnal that she found in Unit 3. Tonya is a constant encourager.

In the Word



Kate Watkins

Kathy, in her blindness, and Lisa, in her paralysis, function as one person. Lisa can neither walk nor move her wheelchair. Kathy cannot see or maneuver on her own. So Kathy holds onto the wheelchair, guiding it to the sounds of Lisa’s voice. One night, when Lisa’s shoe was untied, Kathy felt her way onto the floor, found Lisa’s shoe, and tied it for her before feeling her way back into her seat. The women make up one body, physically and spiritually. When one suffers, they suffer together. When one is honored, they all rejoice together. Terra and I heard from our new friends what it is like to be forgotten. We heard what it is like to try to survive in a story that seems hopeless. We also learned to sing hymns in prison because of Patty. We learned to be stronger encouragers from Tonya. We learned that a kind voice like Lisa’s can literally guide the blind, and we learned from Kathy that anyone can get on their knees to serve another.



TED PARKS

Razor wire lines Nashville’s Tennessee Prison for Women, which houses inmates from pre-release to death penalty, according to corrections officials.

I don’t want to be here. I ain’t coming back next week. I ain’t writing nuttin’ down. You can’t make me tell you nuttin’.” I paused and replied, “I haven’t met you. My name is Kate. May I hug you?” As she leaned into my hug she muttered, “My name is Patty.” Terra and I offered hugs and hellos to the other women, Tonya, Kathy and Lisa. (Those aren’t their real names.) We had only four students, but the room could scarcely contain the power of their stories. Tonya’s mother sold her for \$500 to a stranger in a bar when she was 12. Patty is in Unit 3 for drugs but learned to be a fighter from her father. Lisa shot her husband while he beat her, and on the way to the county jail she had a stroke. She remains partially paralyzed and makes her way around the unit in a wheelchair.

Unit 3 is a city on a hill. There we discovered the body of Christ singing and serving behind locked steel doors. There the Gospel is selflessly lived out in a lonely place. To quote Patty on the last night of class, “The Devil is busy in here ... but God is busy too.” We yearn for God’s kingdom, where the blind will see, the lame will walk, and the captive shall be set free. So we pray, “Oh Lord, may your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.” Maybe that kingdom is foreshadowed in Unit 3.

KATE WATKINS is the academic program director for the Doctorate of Ministry degree program in the College of Bible and Ministry at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

LETTERS

Who is to blame for falling church stats in the U.S.?

I recently read your article, “Church in decline: U.S. culture to blame?” (Page 1, April) As someone who has grown up in the Church of Christ, I would say no, culture is not to blame. The church is to blame. Generation Xers and millennials are looking for Jesus — not religion — and unfortunately what the church most often offers is religion. I just started reading Rachel Held Evans’ book “**Searching For Sunday.**” She says it better than I do. “Millennials want to be known by what we’re for ... not just what we’re against. ... We long for our churches to be safe places to doubt, to ask questions and to tell truth even when it’s uncomfortable.”

Tracy Sheehy | Charlotte, N.C.

The real work of the church is in small groups. Sunday services are a time to rejoice and praise together the work Christ has done and is doing in us, to serve needs and open hearts. Every business organizes in small groups to better serve needs. They got that from God. Is the devil keeping us disorganized to keep us from being fruitful? Come together in small groups to serve needs, and we become like Christ — and Christ will be fruitful.

Dal White | North Charleston, S.C.

Responses to coverage of conference on sexual identity

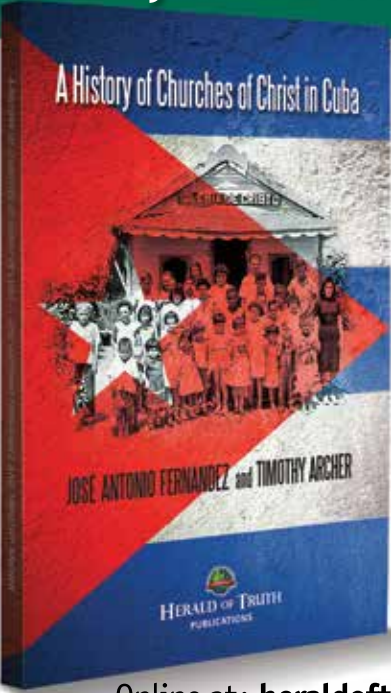
I’m thankful for this conference and the willingness to tackle such a needed — yet very difficult and complex — issue. (See “Sexual identity, sin and silence,” Page 3, April) Those who think the issue is as simple as repeating the typical platitudes that have the appearance of being biblical only make matters worse. The first thing we all need when approaching the issue of sexuality is a dose of humility that will allow us to listen empathetically rather than reactively retreating into divisive dogma.

K. Rex Butts | Columbia, Md.

We must welcome all sinners to hear the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But, at the same time, we must never give the impression that we approve of any sin including homosexuality. We believe that through Christ all sinners can leave that which binds them.

Jason E. Ridgeway | Waverly, Ohio

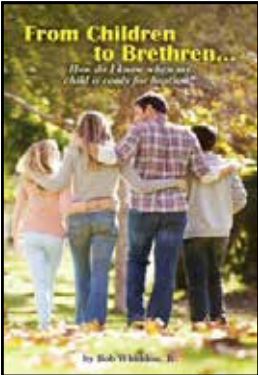
A History of Churches of Christ in Cuba



Price **\$11.50**,
\$3.50 shipping and
handling, plus sales tax
where applicable.
Call 1-800-234-7995 or
order online below.

**HERALD OF TRUTH
PUBLICATIONS**

Online at: heraldoftruth.org/resources/books



From Children to Brethren...

How do I know when my child is ready for baptism?

by Bob Whiddon, Jr.

Within the pages of this book you will find that there are no special rules for children. There is no magic age defined in Scripture when a child should be baptized. Answers to this great question, and more, are found here.

www.methirdpublications.com (503) 313-0623

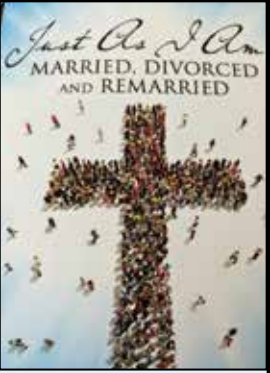
Just As I Am:

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."

\$15.49 wdunaway.blogspot.com
(256) 624-6024

Also available at: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. Wayne Dunaway



Recent World and National Events have made **Robert Blair's Book, "The GREAT OMISSION"** a more compelling read than ever.

Partial List of Subjects covered:

- The Quandary for Christians.
- Denominational Division and Confusion.
- How the Message has been Muddled for Centuries.
- The Bible's Mixed Signals on War.
- Christians and Government.
- How to Get it Right and Tell it Right.

Check our website:
www.robertblairbooks.com
for more information.
ISBN 10: 7880-2442-6 Available from
CSS Publishing Co.
1-800-537-1030,
Amazon.com or your nearest
bookseller.

Spring is right around the corner and so is graduation

NEW
A Mountain Moving Faith
by Matthew W. Morine
Are you struggling with inconsistencies in your faith? Matthew Morine uses his experience on the "fourteeners" of Colorado (mountains over 14,000 feet) to teach about faith. Geared towards late high school and college-age students.
Only \$9.99

NEW
Sweet Speak
by Elizabeth Jimenez
Examines God's guidelines and examples in His Word on how to speak in ways that will please Him. Teaches us to think before we speak and encourage others. For teen girls in personal or classroom study.
Only \$9.99



GOSPEL ADVOCATE
A TRUSTED NAME SINCE 1911

For more information, or to order: 1-800-251-8446 or www.gospeladvocate.com

A centered approach to understanding the Trinity

‘Knowing God,” Mark Powell tells us, “is an ongoing quest.” Powell, associate professor of theology at Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn., deftly guides readers of his book, **“Centered in God: The Trinity and Christian Spirituality,”** on that spiritual journey.

Powell makes a convincing case for the idea that we can better realize what it means to be spiritually formed into God’s people when we better understand God.

Specifically, he wants us to understand God as Trinity: Creator, Savior and Comforter.

“The doctrine of the Trinity,” Powell writes, “provides the basic conceptual framework of a Christian vision of God, and hence of the Christian faith as a whole.” With that framework, believers can engage spiritual disciplines in a way that is truly Christian.

In the first section of his book, “Orientation,” Powell provides evidence from Scripture and the writings of early church fathers that demonstrate the centrality of the doctrine of the Trinity in the faith and practice of early Christians. He

consistently drives home the idea that the early church maintained unity — but not uniformity — by continuing to return to the controlling concept of God as Trinitarian.

Although theologians have written many volumes on the Trinity for specialists, Powell manages to explain these concepts so that they remain accessible and usable by everyone in the pew.

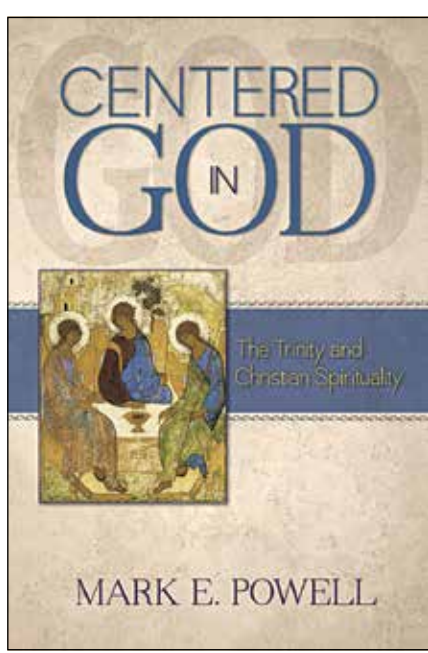
In the following section, “Meditations,” the chapters take readers through a list of areas that Christians encounter while engaged in spiritual formation. With each topic, Powell demonstrates how a proper understanding of God as Trinity empowers believers to more wisely and correctly discern a response and a way of living that is truly Christian.

For example, Powell considers “embracing creation.” Humans tend to two extremes. Some confuse creator and creation, understanding this to be a world where the divine is in everything. Powell shows this to be idolatry.

Other people see our planet as a dangerous and callous world that must be escaped. Rightly understanding the work of the Trinity,



In Print
Ron Bruner



★★★★★
Mark E. Powell. **Centered in God: The Trinity and Christian Spirituality.** Abilene, Texas: ACU Press, 2014. 232 pages. \$14.99.

Powell writes, leads the people of God to right the injustice and the lack of creation stewardship such thinking represents.

Another topic Powell raises for meditation is discernment.

Beyond understanding discern-

ment as “the capacity to recognize the good and choose the wise,” he urges Christians to understand that discernment is “about being a certain type of person, one who is characterized by wisdom and sound judgment.”

The Trinity works with us in discernment, Powell says: “God the Father is shaping us through the Word and by the Spirit to discern and desire those things that honor God and serve others.”

Although a Trinitarian view teaches us much about God, Powell ultimately finds that there is much about God that is and always will be mystery. In the last chapter he helps readers see this as a healthy reality.

Doctrine too often is used to debate and divide. Powell uses doctrine for a more virtuous and divine purpose: to help believers flourish through a truly Christian spirituality.

“Centered in God” is a book that has potential value for Christians, studying privately or in small groups, who seek to better know God and better worship, serve, and imitate the Holy.

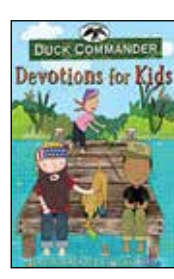
RON BRUNER is executive director of Westview Boys' Home in Hollis, Okla., and a member of the Childress Church of Christ in Texas.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY: AUTHORS FROM CHURCHES OF CHRIST

KIDS DEVOTIONAL
Korie Robertson and Chrys Howard. **Duck Commander Devotions for Kids.** Nashville, Tenn.: Tommy Nelson, 2015. 223 pages. \$16.99.

“Duck Dynasty” star Korie Robertson, a member of the White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La., teams up with her mother, Chrys Howard, to write more than 100 devotionals for children ages 4 to 8.

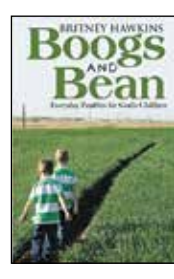
Each includes a Bible verse, a lesson based on a story or fun fact about the Robertson clan, a prayer and a craft or activity.



MEMOIR
Britney Hawkins. **Boogs and Bean: Everyday Parables for God’s Children.** Bloomington, Ind.: WestBow Press, 2014. 155 pages. \$13.95.

Hawkins, a member of the West 21st Street Church of Christ in Clovis, N.M., shares stories from home life — similar to those shared in books for women by Proverbs 31 Ministries.

All of the parables Hawkins presents are rooted in lessons she has learned through motherhood, raising two boys on an isolated rural ranch.



SUFFERING
Jacob Hawk. **When Mountains Won’t Move: How to Survive a Struggling Faith.** Bowie, Texas: Start2Finish Press, 2014. 105 pages. \$10.95.

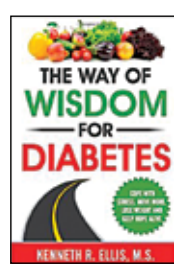
Hawk, preaching minister for the Riverside Church of Christ in Kerrville, Texas, presents eight chapters advising readers on how to keep their faith in times of trial. Ideas include embracing weakness, serving others and turning to the church. Each chapter ends with reflection questions, making it appropriate for individual journaling or group discussion.



DIABETES SUPPORT
Kenneth R. Ellis. **The Way of Wisdom for Diabetes: Cope with Stress, Move More, Lose Weight, and Keep Hope Alive.** Scotts Valley, Calif.: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2014. 201 pages. \$15.15.

Ellis, who preaches for the Church of Christ in Noble, Okla., has lived with Type 1 diabetes for 50 years.

His book is a mix of scriptural motivation for staying well, the history of diabetes treatment and practical guidance on day-to-day habits for keeping blood sugar at healthy levels.



Milestones

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

Birthdays

100th: Katie Long, Altus, Okla.
86th: Mary Jolly, Hilltop Lakes, Texas.
85th: Al Jolly, Hilltop Lakes, Texas.

Anniversaries

Dick and Maudine Ady



God willing, Maudine and I will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary June 2.

One of the songs she selected for our wedding ceremony was "Whither Thou Goest, I Will Go." That was prophetic. Since that day, we have lived in Texas, New Mexico, Oregon, Taiwan, California and Oregon again, and we have traveled to numerous countries serving the Lord. God has blessed us with two children, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and thousands of friends, and he has used us to establish World English Institute. Our life together has been full, rich and meaningful, and we are grateful to God.

Charles and Shirlynn Beason

Charles and Shirlynn Beason are celebrating 50 years of marriage. They met while attending Abilene Christian University and married on June 5, 1965.



The Beasons reside in Forney, Texas, where they raised their children Tamara (Calvin) Anderson and Clay (Loren) Beason. They have four granddaughters: Hayley, Riley and Kenley Copeland; and Ann-Clayton Beason. They both retired from Forney I.S.D. and are members of the Mesquite Church of Christ in Texas.

70th: Joe and Virginia Hoadley, Dyer, Ind. 67th: Al and Mary Jolly, Hilltop Lakes, Texas. 60th: Carr Leslie and Lundy (Darnell) Darden, Indianapolis. 50th: Peter and Bonnie Bumpass, South Holland, Ill.

Memorials

Wayne Nance

Wayne Nance, through his long, faithful dedication and service, earned the "Grandfather" seat at the table of the Eastern European Mission Board of Trustees. He was the very epitome of a Christian gentleman. Kind, courteous, thoughtful, wise, considerate and dependable are attributes of Wayne that immediately spring to mind. He brought stability and sharp focus to our board meetings, decisions and actions. His passion for the ministry of Eastern European Mission was evident to all. Wayne was a member of the Bammel Road Church of Christ in Houston from the mid 1970s until 1992 when he retired from Tenneco

and moved to Tyler, Texas. During his time in Houston, Wayne served as an elder of the church from June 1986 to July 1988. He was also on the mission committee and EEM Advisory Board from 1978 until 2004 when oversight of the ministry was transferred from Bammel Road to the elders of the Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas. At that time, he became one of the original trustees on the EEM board. Wayne's wife, Jane, was a strong advocate of EEM, serving as one of the founding members of Women for EEM. She was as an active member until moving to the Tyler area. Wayne was consistently the voice of reason as a Bammel Road elder, leader, and EEM director, providing insight and practical advice. He faithfully came prepared to meetings and was a good listener with a gift for analyzing and offering a concise summary of an issue as well as a recommendation for a course of action.

His wisdom, sage advice, and compassion for Eastern Europe will be missed but not forgotten. His gentle spirit and love for missions will always be held in high respect by both church leaders and EEM board members. He and Jane have blessed EEM and each of us. Thank you, dear Lord, for the rare gift you sent us in Wayne Nance. We shall miss him.



NEWSMAKERS



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Ron and Doris Bever at a homecoming event in Oklahoma City.

HONORED: Ron and Doris Bever for 50 years of service by the Britton Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

NAMED: Michael Feltner, dean of Seaver College at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. **Lee Fletcher**, chief development officer for Predisan Health Ministries, a medical mission to Honduras. **Jeff Langham**, assistant state superintendent of education for the Alabama Department of Education. Langham is a deacon of the Landmark Church of Christ in Montgomery, Ala. **Jura Lazar**, managing director of Croatia for Christ, a church-supported ministry. **Misty Overman**, head of school for Alabama Christian Academy in Montgomery, Ala.



Overman

HONORED: Mel Hailey with the 2015 Dean Gerald Wilson Award for Excellence in Pre-law Advising, given annually to one pre-law adviser in the U.S. Hailey teaches in the department of political science at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

NEW ELDERS: David Durgin, William H. Searcy, Freeman Stanfield and Bob Williams, the Westside Church of Christ in Rocky Mount, N.C.



Collins

NEW MINISTERS: Matt Collins, youth minister for the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ in Cookeville, Tenn.

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

May 20 Foster's Home for Children 2015 Golf Tournament. BlackHorse Golf Club, Cypress, Texas. www.fostershome.org.

May 20-25 Homecoming Extravaganza 2015. "Celebrating our Savior, His Servant, His Master." Southside Church of Christ, Orlando, Fla. www.sscoc.org.

May 28-30 Homeschool Convention. Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, Ohio. (864) 235-4444.

May 31-June 5 Hope for Life Campaign 2015. Suffolk Community College, Brentwood Campus, New York. www.coceventcenter.com/hope-for-life.

June 3-5 Thomas H. Olbricht Christian Scholars' Conference 2015. "One World: Remapping Culture, Trade, Information and Faith." Abilene Christian University, Texas. www.lipscomb.edu/csc.

June 10-14 Mid-County Church of Christ 50th Anniversary Celebration. Troy, Ohio. www.midcountycoc.org.

June 10-12 42nd Annual Jail and Prison Ministry Workshop. Highland Church of Christ, Memphis, Tenn. www.whyhopeworks.org.

June 11-14 Singles Conference 2015. "By Myself ... but Beside Christ." Orlando, Fla. (407) 296-0155.

June 13 50th Anniversary, Preston Road School of Preaching. Preston Road Church of Christ, Dallas. (903) 987-4107.

June 19-20 30th Annual Northeastern States Men's Retreat. Kent School, Kent, Conn. www.cocmensretreat.com.

June 19-20 Parents of Missionaries Retreat. Homewood Suites, Fayetteville, Ark. missions@MRNet.org.

June 26-27 Adult Third Culture Kid Retreat. Homewood Suites, Fayetteville, Ark. missions@MRNet.org.

July 1-3 Lipscomb Summer Celebration Lectureship 2015. "Deployed! In an Uncivil War: The Apocalypse of John." Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. www.lipscomb.edu/summercelebration.

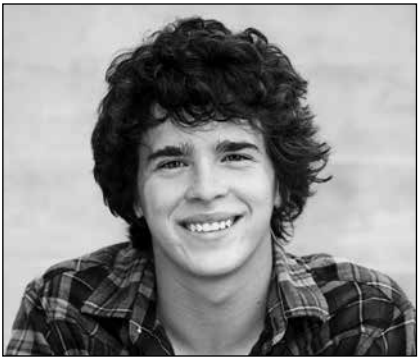
July 4 Black Mesa Bible Camp 50th Anniversary Celebration. Camp Billy Joe, Kenton, Okla. scott7stewart@gmail.com.

FULL CALENDAR, www.christianchronicle.org

Milestones *continued.*

Joe deSteiguer

*Starry, starry night
Flaming flowers that brightly blaze
Swirling clouds in violet haze
Reflect in Vincent's eyes of china blue
Colors changing hue
Morning fields of amber grain
Weathered faces lined in pain
Are soothed beneath the artist's
loving hand*



We crave and embrace the comforting touch of our Creator's loving hand as we mourn the passing of Joseph Emanuel deSteiguer.

Joe was born in Dallas on Nov. 6, 1992, and left us on April 16, 2015, at the age of 22. He lives on in our hearts and in the countless memories he made with family and friends.

Joe grew up in Tahlequah and Edmond, Okla. He attended Edmond Memorial High School and Oklahoma Christian University and was part of the Memorial Road Church of Christ family.

During his time at OC, he participated in two summer mission trips to Australia, earning the nickname "boomerang child" when he returned there in 2014. Joe was known for his big smile, deep thinking, fervent writing and creativity. He was deeply loyal to his friends and family.

Joe was nonjudgmental, caring, kind and genuine, and those traits endeared him to so many people on the OC campus and beyond. He truly connected with people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Joe was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Troy Smith and Commander John deSteiguer Sr. He is survived by his parents, John and Darla deSteiguer, his sister Abby deSteiguer and grandmothers Mary Jo deSteiguer and Lavada Smith Mohon.

Joe's surviving relatives also include aunts Mary Beth Cuevas, Sande Huber, Debbie Miller, Diane Hendrix and their families.

In addition, we are thankful to our extended families at Oklahoma Christian, Memorial Road and around the world who have surrounded us and supported us in this time of sorrow. We miss Joe now, but we look forward to seeing him again one day in heaven.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Joe's memorial service was held at Oklahoma Christian University on Monday, April 27. In lieu of flowers, the family desires to honor Joe by sending memorial gifts to funds established in his name at Oklahoma Christian University (Attn: Advancement / P.O. Box 11000 / Oklahoma City, OK 73136 / www.oc.edu/rememberingjoe) or Burnt Cabin Christian Camp (P.O. Box 97 / Tahlequah, OK 74465 / www.burntcabinchristiancamp.com).

Joyce McBride

Joyce Ann Warren McBride (March 16, 1934-April 16, 2015) was the second child born to Clarence Burton Warren and Aline Mattie Helton Warren. She grew up in Cowan, Tenn., and attended David Lipscomb College where she completed a double major in elementary education and home economics. She married Bailey McBride on April 28, 1956.

Since Joyce was a college student, she had been dedicated to helping

children learn about God through stories in his Word. As the McBride children married, Joyce and Bailey began to travel, which became a passion for them both.

Joyce is survived by her husband Bailey; children Melissa Roe (Phil), Lynette Brown (Pat) and Michael McBride (Karen); grandchildren Jennifer Thurman (Joe), Luke Roe (Rachel), Savanna Millikan (James), Kailey King (Josh), Brady McBride, Ashlyn Brown, Connor McBride and Garrett McBride; and great-grandchildren Emma Roe and Amos Millikan.

Joyce loved us all so well. She was a friend to everyone and always believed we were better than we really were.

She introduced so many to Jesus and modeled service and love every day of her life. She adored her family and her sweet husband.

Well done, good and faithful servant. We celebrate her sweet life and her victory.

"My cup runs over: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." **Psalm 23:6**



"Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her." **Proverbs 31:28**

Memorial/Honor Gifts

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts donated in memory of Don Caffee, Joyce McBride and Allayne McGann.

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



HARDING UNIVERSITY
BIBLE LECTURESHIP
SEPT. 27-30, 2015
SECRETS
OF THE
KINGDOM
UNLOCKING THE TREASURES
OF THE PARABLES

Joyce McBride 'served the beautiful and unbeautiful, the gifted and the struggling'

This month The Christian Chronicle mourns the loss of our dear friend Joyce McBride, wife of Editor Emeritus Bailey McBride.

As Bailey spends time with his family, another close friend of the Chronicle, Lindy Adams, graciously agreed to pen a tribute to Joyce.

As I watched hundreds of people assemble to celebrate the life of Joyce McBride, I experienced something of a shock.

Not, of course, because so many had come, but because I realized that all these people viewed Joyce just as I did — as a true friend, an adoring teacher who loved and cared about them personally.

I was but one in a cast of thousands. The list begins with Joyce's adoring husband Bailey. It includes their three marvelous children, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, plus countless preschool and college students, lifelong friends, neighbors and colleagues. Joyce was a friend to almost every person she'd ever met.

She called them all "honey," "sweetheart," "darling" and actually meant it. They bear witness to the unconditional love, faith and moral presence of the petite, soft-spoken, infinitely genteel, totally real Joyce McBride, the Steel Magnolia.

She grew up in Cowan, Tenn. Along with her devoted parents, she assumed the care of her disabled older brother Benny. She grew to be a lovely, bright, cultured young woman — characteristics that captivated Bailey, a fellow student at Lipscomb College in Nashville, Tenn. After earning a double major in elementary education and home economics in less than four years, she and Bailey married in 1956.

They moved to Oklahoma in 1966 and became indispensable leaders at Oklahoma Christian College, as it grew into a university, and the College Church of Christ, now Memorial Road. Joyce's preschool class became a revered institution.

In an unforgettable testimony at her memorial service, dozens of children and teens came to the stage to recite the 23rd Psalm, taught to them by "Teacher Joyce."

Joyce nurtured her three children while investing tirelessly in the lives of homesick students, exhausted young mothers, faculty members in crisis. She served the beautiful and unbeautiful, the gifted and the struggling.

Insight



Lindy Adams

She kept vigil at hospitals with countless families and always brought a gift — a journal for the family to record visits and acts of kindness. One of my *Chronicle* colleagues once said, "The minute Joyce walked

in, a sense of calm filled the room."

Joyce unwaveringly supported Bailey in his roles as professor, dean, vice president and provost, and as editor of the *Chronicle*. They traveled the world, led international studies groups to Vienna and the Pacific Rim, and mentored students, faculty and missionaries.

Surely after decades of such taxing service, Joyce must have felt a tremendous pull to quit, not to care, or to say "enough." But she never faltered.

As amazing as her accomplishments are, they are not, I believe, the key to why we will forever remember and forever miss her. Rather, it's because she viewed each person in her life as worthy, as delightful, as capable of great good, as interesting, as deserving of her love.

That is the lasting legacy of dear and darling Joyce McBride. And for that, we are forever blessed.



Joyce and Bailey McBride

WWW.OC.EDU

LINDY ADAMS served *The Christian Chronicle* for 13 years as a reporter and editor. Her husband, Ken, served Oklahoma Christian University for 40 years in roles including professor of music and director of the OC Chorale. They are members of the Dayspring Church of Christ in Edmond, Okla.

THE SON WILL SHINE EVERY DAY IN 2015



WITH THE DELIVERY OF 2000 SOLAR PLAYERS
The Solar Event Phase II is spreading to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya and Nigeria.

Now 2000 hand-held, solar-powered audio players will be delivered to a remote and powerless world with over 400 hours of the entire Bible, Bible teaching, all 40 Sunset courses, WBS lessons, gospel singing and more. Sunset is using the power of the sun to teach about the Son. Your timely gift through 2015 will help spread the Sonlight!



Sunset International Bible Institute • 800.658.9553 • www.sibi.cc



The Christian Chronicle

Vol. 72, No. 5 | May 2015 | www.christianchronicle.org

Churches at work

As our popular series turns 10 years old, we reflect on the secrets of Churches That Work.

17-21, 28



INSIDE

CALENDAR.....33	NATIONAL.....5
CURRENTS.....17	OPINION.....28
DIALOGUE.....23	PARTNERS.....25
INSIGHT.....34	PEOPLE.....32
INTERNATIONAL11	REVIEWS.....31
MILESTONES.....32	VIEWS.....20

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY HONORS SUMMER ACADEMY

JULY 12-17 & JULY 19-24, 2015

- For gifted or talented high school students in 9th-11th grades
- Receive two hours of transferable college credit from two choices: Sciences, Bible, Engineering, or the Humanities
- Hands-on labs, field trips, or community service enhance every class
- Get a taste of undergraduate living in OC's Honors House

Classes are filling! Apply today at

WWW.OC.EDU/SUMMERACADEMY

BOX 11000

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

73136-1100

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

OKLAHOMA CITY OK

PERMIT # 276



OC LECTURESHIP 2015

OCTOBER 4-6

Mark your calendar for Oklahoma Christian University's annual lectureship, featuring inspiring lectures, informative classes, practical sessions and warm fellowship. Women's Day activities, an elders workshop, textual classes, and youth and family tracks complement the keynote lectures. This year, we are pleased that nearly all speakers are OC alumni. All sessions will be centered on "Opening Acts."

www.oc.edu/lectureship

#OCLectureship



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY