

Memories lost — but love and faith remain

A FAVORITE AUNT has lived a full life. Now she battles Alzheimer's.

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

ALLEN, Texas

Aunt Melba has no idea who Harold Tidwell is, but he loves her. He loves her from deep in his soul. He cherishes her as if she were his own mother — a role she fulfilled for him and Gail Tidwell, his wife of nearly 50 years, after their parents died.

Harold Tidwell, 78, is an elder of the Greenville Oaks Church of Christ in this fast-growing suburb north of Dallas.

Never has he known life without Aunt Melba.

At age 97, Melba Warrach is frail and suffers from an advanced form of Alzheimer's disease.

She resides in the Bluebonnet Memory Care unit at Christian Care Centers' newest senior

Harold Tidwell visits Aunt Melba at Christian Care Centers' memory-care unit in Allen, Texas.

living community, which opened last year. The Greenville Oaks church donated five acres for the Allen facility. It's the faith-based nonprofit's third location in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The others are in Mesquite, east

See **AUNT MELBA**, Page 8



SIMON YOPE

A pilgrimage of sadness in South Sudan

Villagers in the East African nation of South Sudan gather what they can carry and flee toward the Ugandan border as soldiers approach their town, Pajok. The staff of a medical clinic and ministry school operated by Churches of Christ escaped the conflict — between pro-government forces and rebel militias — but later learned that their facilities were looted, though a boy from the town managed to save a microscope and an electric thermometer.

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Fighting the stigma of PTSD

'IT'S GONNA BE RAW,' promises a church member, a veteran, as he discusses coping and Christ.

BY **CHELLIE ISON** | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

'God won't quit on you." It's a lesson that keeps Col. Rickie Hagan going after multiple tours of duty in Iraq — and the trauma that comes with combat, even years after the experience.

Hagan, a member of the Willette Church of Christ in the small Tennessee town of Red Boiling Springs, hopes he can take the lessons he's learned and use them to help others — military or not — find divine solace for the terror they've experienced.

"People want you to come back home and leave the wars behind you. Well, it does not work that way," said Hagan, who served 37 years combined in the U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard and on active duty.

Although he never got in trouble with the law after he returned from the Middle East, Hagan became a prisoner in his own mind.

"I was a mess," he said. "I had a routine. I would sit by the pool, drink four or five Coronas, take a couple shots of tequila, and the demons would leave me alone."

Then he hit rock bottom.

See **PTSD**, Page 10



Hagan

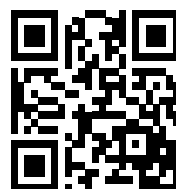
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An awesome, breathtaking call to listen

IFUGAO, Philippines

We nearly missed it — one of the most amazing sights on planet earth.

A few months ago, as I finalized plans to report on the Philippine Bible College of Bangar, the school's

Inside Story



Erik Tryggstad

director, John Dionio, messaged me that we'd try to visit the "banquet rice terraces."

That was an autocorrect fail, turns out. The *Banaue* (pronounced "ban-OW-ee") Rice Terraces are a 2,000-year-old architectural and agricultural marvel, carved into the mountains — mostly by hand, it's thought — to grow rice for an ancient, indigenous people.

We left Solano, home of the Bible college, and drove 90 minutes north, winding through the mountains of central Luzon, to gaze at the magnificent terraces.

It's hard to fathom the enormity of the task this engineering feat required.

Yet I finally managed to tear myself away from its complex beauty so I could duck into a wooden cabin to buy souvenirs. (Can you really say you've been to a place without a refrigerator magnet to that effect?)

I was in there only a few minutes, but that's all it took for clouds to completely obscure the view. All we saw was gray as we left — just

See **BREATHTAKING**, Page 4

A baptism, then a murder confession

TEXAS WOMAN gave her life to Christ, owned up to a slaying — and got a life sentence.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

GATESVILLE, Texas — Lucinda Wilson might have gotten away with murder. Except that she became a Christian and confessed to her crime.

Now 48, Wilson has served 20-plus years of a life sentence for the capital murder of her ex-fiancé's girlfriend, Margaret Morales.

Behind bars, the former U.S. Navy servicewoman has worked hard to

remain faithful and share the Gospel with other inmates, she said in an interview at the Dr. Lane Murray Unit, a maximum-security women's prison 40 miles west of Waco.

Wilson won't be eligible for parole until July 25, 2036 — when she would be 67.

"When I compare it to eternity, it's

really not that long at all," she said, speaking into a telephone on the other side of a glass partition.

As Wilson visited with *The Christian Chronicle*, one Texas Department of Criminal Justice guard stood watch. Another guard held a phone to her own ear as she monitored the conversation.

"I don't deserve to have a second chance really," said Wilson, an ordinary-looking woman — except for her

See **CONFESSION**, Page 24



Wilson



MORGAN BOLING

Soccer players from KC University in Seoul, South Korea, scrimmage with their counterparts at Oklahoma Christian University.

Saved in their soccer jerseys

A TEAM OF KOREAN STUDENTS, immersed after Bible studies last year, visits Christian schools in the U.S. for some friendly competition.

BY MORGAN BOLING | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

OKLAHOMA CITY

They came to America in search of victories on the soccer pitch. But the battle for their souls was already won.

The men's soccer team at KC University in Seoul, South Korea, journeyed across the U.S. recently, touring schools associated with Churches of Christ and scrimmaging against fellow soccer players.

"The American players are big and strong," head coach Koo Daeryung told *The Christian Chronicle* during the team's visit to Oklahoma Christian University. "Instead, we tend to focus more on techniques and skills."

More important than the competition, however, was the chance for the Korean athletes to interact with brothers and sisters in Christ, Daeryung added.

"They are soccer players, but at the same time they are Christians," he said.

See **SOCCER**, Page 22



PHOTO PROVIDED

One of 18 KC University soccer players is baptized on May 29, 2016.



Some 2,000 years ago, ancient Filipinos carved the Banaue Rice Terraces from the mountains of central Luzon. Some are still in use by the indigenous Ifugao people.

BREATH-taking: Cut through the clouds to find wondrous beauty

FROM PAGE 3

as a group of Australian backpackers arrived. One turned to her Filipino tour guide and gave the plaintive cry, “What do we do now?” We stopped for lunch. (I got nervous when they ordered “sizzling pork seasick” for the table. Turns out it’s spelled *sisig* — and it’s delicious.) Then we returned to the Bible college, where I interviewed the students, listened to them practice singing and looked like a chump as they schooled me at table tennis. On a break between interviews, I asked Dionio my standard question: “How did you become a Christian?” Matter-of-factly, he told me about growing up Muslim, the murders of his parents and his escape to Luzon, where he was robbed and beaten, eventually ending up at the door of another Bible college, filthy and penniless. Picking my jaw up off the floor, I humbly

asked him to elaborate. You’ll find his story on Page 17. I pray I’ve done it justice. I’m blessed to be in a job that forces me to listen. Too few of us will get to do that, I fear, as we travel on mission trips this summer. We’ll have a checklist of tasks we need to accomplish to justify the money we and our supporters spent. (Bart Dodson tackles this in a Views column on Page 29, by the way.) There’s so much Scripture about the importance of listening — be quick to do it, faith comes through it. Take time and get to know the brothers and sisters you serve. Hear their stories. Find a translator if you need to. Beyond the thick layers of clouds that separate us, there’s wondrous beauty, impossible to fathom, breathtaking to behold. Be still and know.

CONTACT: erik@christianchronicle.org



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD
Remedios Marcos smiles as she hangs medals around the neck of her son, Reghie, during the Philippine Bible College of Bangar’s graduation. Learn more about the college on Page 18.



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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

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President and CEO: **Lynn A McMillon**
lynn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Editor in Chief: **Erik Tryggestad**
erik@christianchronicle.org

Digital News Editor: **Chellie Ison**
chellie@christianchronicle.org

Chief Correspondent: **Bobby Ross Jr.**
bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

Advertising Manager: **Tonya Patton**
tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Lynda Sheehan**
lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Joy McMillon**
joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Melinda Wilson**
melinda.wilson@christianchronicle.org

Staff Accountant: **Louise Beyer**

Editor Emeritus: **Bailey McBride**
bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org

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

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SPOTLIGHT

Chicago judge killed

CHICAGO — "They shot a judge."

That was the headline in the *Chicago Tribune* after the April 10 slaying of Cook County Associate Judge Raymond Myles outside his home on Chicago's south side.

Myles, 66, was a member and song leader of the Stony Island Church of Christ. His death drew shock and prayers from Churches of Christ across the city.



Myles

"He was a great singer, preacher and all-around worker in the church as well as a loving and kind patriarch for his family," the judge's cousin, Luke Myles, said on *The Christian Chronicle's* website. He "sacrificed greatly of his talents, time and treasures" and "was greatly loved."

Authorities told the *Tribune* the attempted armed robbery of the slain judge and his injured girlfriend was not a random act. They recently announced murder and other charges against the first of several suspects.

For the latest developments, see www.christianchronicle.org.



TRAVIS ANDERSON

'Tell us how we can pray for you,' Illinois church sign proclaims

Three-year-old Titan Anderson and his sister, Taya, 4, help change the sign at the Northside Church of Christ in Bismarck, Ill. They are the children of minister Travis Anderson. "Tell us how we can pray for you," says the message they're replacing. The preacher said: "I try to change the sign weekly, but it doesn't always happen. On that sign, I had my cell number up hoping to find ways to engage in the community through their needs." The congregation, 10 miles north of Danville, averages Sunday attendance of 30 to 40.

NORTH CAROLINA

CONCORD — The Concord Church of Christ mourns a family of four killed when a tractor-trailer hit their car as they passed through West Virginia on their way to visit relatives for Easter, WSOC-TV reported.

The victims were identified as Carl David Gilley, 48; his wife, Christine Tara Warden Gilley, 42; their daughter, Grace Margaret Gilley, 13; and their son, Jack Nathanael Gilley, 10.

"As shepherds of this church, we mourn with you over the tragic loss," the congregation's elders said in a note to the congregation. "Thankfully God and His word comfort us and constantly remind us of where we are ultimately headed."

The elders told the television station that the family was at church

the previous Sunday and that the entire congregation was in shock.

"We're so sad ... because we love them so much, and we miss them," elder Tommy Poarch said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

David, Christine, Grace and Jack Gilley attended the Concord Church of Christ.

OKLAHOMA

TULSA — Don Millican, an elder of the Park Plaza Church of Christ, traveled to Washington, D.C., recently to speak on a congressional panel about the importance of early childhood programs.

Millican invoked the words of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah as he spoke on behalf of the George Kaiser Family Foundation, the *Tulsa World* reported.

The Bible passage "tells me all of my religious practices are worthless if I do not break the yoke of oppression," Millican told a U.S. House subcommittee.

Also on the panel was actress Jennifer Garner, known for her roles in the TV series "Alias" and films including "13 Going on 30." Garner is a trustee for Save the Children.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Don Millican and Jennifer Garner

TEXAS

CORPUS CHRISTI — The Arlington Heights Church of Christ partners with Corpus Christi Metro Ministries to feed shelter residents quarterly.

The church serves meals in the park where the homeless congregate and is looking for additional ways to serve, minister David Srygley said.



Thousands of Lads to Leaders participants, their parents and coaches sing hymns during Sunday worship in the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn., at the conclusion of the convention. MAGGIE MOORE



MORRISA SUMMERS
A Bible quiz team from the Leavenworth Church of Christ in Kansas at the Heart of America LTC convention in Kansas City, Mo.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD
A chorus from the Travis Peak Church of Christ in Marble Falls, Texas, sings as Evan Smith, 14, of the A&M Church of Christ in College Station, Texas, signs at the North Texas LTC.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Leadership Training for Christ,
Lads to Leaders conventions

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

DALLAS

Today, I will be teaching you four foolproof ways to convince someone *not* to be a Christian,” Major Smith told nearly 2,000 believers during Sunday morning worship. Care only about yourself. Be a hypocrite. Be grouchy. Be prideful. Smith, a teen from the Burleson Church of Christ in Texas, ran through the tongue-in-cheek list he wrote as part of his speech for the North Texas Leadership Training for Christ convention. He was one of the thousands of young believers who participated in the annual conventions

for LTC — or the Lads to Leaders program — at locales from Richland, Wash., to Orlando, Fla. Young men and women read Scripture, demonstrated their sign language skills and produced puppet shows and dramas. Lila Kelsey, age 9, produced an audio recording for a mass media category at the Lads to Leaders convention in Nashville, Tenn. Kelsey, who worships with the Sylvan Springs Church of Christ in Alabama, talked about Moses’ disobedience to God in the Old Testament book of Numbers. “Ruth 3:5 reminds us to do all of God’s commands,” she said in the recording. “We can’t obey God the way we choose. Let’s obey God and do all of God’s commands.”



ERIK TRYGGESTAD
Justin McQuien of the Sanger Church of Christ in Texas leads “Oh, How I Love Jesus” Sunday at the North Texas LTC in Dallas.



JOSHUA GIBBS
Chloe Baker of the Keller Church of Christ in Texas participates in the girls’ oral Bible reading event at the Lads to Leaders convention at the Gaylord Texan Hotel in Dallas.

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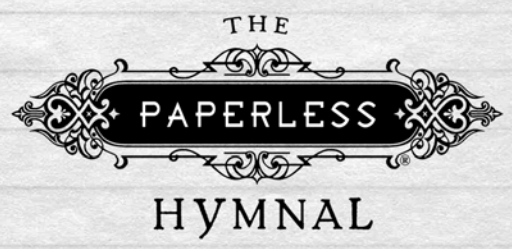
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Harold Tidwell shows Aunt Melba pictures in a family photo album.



Aunt Melba points at the face of a brother she recognizes in a 1993 picture of an extended family vacation trip to Lake Whitney, 30 miles northwest of Waco, Texas.



Aunt Melba poses for a photo with her nephew, Harold Tidwell, and his wife, Gail.

AUNT MELBA: Finding contentment in 'her world'

FROM PAGE 1

of Dallas, and Fort Worth.

"Do you know who I am?" Harold Tidwell asks after hugging Aunt Melba on a recent afternoon.

"Art?" she replies.

The late Art Haddox directed the Herald of Truth television ministry in Abilene, Texas. He was one of Aunt Melba's four brothers — all of whom served in World War II.

Aunt Melba also had two sisters, including Harold Tidwell's mother, Jettye Tidwell.

The seven children of John and Evna Haddox — all deceased except for Aunt Melba — were raised on a West Texas cotton farm. They survived on home-grown sorghum molasses and biscuits.

When Harold Tidwell entered the world in 1938, three years before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor,

Aunt Melba was a recent high school graduate. She had no husband. She had no job.

"Go to Dallas, and be with your sister while she has that baby," Aunt Melba's mother told her blue-eyed, blond-haired daughter.

A SECOND MOTHER

Later, Aunt Melba married twice — and was widowed twice. She never gave birth to a child. But she treated Harold Tidwell and his younger brother, Johnny, as her own.

For 32 years, Aunt Melba worked as a traveling auditor for Walgreens — a

fact noted by a certificate on a board outside her assisted-living room.

From the road, she always sent Harold Tidwell a birthday card with a dollar bill inside. That was a lot of money at a time when an ice-cold bottle of Coca-Cola cost a nickel.

Years later, after she retired and moved into Christian Care's independent-living cottages in Mesquite, Aunt Melba relished making weekly dinners for the Tidwells.

"She cooked fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade biscuits ... and she got real joy out of it," Harold Tidwell said. "And we had a joy of being there with her and having a real, home-cooked meal that our mothers used to do."

Harold Tidwell's first exposure to Christian Care Centers came as a boy.

He played with other boys as Christian men, including his late father, Fred Tidwell, turned the old Gunter Bible College into the "Home for the Aged." The facility south of Sherman, Texas, later became known as Hilltop Haven. It opened in 1947. Medicaid cuts were blamed for its closing in 2013.

In the 1960s, Harold Tidwell's grandmother Jeanette "Nettie"

Tidwell became the first of a dozen of Harold and Gail Tidwell's relatives — including their parents — to reside at Christian Care Centers.

"I noticed how dedicated my parents were to just going and visiting my grandmother," said Harold Tidwell, who had served in the Marine Corps and moved back home while contemplating his future. "Somehow, that just really stuck in my mind."

Another experience that deeply touched Harold Tidwell: the reaction of his aunt Helen Haddox, who had dementia, to her husband Art's death.

"One morning real early, he was passing away, and they called the family," said Harold Tidwell, a retired international executive for Dallas-based 7-Eleven. "The nurse said, 'He's gone,' and one of my cousins looked over at Helen, and there's a big tear running down her cheek."

What made that remarkable: She had not communicated in years.

Her response taught Harold Tidwell



Texas Rangers baseball player bobbleheads are seen on a shelf in Aunt Melba's room.

PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

Blessed be the Caregivers

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an important lesson: “When speaking to someone who has Alzheimer’s or dementia, always tell them that you love them. Don’t say something that you think they aren’t aware of. They *are* hearing it.”

PURE RELIGION

While visiting relatives, Harold Tidwell became a fixture at Christian Care Centers — so much so that he was asked to serve on the nonprofit’s board in 1996. For the last 10 years, he has devoted countless hours as Christian Care’s board chairman.

James 1:27 says, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

Those words compel the Tidwells. For the couple, life revolves around the Greenville Oaks church, their three children and two grandchildren — and yes, their love and support of Aunt Melba.

Christian Care Centers tout this motto: “CARING is our calling!” Harold and Gail Tidwell say they see that attitude exemplified daily by Aunt Melba’s caregivers.

Pictures on Aunt Melba’s walls and mementos on the shelf above her TV — including bobbleheads of her favorite Texas Rangers baseball players — offer glimpses of the life she can’t recall.

At a young age, she was nicknamed “Miss Priss” because of her attention to detail. Her blouse, for example, had to be ironed just right. On this afternoon, a light blue blanket and decorative pillows are placed perfectly on her bed.

She doesn’t recognize her nephew but can identify the faces of her siblings at all ages. She can piece together jigsaw puzzles. She can read the names of Bible books.

Harold Tidwell shows her a portrait of her extended family, and she smiles. “I hadn’t seen that,” she says of the photo, which hangs by her door.

The Tidwells don’t try to convince her otherwise. They welcome the opportunity to spend as many moments as she has left in her world.

Gail Tidwell, 72, takes Aunt Melba to the doctor and buys her clothes. The fact that Aunt Melba doesn’t recognize her could become frustrating — if she let it.

“If you stay in her world, it’s a whole lot better for her and for us,” Gail Tidwell said. “You enjoy her the way she is.”

Harold Tidwell echoes that outlook, as Aunt Melba rests her head tenderly on his shoulder.

Aunt Melba has no idea who he is, but she knows that he loves her.



Ray Hunter leads a devotional for memory-care residents at Christian Care Senior Living Community in Mesquite, Texas.

Music for the soul: Gospel songs still resonate with dementia patients

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MESQUITE, Texas

Music can reach Alzheimer’s patients where nothing else can. That’s what makes the regular devotionals at

The Courtyard — a memory-care unit of Christian Care Senior Living Community in this Dallas suburb — so important, organizers say.

“If they went to church and learned ‘Jesus Loves Me’ or ‘At Calvary’ as a child or even as a beginning adult, that memory is still there,” said Hope Bovee, activity director at The Courtyard, home to 44 men and women with varying levels of dementia.

For 10 years, minister Ray Hunter has served as the chaplain for Christian Care’s Mesquite location, which serves more than 450 residents. He preaches for the Church of



PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

A sign at Christian Care’s Mesquite, Texas, location touts this motto: “CARING is our calling!”

Christ that meets on campus. The church’s Sunday service is shown on closed-circuit television for residents who can’t leave their units. The Lord’s Supper is distributed to individual rooms of those who request it.

On Monday and Friday after-

noons, Hunter offers a Bible lesson at The Courtyard. He leads hymns such as “Anywhere with Jesus,” “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” and “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” After a closing prayer, he typically shares a few silly stories to help lift residents’ spirits.

“They don’t miss a word Ray says,” Bovee said. “It’s very meaningful to them and important to them that their faith is kept alive.”

A resident might forget what he or she had for breakfast but know every verse of “Amazing Grace.”

“They may not know me, but they know my face,” Hunter said. “A lot of times, they will begin to associate me with somebody else they’ve known — some preacher or minister that has helped them.”

And that’s fine with Hunter, whose late mother, Helen, battled dementia.

“I really have a heart for these folks,” the chaplain said.

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MELINDA HODGE

Bryan Hodge, left, interviews Col. Rickie Hagan during a discussion of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, hosted by the Youngsport Church of Christ.

PTSD: ‘The church should be there’

FROM PAGE 1

Sometime around 2008, after coming home and finding that his dog had, once again, destroyed his water hose, Hagan grabbed his gun and fired. He didn’t intend to kill the animal, but he did. Finally, he realized he needed help. He reached out to get counseling and to learn about healthier ways to deal with the memories that plagued him.

Nine years later, Hagan traveled to Killeen, Texas, to speak about the gritty realities of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury at an event hosted by the Youngsport Church of Christ.

On a flyer for the event, he promised, “It’s gonna be raw!”

The church worships on the front lines of the struggle against PTSD — 15 miles from Fort Hood, home to more than 33,000 active-duty military personnel. Almost everyone in Killeen has firsthand experience with the disorder or knows someone who has, church members told *The Christian Chronicle*, and most of the church’s 100 members have ties to the military.

“Hardly a week goes by that there is not some news report about the suicide rate, drug abuse or domestic violence that plagues our veterans,” said Bryan Hodge, minister for the Youngsport congregation. “The church should be there to help.

“I believe that Jesus tried to reach out to people by looking at where they’re at, what they’re

needs are. We want to show God’s Word provides answers.”

The church invited members of its military community to attend the four-day event, and members plan to host follow-up events, encouraging attendees to come back and learn more about God.

Having an Army colonel as a guest speaker is a rarity, Hodge said. Few high-ranking officers seem willing to talk about PTSD.

Agreeing with this sentiment was Chuck, a church member and retired serviceman who requested that the *Chronicle* not publish his last name.

“Most people would consider it in a negative term,” Chuck said. “It is my belief every human being who has lived on earth has gone through some type of trauma. How do you deal with it? How do you sustain yourself?”

Awareness is of key importance for Christians who want to help the suffering, Chuck said, but believers also must avoid stigmatizing those impacted by the struggle.

Those recovering from trauma often need counseling and support — and hope, he said. “And that’s what Christianity does. It provides hope.”

That hope, Hagan said, got him through his darkest days. Now he wants to pass it on to others.

“God didn’t put us here to merely exist,” he said. “Everyone, from the beginning of time, Adam and Eve, had problems. There’s nothing we can do to hide from the world.”

DAVID KINNAMAN AND GABE LYONS speak with The Christian Chronicle about their latest research on Christianity in America

Beyond numbers, a real crisis of faith

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Church researchers David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons give numbers and voice to the changing nature of attitudes toward Christianity in the U.S.

In their latest book, “Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You’re Irrelevant and Extreme,” the duo also uses data-driven insights to offer advice for believers as they engage with a world consumed by an ever-growing list of contentious issues — politics, marriage and sexuality, to name a few.

Kinnaman is president of the Barna Group, a Ventura, Calif.-based market research firm specializing in the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans and the intersection of faith and culture. George Barna launched the firm in 1984 to provide research and support for churches and ministries.

Lyons, a longtime minister, is founder of Q Ideas (www.qideas.org) — a learning community that urges Christians to advance the common good in society.

Recently, the authors sat down with *The Christian Chronicle* to discuss their latest research on Christianity in the U.S. In part one of this two-part interview, they note statistics showing a slow decline in church attendance nationwide. But the reality behind those numbers — including a lagging confidence in God’s Word — is a cause for greater concern, they say.

What do you think about the downward trend of the Christian faith in the United States?

Kinnaman: It depends on how you measure the downward trend.

In a lot of cases, there’s actually a lot of flatness. The percentage of Americans who qualify as evangelical is relatively stable over the 25 years that we have tracked it at Barna. Church attendance is declining a little bit — but sometimes that’s partly related to the methodology that we use. Online, people report lower church atten-



LYNN McMILLON

More thoughts on hard topics and ‘Good Faith’: See our exclusive interview with Gabe Lyons, left, and David Kinnaman at www.christianchronicle.org.

dance than they do by telephone.

There are a lot of things that are also on the decline. Some of those things are the percentage of millennials who are practicing Christians, the rise of people who say they are of a faith other than Christianity.

There’s a growing lack of confidence among younger generations that Jesus was a real, historic person — or, for example, that the Bible is accurate in the principles that it teaches. There’s a growing gap of confidence in Scripture.

Those are things that are very worrisome because they represent more than just whether people show up at church on Sunday. They actually represent that people’s hearts and minds aren’t quite into the Christian faith, even though they use the Christian label.

What might church leaders do to address the issues of confidence in Jesus and reliability of Scripture?

Lyons: I think they need to talk about it and be honest about the

challenges. The people in the pew understand that their kids are questioning faith and that they don’t have the answers to respond to the skepticisms. We’re finding younger people are starting to look to Google and YouTube for answers to their deepest questions. When we were growing up, we would have probably asked our parents or a trusted adult in our life. And today — because of Facebook, social media, the ability for anybody to communicate and really be perceived as an authority — you have people accessing all kinds of information.

We shouldn’t be threatened by that. We just need to recognize that’s happening. So ministers need to start talking about it. They must acknowledge that there is a lot of skepticism in our world. There are a lot of people who are questioning some of the deepest claims of the Christian faith, so this is an opportunity to step into that with confidence that our faith actually has something to say to the world and to any issue or topic that it’s raising.

For a long time we have asked, “Where would you go if you died tonight?” And the answer was, “Well I hope I go to heaven.” Well, the questions have become a lot more complex today. Questions like:

Where do I find meaning in my life? What is the good life? What is my purpose? How do I deal with the pain, anxiety and fears that I experience daily? Where do I go with these burdens?

These require Christians to be pretty intelligent. So churches are going to have to double down on their efforts to help equip the saints, which is ultimately the purpose of the church.

Kinnaman: Faith leaders actually have to take the journey of a skeptic to understand the kinds of questions that are being asked today.

Some of our peers in ministry are saying that they are noticing that the kinds of questions that young people are asking are very different. They are saying, “What does the scripture say about violence in the Old Testament?” To them, God seems like an angry, vengeful God, and they’ll actually name specific places in Scripture where they see that. They’ll talk a lot about human sexuality and same-sex attraction. What does the Bible have to say about that? What does the Bible have to say about reproductive choices that people might make?

There’s a whole range of very complex questions that are as age-old as humanity, but they are also being expressed in new ways because people can Google and search for particular things, and they are finding wisdom for living in those very human questions.

So faith leaders need to understand the nature of the skepticism and then be able to address that as part of their ministry. Let’s go down the journey of why someone might think differently about these questions from how Christians have historically thought.

See **CRISIS**, Page 12



ABILENE CHRISTIAN
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College of Arts and Sciences

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The **Department of Biology** invites applications for a full-time, non-tenure track instructor for Fall 2017. Applicants must have an M.S. in biology or related field. Teaching experience at the high school or collegiate level is required. Primary responsibilities will be to teach the Anatomy and Physiology I and II lecture and lab courses and non-majors introductory biology courses. Additional responsibilities will include training undergraduate A&P lab teaching assistants/tutors, working with other professors to improve A&P pedagogy, and attending departmental and other relevant meetings. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Start date is Aug. 1, 2017. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/biology.

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Dr. Becky Hammack, Dean, ACU Box 28035, Abilene, Texas 79699-8035

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Brown Library

*Dr. Carisse Berryhill, Associate Dean for Archives and Collections
ACU Box 29208, Abilene, Texas 79699-9208*

ACU's **Brown Library** invites applications for the position of metadata and digitization librarian. Candidates are expected to have demonstrated skill both in cataloging of library and archival resources, and in library instruction and reference services. Information about Brown Library is available at acu.edu/library.

See acu.edu/academics/provost/positions.html for complete descriptions of these positions. In a letter to the appropriate dean or chair, applicants should address their qualifications for the position. They should include in the application a statement of how faith informs their teaching; a discussion of their spiritual journey; a curriculum vitae; transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work; and names, addresses and phone numbers of five references. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations of and applications from qualified women and minorities are especially encouraged. ACU is affiliated with the fellowship of the Churches of Christ. All applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and deeply committed to service in Christian higher education. The mission of ACU is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities.

CRISIS: 'Take the
journey of a skeptic'

FROM PAGE 11

So, church leaders need to put themselves into the place of those asking the questions rather than just seeing themselves as providing answers?

Lyons: Yes, and that requires humility and the ability to relate to people that might not have the same education that you have or read all the books you have. It requires getting on their level, eye to eye, and being able to answer those questions.

The conflict ministers are dealing with is: Are you going to live your life according to a preset standard or not? And there are going to be a hundred different ways that people are going to have conflict when their belief and their morality are found in what they feel is right, what their friend told them was right, what they think might be right as they've thought about this for a few minutes.

Are we actually going to have a biblical standard and go back to the source of truth, which is Jesus himself? That requires discipleship. It requires helping people understand why they ought to live by the standard that God created for human beings. It leads us to actually being fully human the way God designed us to be.

Kinnaman: We think one of the big shifts is this shift from an external source of morality — Scripture, church tradition, even political or media voices — to an internal source of authority. The belief that we can figure out what is best for us. That truth may be right for you, but it may not be right for me. There's been an inexorable shift to that position in American lives today — that you can determine what's right for you, that nobody can dictate that for you. The best way to find yourself is to look within yourself. Ninety-one percent of Americans believe that is true.

Lyons: And almost three out of four practicing Christians said that they thought that statement was true, which shows you the crisis of discipleship in our churches.

ALBANIA

FIER — “It’s very hard to be a Christian in Albania — particularly if from a Muslim family.”

That’s what Alda, an 18-year-old woman who was baptized last year, told Justin Speer during his mission trip to this Central European nation.



Speer

Speer, a deacon of the Katy Church of Christ in Texas, works with World English Institute, a church-supported nonprofit that teaches English using the Bible.

Speer witnessed the rebirth of another Muslim, 17-year-old Esmerelda, who got her father’s permission before she was baptized. Speer taught the newborn Christian, who had “a voracious appetite to learn,” he said, and was able “to devour what I believe were difficult lessons.” Three other young women were baptized during Speer’s visit.

Alda had been lonely, Speer added, “so God sent her four new sisters.”

AUSTRIA

VIENNA — “The Wheels on the Bus” and “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” are helping Christians in this European capital reach out to their community.

Jake Haskew and Will Kooi sing the classic children’s songs as part of an English-learning program for kids through their nonprofit, Kreuzung. Kooi’s wife, Holly, reads stories in English to the children, who then get a homemade treat from Haskew’s wife, Amanda.

The Vienna mission team worked with the program’s format for years, with mixed results, Will Kooi said.

“We decided to simplify last year and truly use the talents we have instead of forcing ourselves to do things we weren’t good at,” he said. “Crafts? Gone. A curriculum? Out the window.”

The result, he added, has been consistent attendance and multiple requests to continue the program.

BRAZIL

RECIFE — An overflow crowd of 90 people gathered for the start of a 15-week, Saturday morning course titled “*Deixe a Bíblia Falar*”



ERIC BRANDELL

South Pacific believers launch men’s ministry — and water balloons

In Vanuatu, four Christians — Bob Kalokul, John Iata, Andrew Iata, and Sam Iaruel — play water balloon volleyball during a men’s retreat that drew 25 church members from five islands in the South Pacific nation. The weeklong retreat was the first organized by missionary Eric Brandell and fellow believers. In addition to games, campfires and s’mores, the retreat included daily Bible studies focusing on the keywords “cruciform, Christian, selfless and servant.” The studies emphasized “that a commitment to Christ is foundational to all aspects of life,” Brandell said, “especially our relationships.” Learn more at www.facebook.com/v2brandells.

(Portuguese for “Let the Bible Speak”). Members of Churches of Christ teach the course.

“Please continue to pray for these students, many who are hearing the Gospel for the first time in its original, pure-and-simple form,” missionaries Randy and Kathy Short ask in a recent newsletter. “They will soon be called through their study to make a decision for Christ and put him on in baptism.”

CAMEROON

LIMBE — Recently, as workers with a ministry training school in this West African nation stopped at a roadside village for lunch, a man rushed toward their blue van.

Excitedly, he pointed to the words under the windows: “The Church of Christ, Bear Valley Bible Institute

Cameroon — Wotutu.”

The man said he was a church member 23 years ago, but that there was no congregation in his village, Anyong. The man was “crying that we should make haste to come and evangelize his village so that we shall restore him back to start a new relationship with God,” said Greg Elangwe, a minister and director of the institute.



Elangwe

Church members are planning a gospel campaign for the village, Elangwe said.

The church van, he added, is “helping us to have open doors to preach and bring restoration to many of (God’s) fallen children.”

SPOTLIGHT

The Gospel’s mailman

KALOMO, Zambia — Rodgers Namuswa helps hundreds of people in this southern African nation study God’s Word. On his motor-bike, the Zambia Mission worker delivers World Bible School lessons and collects them for grading by volunteers at the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ in Austin, Texas. Then he returns the graded lessons to the students. For more information, see www.zambiamission.org.



Namuswa

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Clinic, ministry school looted in South Sudan

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As soldiers approached their town — interrogating and sometimes shooting those they believed to be aiding rebel militias — the people of Pajok, South Sudan, fled south to the Ugandan border. On their backs and heads, they loaded what clothes and food they could gather for the journey.

One boy also carried a black microscope and a digital thermometer.

The items belonged to a medical clinic in Pajok overseen by South Sudanese Christians. The Sudan Project, a ministry of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee, supports the work, which also includes a preacher training school. The boy gave the medical items to Simon Yope, the clinic's lab technician.

"Our clinic facility is completely looted — doors broken and window glasses broken," Yope wrote in a message from a refugee camp in Uganda. "Almost everything was carried away by the soldiers. Also the Bible Learning Center is looted, with the door gunshot."

In July 2016, after clashes between government forces and rebels loyal to the country's ousted vice president, rebel militias took control of Pajok, also known as Parajok. Since then, many Christians have fled, walking for two days through the wilderness — avoiding main roads patrolled by soldiers — to reach Uganda. There, in refugee camps, they worship on mats under trees.

The current unrest has not reached Bor, about 15 hours north of Pajok, where members of Churches of Christ operate a vocational boarding school and Christian literature center. Both are dedicated to winning souls and healing the country's ethnic divisions, said Dennis Cady of the Starfish Foundation, which supports the work.



Yope



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A crocodile hunter finds new souls

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

If you will come teach us, we promise not to kill you.” Missionary Duane Morgan remembers those words, uttered by a village chief from an enigmatic — and feared — people in the remote jungles of New Guinea.

The chief, called an *ondoafi*, had journeyed from his remote village to Morgan’s home in the Sentani province. Sitting on the missionary’s couch, the *ondoafi*, named Isak Sasbe, made the offer.

“Any meeting with previously unevangelized, animistic people is an eerie experience,” said Morgan, who has served souls in Indonesia for nearly a half-century. Though he didn’t know what to expect from the chief, “all I saw from him was an invitation to begin the challenging process of communicating. I had no illusions about the difficulty of the challenge.”

Nonetheless, “we left the next day to go there,” Morgan said, “and the rest is history.”

That encounter — 27 years ago — was Morgan’s first with the Orya, a tribe isolated for generations in the mountainous rainforests on Indonesia’s side of the island, about 50 miles west of the border with Papua New Guinea.

The tribe had slaughtered a government contingent sent to them in 1968, Morgan said. For the next 20 years they kept to themselves, often fighting each other. By the late 1980s, when



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DUANE MORGAN

Phyllis Morgan, left, wife of missionary Duane Morgan, visits with Isak Sasbe and his wife as Sasbe retells the story of his first meeting with the missionary in 1990.

a Korean logging company began building roads into their lands, the Orya’s infant mortality rate was high, and their life expectancy was low.

Then Daud Tokoro, an Indonesian Christian who worked with Morgan, left his home near Lake Sentani to journey into the Orya’s lands.

Baptized in 1987, Tokoro and his wife, Alfrida, had become stalwart believers, the missionary said. A church met in their home — and had endured violent opposition from a gang of men who beat and threatened their preacher. Undeterred, the church kept meeting, praying and baptizing.

But Tokoro wasn’t in search of new souls as he walked the riverbanks of the rainforest. This real-life crocodile hunter was looking for skins he could sell to merchants — who would turn them into handbags to sell in Hong Kong or boots to sell in Bastrop, Texas, Morgan recalled.

Tokoro lived off the land as he hunted, eating tree kangaroos, lizards and whatever edible plants he found. He sweltered under a tarp in the tropical downpours.

One day, a group of Orya men came upon Tokoro.

But they didn’t kill him.

New Guinea tribesmen, Morgan explained, “know what it is to live in fear of enemies, tropical diseases, malevolent spirits in animals, inanimate objects and disembodied spirits — all controlled tenuously, futilely, by practitioners of sorcery and animistic ritual.”

They saw Tokoro as a friend in need — not a threat. They invited him to their village and gave him shelter. In return, Tokoro told them about a benevolent God, one more powerful

than all the spirits or sorcerers they’ve known. The village’s *ondoafi*, Sasbe, wanted to know more.

Thus the journey to Morgan’s home — and the promise of safety.

Months later, the village, Uhli, was home to a Church of Christ. In the years that followed, the church sent about 20 men to train in a ministry school overseen by Morgan. They shared the Gospel with other villagers, who built houses of worship with funds they received from the logging company in return for land usage. The newest is in the village of Salib.

“Although we had no idea how God would bless the new work when Daud brought the *ondoafi* to my house in 1990,” Morgan said, “we now see that his providential care has exceeded our expectations.”

Tokoro, now 82, continues to share his faith. Recently, he told Morgan than an *ondoafi* from the village of Taja — 70 miles from where Tokoro first encountered the Orya — made a 150-mile trek to Tokoro’s home and asked the Christians to teach them about Jesus.

This time, Morgan said, there was no need for a promise of safety.

“Graduates of our school have already spent some time there,” he said, “and the hospitality is pure joy.”

“Many who became Christians in that area 27 years ago have long since gone to be with the Lord. Many of their children and grandchildren have finished high school. Some have graduated from university, becoming government employees, teachers, entrepreneurs.

“The folks at Taja are saying, ‘Please come teach us what you taught them.’”



Morgan



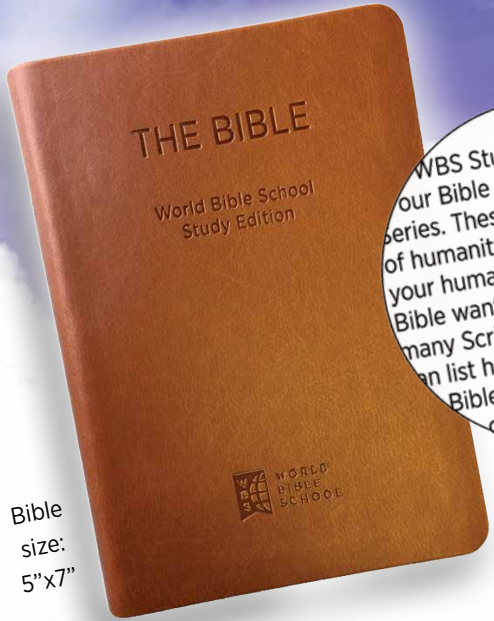
Tokoro



A few of the men from the Orya tribe, with their wives and children, pose for a photo outside a Bible school operated by Duane Morgan. The school trained 20 Orya men.

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A FORMER MUSLIM, now Bible college director, recounts his harrowing journey to faith

‘God called me for this’

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SOLANO, Philippines

I grew up Muslim. My father was involved in politics and my mom was a doctor.

“But they were massacred ... so I fled. Then I was robbed. They almost killed me. They were gangsters. They got my money and everything.

“I don’t remember what happened, but I found myself in Baguio City, wandering in the streets, sleeping on the benches.”

His voice seems calm, almost nonchalant, as John Serra Dionio recounts his early life — as he answers the question, “How did you become a Christian?”

It’s a drizzly Thursday afternoon in Solano, a small city in the heart of the island of Luzon. Dionio, 44, a bespectacled, unassuming Filipino with a broad smile, sits in a worn wooden school desk at the Philippine Bible College of Bangar, where he serves as director.

On the walls around him are maps of ancient Israel, a diagram of “The Armor of God,” a poster that proclaims, “The church Christ died for has only one name, one doctrine, one head.” Bed sheets and T-shirts hang on a laundry line that separates the second-story classroom from a ping-pong table and a set of weights. Scrawled in chalk on the black-

board is a bathroom schedule for the 15 students who live in the building as they study church history and hermeneutics.

Downstairs, the students practice hymns for Saturday’s graduation as they wait for the skies to clear. Then, basketball.

“I cried to the Lord and asked for wisdom to manage this school,” says Dionio, who inherited the job after a surprise

announcement by the college’s founder, Leo Corpuz, four years ago. Corpuz — who envisioned the school as a place to train “sound, gospel preachers” from the rural, poor communities of Luzon — died two days later.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Reghie Marcos leads his classmates in the hymn “Home of the Soul” at the Philippine Bible College of Bangar.

The college has lost about 50 percent of its support without Corpuz — who tirelessly raised funds among Churches of Christ in the U.S., Dionio says. The new director has reduced the number of students, who study here tuition-free, and hopes to move the campus to a plot of land outside the city where they can grow their own food.

“I believe this is my calling,” Dionio says. “Brother Leo prepared me for this job, but God called me for this ministry.”

 **FROM THE EAST**
MATTHEW 8:11

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

‘IF EVER YOU’RE IN TROUBLE, FIND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST’

As the hymn “Sweet Hour of Prayer” echoes from the students downstairs, Dionio flips through his old copy of the Quran — a book he never really understood.

He grew up middle-class in Mindanao, a large island in the southern Philippines with a significant Muslim population. He followed his father’s faith, though his mother was a baptized Christian who worshiped with a Church of Christ.

In 1997, while Dionio was at work, a friend urgently pulled him aside and told him that Muslims had murdered his parents. Maybe it was a dispute over his family’s politics or their land — he’s still not sure. He just knew he had to leave, immediately.

They were coming for him.

CONTINUED



PHOTO PROVIDED

John Dionio and his wife, Josielyn, celebrated their 17th anniversary in February.

The Philippines



POPULATION: 102 million; **RELIGION:** 83 percent Catholic, 5 percent Muslim, 7.5 percent evangelical or other Christian, 2.3 percent *Iglesia ni Cristo*, 2.2 other. **CHURCHES OF CHRIST:** Missionaries from Restoration Movement churches entered in 1901. After World War II, Christians who served in the U.S. military helped plant churches. Now the islands are home to more Churches of Christ than any other nation in Southeast Asia or Polynesia, with nearly 1,000 congregations and at least 20 Bible colleges and ministry training schools.

Philippine Bible College of Bangar

LOCATION: Solano, a town in Nueva Viscaya, a province in the Cagayan Valley region of Luzon. The school meets in Solano's Bangar neighborhood in the Huey Norried Memorial Building. Administrators plan to move the school to a plot of land outside Solano — the current meeting place of the Bangar Church of Christ. **FOUNDED:** 1999, by Filipino minister Leo Corpuz. **PROGRAMS:** Two-year Associate of Theology and four-year Bachelor of Theology degrees. Students must be high school graduates and pass an entrance exam. Most are recommended by their congregations. **FACULTY/STAFF:** Director John Dionio; Assistant Director Wayne B. Corpuz; Instructors Charlie Rana, Christian Rana, Rolando Toquero, Shawn Corpuz; Secretary Teresa Montero; Finance Officer Josielyn Dionio; Cook Barnaditha Cabacungan; Property Manager Romeo Corpuz. **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Students and staff grow rice and vegetables — and participate in feeding programs, medical missions and other community activities. Workers at the college also serve in a chaplaincy role with their local police department. **ONLINE:** www.facebook.com/PBCBANGARFOUNDATION **SOURCES:** CIA World Factbook, interviews



CONTINUED
He boarded a ship for Luzon and went to the Philippines' capital, Manila. There he was robbed and beaten. He doesn't remember much of what happened next. Somehow he boarded a bus for Baguio City in northern Luzon. He doesn't know how — or why — he chose that destination.

Dazed, aimless, he wandered as words his mother once told him echoed in his head: "If ever you're in trouble, find the Church of Christ." A woman at the city's information center referred him to a Mormon church, but he knew that wasn't it, nor was a United Church of Christ in town.

"Finally, someone said, 'Maybe you're looking for the Philippine Bible College,'" he recalls.

A receptionist gave him seven pesos (about 20 cents) to get a ride to the college, a ministry training school supported by Churches of Christ. When Dionio arrived, the staff was gone. He slept in a nearby park and came back. A worker let him in to take a bath.

Filo Alcayde, the school's director, listened to Dionio's story and helped him pay the city tax to get documentation so he could work. Alcayde offered to let him do odd jobs around the college.

"I asked him, 'What is your job?'" Dionio recalls.

Alcayde replied, "I am a minister of God." "Then I wanted to be a minister of God also," Dionio says, "because of his example."

But he didn't want to study the Bible. He was, after all, Muslim. So he found a job in Baguio as a waiter. Alcayde, however, refused to give up on the mysterious man from Mindanao. About two months later, he approached Dionio again.

"Brother Leo Corpuz is planning to open a Bible school in Solano," he said. "Would you like to go with him?"



PHOTO PROVIDED
Bible college founder Leo Corpuz with his wife, Asuncion.

'I FOUND THE TRUTH'
Corpuz, a native of the Philippines, earned ministry degrees from Harding University in Arkansas and Pepperdine University in California before returning home to train preachers at the Philippine Bible College.

He wanted to open a new school in central Luzon for students who lived far from Baguio or the capital. He chose Solano, a town in the province of Nueva Vizcaya. It's a seven-hour journey here from Manila, over mountainous roads clogged with massive transport trucks and tiny "tricycles" — motorized bikes with sidecars for paying passengers.

Corpuz put Dionio, who still refused to study the Bible, in charge of the new school's library. Dionio also worked in the garden and helped clean the building. Once, as he stood in the back of a Bible class, he overheard a discussion of the Holy Spirit and asked, "What's that?"

He gave in to his curiosity and cracked open a Bible in the library. He read and read, intrigued by the stories of a loving God offering salvation. A month later, he asked to be baptized.

"Are you sure?" Corpuz asked, surprised. "Yeah, I found the truth," Dionio replied.

July 17, 1999, was the first day of his Christian life. About two years later, Dionio married a fellow believer, Josielyn Cabrera. They have two daughters, 13-year-old Karylle and 11-year-old Kyra.

Josilyn Dionio still cries when her husband shares his life story — "especially when he was sleeping in the park," she says.

"His conversion encourages other Christians," she adds, "and his life is really a blessing to all of us."

FROM SALVATION TO SAN FRANCISCO — AND BACK

After his baptism, John Dionio took on the dual role of librarian and student at the Philippine Bible College of Bangar. Corpuz later took him to the U.S. to visit the college's supporting churches.

Juanito Mapanao Jr.



He doesn't know the plans God has for him, but "I know God called me here to study," says Mapanao, 28. He has struggled with alcohol and depression but found a Church of Christ and was baptized in 2012. Wayne Corpuz, a teacher at Philippine Bible College, introduced him to the school. In his first year, he received the "Most Improved Student" award.

Santh Joseph



Joseph, 30, grew up in the *Iglesia ni Cristo*, one of the largest denominations in the Philippines. But sound doctrine changed his mind — in the form of a radio program produced by a Church of Christ. The church member recently completed the Bible college's two-year program and wants "to become a sound, gospel teacher."



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

John Dionio and Asuncion Corpuz, right, present a diploma to Lenter Kilaban, 25, who earned a two-year degree from the Philippine Bible College of Bangar. Dionio also gives medals to Kiliban's father, Oscar, to present to his son. Lenter Kilaban left home to work as a farmer and began worshipping with a nearby Church of Christ. He was baptized, and during his time at the Bible college he shared his faith with his father and mother, Betty. "We learned about how to be saved — that the only way is Jesus," Oscar Kilaban said as his son translated. Both parents were baptized recently.

Impressed by his command of Scripture, supporters in California asked the newly minted minister to serve a Church of Christ in the San Francisco suburb of Daly City. The congregation was a mix of black, white, Filipino and Asian believers, Dionio says. He preached and worked at an assisted living facility to support his family.

In 2008, the Dionios returned to Solano to help with the college as Corpuz battled complications of diabetes. Then the school's founder was diagnosed with blood cancer — and had to spend most of his time in the U.S. for treatment. John Dionio oversaw the school, but planned to return to San

Clark Jason Sullera



Like director John Dionio, Sullera, 22, came to the Bible college from Mindanao in the southern Philippines. Part of his four years of training included two months of ministry with a small, rural congregation. "You must have time for study, because there are many questions," he said of the experience. During the practicum, he baptized three souls.

Michael Uao



"In high school, I was a hard-headed, naughty boy," says Uao, 21, who has completed one year at the Bible college. He used to get in fights, but "I've lost a lot of my anger here," he adds, "and I'm enjoying the life-changing teaching of Christ. I want to spread the Gospel to other youths who are lost, those who are alone, those who seek answers for their questions."

Francisco when he could.

Corpuz continued to visit the college for graduations — including one in 2013 when he announced, unexpectedly, "I give my authority and relinquish my directorship to John Dionio."

Two days later, before returning to the U.S., Corpuz went to a clinic for dialysis.

There, "he went back to the Lord," John Dionio says.

A RELIGION THAT COSTS NOTHING ...

Four years later — and two days after sharing his testimony in that second-story classroom — John Dionio stands in a rented banquet hall, presiding over his first gradua-

Jericho Oanes



tion as the Bible college's director. Dressed in academic robes and a blue-feathered cap, he greets the students with his broad smile as they walk to the stage to get their diplomas — accompanied by parents, wives, even a few aunts who introduced them to Christ. Shemer Sameon, a Filipino preacher from Baguio, speaks to the graduates about the need to have "a mind that thinks like Jesus, a heart that loves like Jesus, eyes focused on Jesus."

"It will not be easy," Sameon says. "There will be hardships. The good news is, you're not alone." He shares a quote attributed to theologian Martin Luther: "A religion that gives

nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing is worth nothing."

During the three-hour assembly, John Dionio and the school's staff sing multiple hymns with the students, including "I want to be a soul winner for Jesus." One of the singers, Asuncion Corpuz, pauses as emotion overwhelms her. It's her first graduation without her husband by her side.

"When he gave his last speech ... maybe he knew," says Leo Corpuz's widow. "He said, 'I am transferring the helm of PBC to my son. PBC will go on. It will be in good hands, with the help of the Lord.'"

One of the graduates, Rogelio Bartolome, says the college gave him more than a Bible degree. The program inspired him to stop drinking. It changed his life. Hearing John Dionio's story makes him realize "that I'm really lucky," Bartolome says — and that God can overcome vices and obstacles.

The story also shows that God never forsakes his children, adds Teresa Montero, the Bible college's secretary. John Dionio has taught her that God "will let things happen for a reason, to direct us to his plan."

"*Kuya* John is very passionate and dedicated to the school," she says, using a Filipino word for older brother. "I admire how he handles the students, with so much care, and how he treats them as family."

John Dionio studied the Bible with Montero's husband, Nico, who says that the former Muslim's passionate teaching about Jesus led to his own decision to be baptized.

"He treats me like his own relative," Nico Montero says. "I'm one of the many fruits of his faith."



Sameon



Teresa Montero



Nico Montero

Joe Darelle Bartolome



Bartolome, 23, grew up in Churches of Christ, but says that his four years at the Bible college — and especially the field work — have helped him understand what he believes. In the Philippines, even those who care little for Christianity "feel they are empty without church," he says. "There's space in the heart ... where they seek for God."

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LAUREN KOSKI, AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

Acappella singing group's reunion draws 2,000 to event hosted by Texas congregation

Gary Moyers, Keith Lancaster, Wayburn Dean and George Pendergrass are reunited at an event for past and present members of the singing group Acappella. The celebration was hosted by the Central Church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas. A crowd of 2,000, including guests

who traveled from as far away as Michigan and Ohio, attended the concert, the *Amarillo Globe-News* reported. The group, which has been in existence for 35 years, was founded in Tennessee by Keith Lancaster in 1982 with a four-track recording of his own voice.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY FLORENCE, Ala. — Dennis Jones, who served for 28 years as president of Heritage Christian, has retired effective April 6, the university reports.

The 115-student ministry training school, associated with Churches of Christ, was founded as International Bible College in 1971.

The decision followed months of contemplation by Jones and discussions about retirement and succession with Heritage's board of trustees.

"The future of HCU is bright, and I look forward to applauding its progress from the sidelines," Jones said in a letter to the board. "May God bless all the dedicated Christians who will take the university to a better place. My prayers will be with them every step of the way."

Three administrators — Bill Bagents, Philip Goad and Pat Moon — will assume Jones' duties while the board develops a long-term plan.



Jones

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — After he was diagnosed with HIV 25 years ago, Magic Johnson's Christian faith saved his marriage, the retired basketball star said recently at Lipscomb.

Johnson, who dominated the court with the Los Angeles Lakers, and his wife, Cookie, spoke to students, faculty, staff and donors. The visit was part of the university's Imagine 2017 series, titled "Nashville: Prosperity for All Corners of the City."

Magic Johnson — now president of basketball operations for the Lakers — stressed the importance of education and faith.



KRISTI JONES, LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

Magic Johnson speaks during Lipscomb University's Imagine 2017 series.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kerygma, a recent conference hosted by Oklahoma Christian, was designed by preachers for preachers, organizer Grady King said. Sixty-two preachers from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and Kansas attended, said King, Oklahoma Christian's director of church resources.

"I have been attending conferences for 27 years, and this is one of the best ones I have attended for preachers," said Mitch Wilburn, minister for the Park Plaza Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla. "It was outstanding."

MINISTRY TRAINING

SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE

LUBBOCK, Texas — Spanish speakers from Argentina to Venezuela will soon have handheld solar players loaded with God's Word and Bible study materials produced by Sunset.

"While we are still receiving the remainder of the \$1.5 million needed for completion of the project, enough has been received that many of the trips (to distribute the players) are already scheduled," Sunset reports.

SPOTLIGHT

Bible museum opens

SEARCY, Ark. — The Linda Byrd Smith Museum of Biblical Archaeology has opened at Harding University.

With more than 100 artifacts displayed, the museum will be used as a resource for students to provide context and help them better understand their biblical studies.

Museum coordinator Dale Manor is the field director for the Tel Beth-Shemesh dig site in Israel. For more than 20 years, he has collected artifacts and replica objects from Israel.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HARDING UNIVERSITY

"Treasures Hidden in a Field" is one of the exhibits featured at the museum.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

At Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., a KC University soccer player meets a young fan. The team played their Christian university counterparts to a 2-2 tie.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARK HOOPER

KC University players have a devotional before their baptisms in 2016. Being present for the event "felt like being in the middle of the book of Acts," said Dan Bouchelle.

SOCCER: A community comes to Christ, together

FROM PAGE 3
"It is important for them to be more committed to their faith, not just to soccer itself."
Congregations including the Otter Creek Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tenn., helped found the school, formerly known as Korea Christian University, in 1958. Now most of the university's 1,300 students do not claim Christianity as their faith.
The university offers Bible classes. Last year, after studying with the campus chaplain and other staffers, 18 of the team's 22 players asked to put on Christ in baptism. So did Daeryung and another of the team's coaches.
It happened on May 29, 2016. There weren't enough baptismal robes for 20 new souls, so the teammates went into the water in their soccer jerseys.

PARTNERING TO WIN SOULS
They brought those same jerseys to the U.S. for the two-week tour, organized with assistance from Missions Resource Network, a nonprofit supported by Churches of Christ. Last year the university and

the nonprofit formed a partnership to serve as a Global Launch Site, said Mark Hooper, the ministry's director of Asia missions.
The goals of the partnership, Hooper said, include reaching students on campus who are not followers of Christ, working with international students who may return to their homelands as disciple-makers, writing a missions curriculum for the university's Bible department and working with churches in Seoul toward increased involvement in missions.
Hooper, along with Missions Resource Network President Dan Bouchelle and board member Joyce Hardin, a former missionary in Korea, witnessed the soccer team's baptisms.



Bouchelle

"Most people, especially those from highly communal cultures, don't typically make major life decisions alone," Bouchelle told the *Chronicle*. "Too often, we look to lead individuals to the Lord when we need to think

bigger and focus on families and larger social groups. This is what we see happening in the New Testament with extended families and communities coming to Christ together."
"Being present on the day the KCU soccer team put on Christ felt like being in the middle of the book of Acts."
THE POWER OF CELL PHONE CONFISCATION
At Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., the Korean team played their counterparts to a 2-2 tie. The Koreans were talented, competitive and exceedingly respectful as they played the NAIA Division 1 team, which finished in the final four of its conference with a 10-6-1 record, head coach Kyle Beard said.
"They were all hard-working kids," Beard told the *Chronicle*, "and the staff was very driven in the match. But before and after, they were enjoying every person they met and every experience they came upon."
From Faulkner, the team headed north to Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.
"The Korean team was a well-

organized unit that was clever on the ball and had the ability to cause us problems with their fast speed of play," said Lipscomb assistant coach Stephen Lunney.
Still, the NCAA Division 1 school handed the Koreans a 5-1 loss.
To motivate his team, Daeryung put the players' cell phones in a bag and promised to return them when they won another game. That happened at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., where the Koreans shut out the NAIA Division 1 squad in a 7-0 victory.
More impressive than their soccer skills, however, was the Koreans' story of faith, said Freed-Hardeman head coach Jason Elliott.
"It impresses me that a group of young people would all be open to hearing the Gospel, despite growing up in a background where that has to be very foreign to them," Elliott said. "It shows great courage."



Lunney



ERIK TRYGGSTAD

A prayer for Korea, North and South, at the DMZ

"It's only a river between South and North," says minister Sang Yang as he gazes across the Imjin River into North Korea. "I have my relatives right there, not knowing whether they are still alive or not." As tensions rise between the isolated Asian nation and the U.S., believers around the world petition God on behalf of souls on the troubled peninsula. At www.christianchronicle.org, find Erik Tryggstad's column, "Pray for Korea, North and South," in which he recounts his journey with Yang to the Demilitarized Zone. Also, see our 2013 feature on Yang, director of the Bible Correspondence Center in Seoul.

After the game, the Korean players attacked the bag of cell phones like hungry piranhas, Daeryung said.

The team worshiped with the Germantown Church of Christ near Memphis, Tenn., before traveling nine hours west to Oklahoma Christian. The Eagles, an NCAA Division 2 squad, took a 2-0 lead before the Koreans connected a long ball down the field to score. Late in the second half they scored again, tying the game 2-2 — and escaping the threat of additional phone confiscations.



Pope

"I was honestly a little surprised at how aggressive they were," said Oklahoma Christian freshman soccer player Landon Pope. "Coming in, I figured they'd play more of a finesse game."

"It was an amazing experience," he added. "I never thought that I would be able to play a team from an Asian country, so to have this opportunity was unreal."

Before returning to Seoul, the team traveled four hours to scrimmage with players at Fort Worth Christian School in North Richland Hills, Texas.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE GAME

The Koreans, in only their second year as a competitive team, hope to use the experience to help them succeed in their 80-university division. In addition to learning from the Americans' physical style of play, Daeryung said he was amazed by the size and quality of the athletic facilities he visited.



Elliott

But part of soccer's unifying power is its simplicity, Elliott added.

"You don't have to have money to play — just a ball," the Freed-Hardeman coach said. "Several of our guys immediately hit it off with the Koreans just by passing the soccer ball in the gym when they arrived."

Though soccer players worldwide speak different languages, "the language of the game is universal," Lunney said.

At Lipscomb, athletes on both sides of the soccer ball "showcased exactly what a Christian athlete should look like."

TRANSLATION of some interviews by Danny Kang. Additional interviews by Erik Tryggstad.

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CONFESSION: 'I felt like I had to do the right thing'

FROM PAGE 3

white prison jumpsuit — with long, brown hair pulled behind her head.

"I just want to try and do as much as I can to bring the Lord the glory he deserves because it's not about me," she added. "It's about what we can do for him and how many souls we can lead to him as well."

SEARCHING FOR THE LORD

Wilson was an early suspect in the Oct. 27, 1995, robbery, kidnapping and slaying of Morales, a 25-year-old mother of two. Morales had a romantic relationship with Wilson's former boyfriend, Sean Cullen.

In late 1995, Wilson was arrested on capital murder charges along with her brother Rudolfo Longoria, then 19, and her cousin Ralph Rodriguez, 22.

But while indictments came shortly for Longoria and Rodriguez, Wilson walked out of the Bexar County Jail after 90 days because of insufficient evidence against her, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported.

While in jail, Wilson had access to a Bible and read the Old and New Testaments, she told the *Chronicle*.

"I read it three times in 90 days and learned quite a bit I didn't know," said Wilson, who was raised Roman Catholic. "I really was calling out to God and praying."

She did not understand the reason for her release, she said.

But back on the streets, she began her personal search for the Lord.

A flier advertising a "Getting to Know Jesus" Bible study led her to the Alamo City Church of Christ, where she came in contact with ministers John Massie and Mark Forster.

Massie remembers that Wilson, then 27, was a dashing woman who caught the attention of the men in the class, which met each Thursday night



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Lucinda Wilson is interviewed at the Dr. Lane Murray Unit, a women's prison in Texas.

for 10 weeks. During each week's two-hour class, the students would take a break for coffee and snacks.

"She'd always bring some really nice dessert," Massie said of Wilson, describing her as an excellent student. "During the class, she learned a lot of about Jesus Christ and his death, burial and resurrection," the minister added, "and it just convinced her."

WHY SHE CONFESSED

On Sept. 13, 1996, Forster baptized Wilson for the forgiveness of sins.

Shortly thereafter, Wilson confessed her role in Morales' murder to Forster.

"I felt like I had to do the right thing if I was serious about my new life and following the Lord like I wanted to," Wilson said.

Massie was traveling, so Forster and Wilson tele-

phoned to seek his counsel. During the call, Wilson revealed the gory, specific details.

"I said, 'Lucinda, if you want to be right with the Lord ... you're going to have to give yourself up,'" Massie

recalled. "So she decided that was what she was going to do."

Forster accompanied Wilson to the police station. She admitted to Detective David W. Evans that the day Morales was killed, she "was there for the entire ordeal," according to court records obtained by the *Chronicle*.

In her written statement dated Sept. 21, 1996, Wilson confessed that she hit Morales in the head with a crowbar, trying to knock her unconscious. Wilson also supplied her cousin with the gun and ammunition used to shoot Morales. And she gave her brother a can of lighter fluid with instructions to burn the body and other evidence.

While driving the handcuffed victim from an apartment to the wooded area where she was shot, Wilson noticed a ring on Morales' finger, according to the statement.

"He gave you my ring?!" Wilson recounted asking the victim. "At

that time, she said, 'Yes, he told me I could have it.' At this time she took off the ring and gave it back to me. ... After all of this was finished I put the ring in a ceramic jar in the kitchen."

The signed paperwork stressed that Wilson gave the statement voluntarily.

"I am giving this statement to Detective Evans because not only will it make it right with my God, but it will also bring justice to Margaret," Wilson said. "It is because that I am a Christian that I stand on this conviction."

FOCUSED ON JESUS

On March 5, 1997, Wilson pleaded guilty to capital murder in Bexar County District Court.

In exchange for her plea, the prosecution agreed not to seek the death penalty.

The victim's mother and sisters, who were present for the sentencing, told the *Express-News* that Wilson's remorse came too late.

"Where was God in her life before she did this?" Morales' sister Isabel Cantu asked in a front-page story published the day after the sentencing.

More than two decades later, Wilson pays for her crime in an environment that she characterizes as never comfortable.

She resides in a "big metal barn" with hundreds of beds in open-air barracks, she said.

"In the winter-time, it's extremely cold. The heaters don't always work," she said. "And in the summertime, it's extremely hot. We don't have air-conditioning or proper air circulation. It can be 120

degrees inside of our buildings."

At the same time, safety is always a concern, she said.

"There are fights that go on. There are assaults that go on. There are racial issues that never seem to end," Wilson said. "I feel like I have to have eyes in front of my head, back of my head and side of my head."



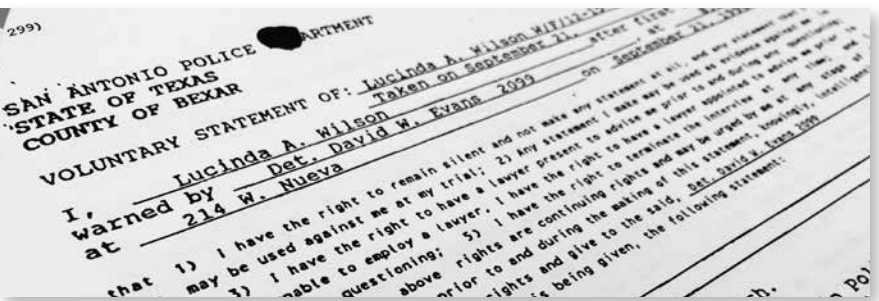
PHOTO PROVIDED BY LUCINDA WILSON

Lucinda Wilson said she served in the U.S. Navy before she got cervical cancer and received an honorable medical discharge.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HELEN HORNE

Helen Horne, a member of the Gatesville Church of Christ, visits with Lucinda Wilson during her time at the Mountain View Unit in Gatesville.



Lucinda Wilson gave a six-page statement to police confessing her role in the murder.

Through it all, Wilson strives to keep her eyes focused on Jesus. She previously was incarcerated at the Mountain View Unit, also in Gatesville. At that prison, she converted a fellow convicted murderer, Aruna Kavali, who was raised Hindu. At the Dr. Lane Murray Unit, she teaches a Bible class that she said draws between seven and 15 inmates each Thursday afternoon. “We are reading the Book of Esther right now,” she said.

HER GREATEST CHALLENGE

During Wilson’s time in prison, Christians such as Helen Horne have visited her and studied with her. “She loves the church. She loves the Lord,” said Horne, 87, a member of the nearby Gatesville Church of Christ. “That’s very evident.” But Horne and Massie said Wilson has experienced growing pains in her Christian walk. Both said Wilson “disfellowshipped” them and others when certain church members persuaded her they were teaching false doctrine. “I love Lucinda. She’s like a daughter to me,” Massie said. “It broke our hearts when she disfel-

lowshipped us the way she did.” Horne said she was elated when Wilson wrote her about five years ago and sought forgiveness for her harsh judgment. In her interview with the *Chronicle*, Wilson identified both Horne and Massie as spiritual mentors who could discuss her faith. “My greatest challenge was the fact that when I came here, I was a recently baptized Christian,” Wilson said. “And I had to raise myself and grow up in a very ungodly environment without the privilege or the luxury ... to gather with other Christians and worship the Lord on Sundays.” Despite her circumstances, inmate No. 00786238 said she considers herself blessed. “As far as a place like this, you never really outlive your past. Basically, you’re a TDCJ number, and that’s it until we leave this facility, and then we can be seen as an individual,” Wilson said. “I just pray the Lord will give me that opportunity one day, and if not, that’s OK, too,” she added. “I just hope to do the best that I can and do as much as I can in the time that he’s given me.”

Inmate’s story shows ‘courage that came from Christ’

CHICAGO — Kevin Watson, a member of the Southtown Church of Christ, encouraged *The Christian Chronicle* to share Lucinda Wilson’s story. Watson said he and Wilson began exchanging letters in 2005 at one of the lowest points of his life. His mother had died two months earlier, he explained. A fellow Christian named Krystal Jackson gave Watson a copy of a 2003 *Christian Woman Magazine* article, titled “No Greater Faith,” that the inmate wrote about her experience. The Illinois church member said he identified with Wilson because he, too, spent time in prison. He did not commit the crime for which he was convicted, he said. But he believes God used prison as a means for him to hear the Gospel and be baptized. “This is a young woman who, like so many of us, made a mistake,” Watson said. “But she had a strength and a courage that came from Christ ... and even after being freed from a charge that was brought against her, she went back and turned herself in.”



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Minister Vacancy

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Craig Case: (559) 380-6470
Vernon Garretson: (559) 816-8567

Full-Time Minister Search - Aberdeen, Maryland

We are a congregation of 110+, with elders, deacons, and a family-elder minister. Upon successful integration into the congregation, the current minister will retire from full-time preaching. We are seeking a man with a number of years preaching experience who loves the Lord and will come to love the family of God in Aberdeen by teaching, preaching, and counseling. Our congregation is adjacent the Aberdeen Proving Ground and is located in Harford County, Md., near the Chesapeake Bay, approximately midway between Philadelphia, Pa., and Washington, D.C. Aberdeen has good schools and a small-town atmosphere. We offer a competitive salary based on experience, education and training. If interested please send cover letter with your resume and references, with contact information and two sermons (DVD or flash drive), or indicate where your sermons are posted on the internet.

Church of Christ of Aberdeen
90 Mt. Royal Ave, Aberdeen, MD 21001
aberdeencoc@verizon.net, aberdeencoc.org, (410) 272-5450

FULL-TIME MINISTER VACANCY

Hillcrest Church of Christ in Decatur, Ga., is looking for a full-time minister for congregation of 400 plus. For job description, application, and a virtual tour of our facility, please visit our website:

www.hillcrestcoc.net/apply

Contact Elder Ken Neal
(678) 344-9871

Application deadline is May 31, 2017

MINISTER WANTED

Stolley Park Church of Christ is actively seeking a minister. We are seeking a seasoned, mature, high-energy individual to minister to an active congregation of 100. We have five elders, four deacons, a full-time youth minister, and a part-time secretary.

Please send a resume to:

Stolley Park Church of Christ
2822 W Stolley Park Rd
Grand Island, NE 68801

secretary@stolleycofc.com
Kevin Prior, elder, (308) 384-3901
www.stolleycofc.com

Salary and benefits will be negotiated.
The deadline for resumes is June 1, 2017.

Pulpit Minister - Valdosta, Ga.

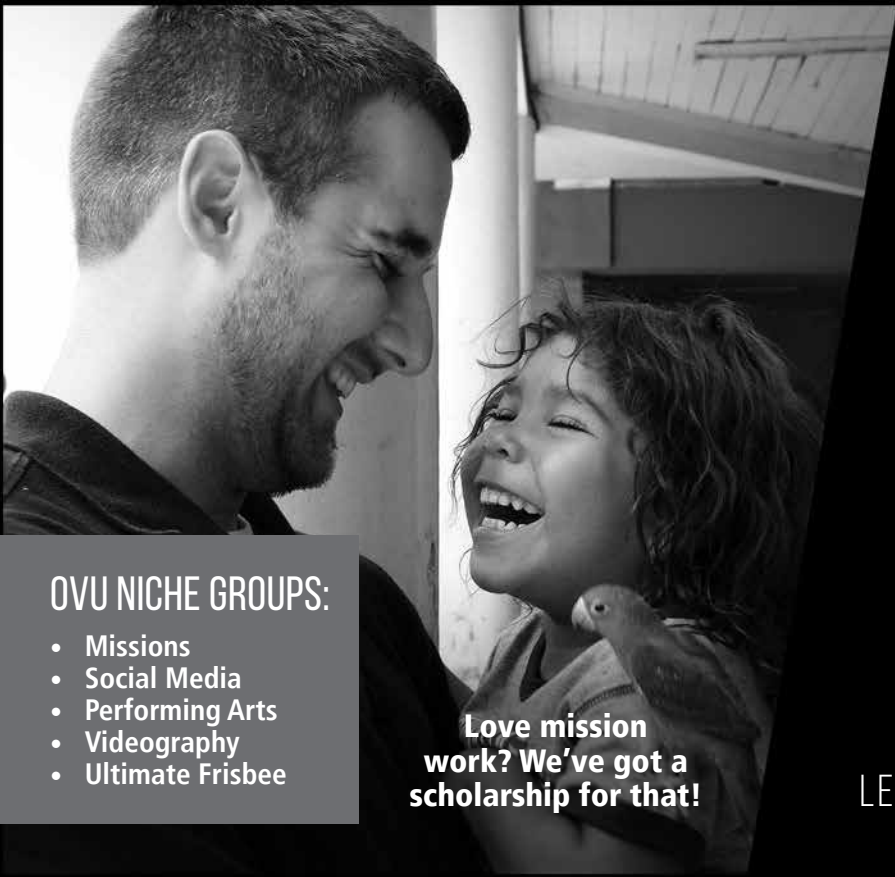
The **Central Avenue Church of Christ** is looking for a Pulpit Minister. We are located on I-75, and we are the last county in Georgia before you get to Florida. We are looking for someone who is visionary in nature, who is a dynamic proclaimer of God's Word, and who is committed to building and strengthening a congregation of 500 members (275 families). We are biblically sound yet progressive in methodology. We are seeking a minister committed to equipping a diverse body of believers for ministry and to proclaiming and interpreting God's Word to a rapidly changing world. Supporting the work are five elders, 16 deacons, two ministers, and two secretaries. We have a newly refurbished and well-maintained facility. If you would be interested in working and worshipping with us in South Georgia, please contact:

John Klimko, Jr.
Central Avenue Church of Christ
304 E Central Ave
Valdosta, GA 31601
(229) 242-6115
jklimko@cacoc.com

Full or Part-Minister

We are looking for a full or part-time minister for a small, self supporting congregation. We are offering a salary and a three-bedroom home. Please send a resume and cover letter to:

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ccoc@pobox.com
(850) 997-1166
ccocmonticello.org



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NEWSMAKERS



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HARDING UNIVERSITY
Clifton and Louise Ganus were honored by Harding University, where they married after he graduated in 1943.

RECOGNIZED: Clifton Ganus, chancellor of Harding University in Searcy, Ark., with the establishment of the Clifton L. Ganus Jr. Distinguished Chair of History and Political Science by the College of Arts and Humanities.



Summers
RETIRING: Col. Michael Waymon Summers, as state chaplain for the Georgia National Guard. He is the pulpit minister for the Leavenworth Church of Christ in Kansas. Don S. Dickerson Jr., preacher for the Gainesville Church of Christ in Florida.

HONORED: Parker LaMascus, a mechanical engineering major at Oklahoma Christian University, as the university's first Barry Goldwater Scholar. The scholarship is the nation's premier undergraduate award of its type in mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. LaMascus is a member of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.



LaMascus
APPOINTED: Kerry Williams, as dean of graduate studies at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas.



Williams

Milestones

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

Birthdays

93rd: Dorothy Polisono Richardson, March 17, Livingston, Texas. **90th: Glenn Martin**, April 7, Gastonia, N.C.

Anniversaries

Maynard “Bud” and Sue Hammons
61 years

As we reflect upon 61 years of marriage and as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we, Maynard “Bud” and Sue, give Him all glory! It was His Providence that brought us together. Jimmy Allen was minister for the congregation in Prescott, Ark. where Sue attended. Jimmy and elder Reese McDougald arranged Sue’s entrance into Harding College. Royce Blackburn, the minister at Panhandle, Texas, arranged an early release from the Air Force for Bud’s entrance into Harding as well. We met there in 1955 and were married by Jimmy Allen on May 5, 1956.



We raised our family: Felicia, Mark and Cynthia (Yeats) as we served a military congregation outside Yakota Air Force Base in Tokyo, Japan. We were invited monthly to encourage a Japanese congregation through an interpreter. Next, we served a church in New Mexico while Bud earned his Master’s degree. From there we accepted a position in Adelaide, South Australia. In 1985, we accepted a unique opportunity with the Hands of Compassion ministry to become Hospital Chaplain for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The most fulfilling ministry there was arranged while our daughter Felicia was a patient. She had a successful brain surgery for a seizure disorder. Our ministry has been concentrated mostly across the north in assisting

smaller bodies of Christ. In every location we have passionately served the Lord, having been shaped and influenced as surely as “iron sharpens iron” by those in the church and those whom the Lord added to the church. We still strive to encourage our brethren by phone calls and written letters. We appreciate having our daughters close by, and we frequently enjoy contact with our son in Colorado. Our three children have enriched our lives with four grandchildren. We now reside in Broken Arrow, Okla.

50th: Jack and Vicki Houser, May 24, North Bend, Ore.



70th: Don & Shirley Genrich, June 22, Albion, Neb.

Memorials

Franklin Craig Cooper
1946- 2017

Franklin Craig Cooper died on March 23, 2017. He is preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his wife, Janet Cooper, two children, and five grandchildren.

Craig was born in 1946 in Port Arthur, Texas. His family moved to the Rio Grande Valley in 1953. Craig graduated from Edinburg High School, served in the Navy for four years, and then graduated with a Greek studies degree from Abilene Christian University.

Craig was truly dedicated to his family and, most of all, to being a follower of his Lord Jesus Christ by bringing others to know Him. After a 20-year banking career, Craig embraced his true calling. His role as Director of Missions at the Pharr Church of Christ touched the lives of thousands. Over a dozen church plantings in the Valley and in Mexico are among the fruits of his labor. God used

Craig’s talents, ambition and passions to bring positive change to the people of the colonias in this area. As God used him to do His works, Craig’s spiritual posture is captured in Psalm 115: “Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.”

Lila Dean McManus
1938 - 2017

Mrs. Lila Dean McManus passed away Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the age of 78. She was born July 20, 1938, near Madill, Okla. On Feb. 19, 1955, she married Harrel D. McManus. He preceded her in death in 2009. Mrs. McManus was the Director of Human Resources for the Chickasaw Nation and currently served as a Legislator for the Chickasaw Nation. She was a longtime member of the Galey Church of Christ. Survivors include three daughters, a brother, a sister, 11 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Mary Sue Gibson Porter, 88, Albuquerque, N.M., April 11.

Stella Norfleet, 102, Harvey, Ill., March 20. **Phyllis B. Green, 69**, April 15, Oakhurst, Cal.

Correction

James Monroe Elliott
1926-2017

James Monroe Elliott of Memphis, Tenn., is survived by his wife of 61 years, Gloria; a daughter, Debra (Tim) Baird of Searcy, Ark.; a son, Don (Julia) Elliott of Marietta, Ga.; four grandsons: Steven, Daniel, and David Baird and Jeremy Elliott; two granddaughters: Paige and Laura Jo Elliott; and two great-grandsons.

Entries should be submitted to milestones@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5071. Rates and guidelines are available upon request (credit card preferred).

IN THE WORD

Making God known through art

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

— Acts 17:26-27, New International Version

Months before the Lads to Leaders and Leadership Training for Christ conventions began, young men and women were hard at work on paintings, sculptures, scrapbooks, stories and video projects on biblical themes.

At the North Texas LTC in Dallas, students displayed their works on the theme “Make Him Known” from the book of Acts.

Olivia Whiteside, an eighth grader at the West Houston Church of Christ, constructed a sculpture based on the apostle Paul’s speech to the Areopagus in Athens.

“God made us so that we shall inhabit the earth and always seek him,” Whiteside wrote in her sculpture’s description. “We need to make him known, no matter who we are — red, yellow, black or white — and tell the world about him so we can seek him together.”



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Olivia Whiteside’s sculpture proclaims the theme of the 2017 Leadership Training for Christ conventions, “Make Him Known.”



MARISSA ESCAMILLA

“The clouds are an important part of the painting,” Marissa Escamilla said of her work, based on Acts 1:9-10, “because, in verse nine, it mentions that Jesus was taken up before (the disciples’) eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight.” Escamilla, an 11th grader from the Vanderveer Street Church of Christ in Burnet, Texas, submitted the painting for the North Texas Leadership Training for Christ convention. She chose Jesus’ ascension because it “was a huge moment in the disciples’ personal transformation and the advancement of the Gospel through the church,” she said.

EDITORIAL

As we celebrated with our kids, did we miss an opportunity?

After months of painstaking preparation, the weekend flew by at breakneck speed. We rushed from puppets to preaching, hurriedly changing our kids into bedsheets togas for their drama performances. We barely had time for the coffee we needed to get through the day.

In the midst of the rush, did we miss something?

How many performances or sermons did we witness at this year’s Lads to Leaders and Leadership Training for Christ conventions that didn’t involve our own kids? How many of us interacted with people from outside our congregation?

Though thousands of us from Churches of Christ across the U.S. gathered in massive hotels for the conventions, did we really function as a fellowship?

There are deep divides among us — perpetuated, we feel, by a lack of communication. When we occupy the same space and don’t talk, that’s a missed opportunity. One weekend can’t solve all our problems, but it’s a start.

It’s such a thrill to see our children engaged in heavenly pursuits at these conventions. We pray that — especially at the larger venues — we’ll take advantage of opportunities to leave our comfort zones and share our joy with our extended family of faith.



A backpacker walks across a soccer field in Catacamas, Honduras, just before the 2003 dedication of a missions hospital.

Take a new kind of mission trip – vacation

Short-term mission trips and “voluntourism” sometimes seem mandatory for people of faith — for anyone with a conscience, really. At church, we hear about these kinds of trips constantly. Social media brims over with pictures of people posing for pictures surrounded by kids in impoverished nations. I’ve done these things myself. But I think it’s time we all took a different sort of trip. It seems like people are reluctant to go to a place like Honduras on vacation. There are plenty of *gringos* taking trips to Honduras, but the vast majority are there with the goal of helping. It’s difficult to spend thousands of dollars on airfare, hotel rooms, restaurants, sight-seeing and souvenirs and not do anything to try to help when there is extreme poverty right around the corner — or, in some cases, right in your face, begging for money or food. So we go to places like Honduras and try to fix the problems. Then we take our vacations elsewhere. But while we are relaxing in Hawaii or Disney World, safely removed from having to deal with that pesky issue of poverty, does the issue go away just because it isn’t right in front of us? And, if we really believe what we say we believe about material wealth not being synonymous with happiness or godliness, why does poverty make us so uncomfortable when we are face to face with it? I’m not saying we should ignore poverty. Extreme poverty and gross economic inequality can and should be eradicated from society. But cycles of economic poverty are perpetuated by the materially poor feeling inadequate or ashamed of who they are. It’s easy to see why these people may become hopeless. Often, their home countries are world-renowned for corruption, violence and starvation. The people of poor nations like Honduras are well aware of how the world sees them — as a

project that needs fixing, as people to be pitied, as “the least of these” we read about in Matthew 25.

Three years in Honduras gave me way more questions than answers. Poverty is an unbelievably complicated issue that can’t be solved by just giving people more money or more stuff.

But if I could give the wonderful people of Honduras one thing, it would be confidence — confidence that they are not forgotten by God, that they have received countless blessings from him and that they are as wise and as capable and as loved by him as anyone anywhere.

Honduras is not a perfect place, but it is a beautiful place with amazing scenery, beautiful weather, and a rich culture. Of all the things that we did in our time there to try to connect with the local people, what seemed to make the biggest impact was when we simply described to someone what we loved about their country. It was amazing to see their faces light up when we told them how much we enjoyed one of their cities or parks or beaches or some typical cuisine that we had tasted.

I think that there are appropriate ways that we can help countries such as Honduras out of the blessings that God has given us. But God has richly blessed the people there, too. Their blessings may not look like ours. (That’s a good thing.) But we can be an encouragement to them if we focus on all they do have instead of what they don’t.

Let’s stop treating people as projects. Let’s join with the locals to discover the unique beauty of their homelands and enjoy together all the different ways that God blesses his children all over the world.

BART DODSON and his wife, Melissa, spent three years as missionary apprentices in the Central American nation of Honduras before returning to the U.S., where they are active in ministries for Spanish speakers. They worship with the Northwest Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

Views



Bart Dodson

FROM OUR READERS

Responses to autism

As the parent of two boys with autism, I have seen three ways that various congregations have responded to children with special needs. (See “Wiggles, fidgets and buddies,” Page 3, April.) One group just says they don’t have the ability or resources to deal with them and hopes we find a good church elsewhere. The second group allows us to bring them and will tolerate them as long as they aren’t too much trouble. (We actually had an elder say that autism is just an excuse, and they just needed more discipline!)

The third group wants them to come, and actively reaches out and looks for ways to minister to these children as “the least of these.”

Tell me, which group do you think Jesus would be in? Thanks for a wonderful and encouraging article.

Trail Reeves | Kaukauna, Wis.

Mixed emotions on coverage

The April print edition gave me joy and sadness while troubling me just a little. First, let me say that I treasure *The Christian Chronicle’s* long-term commitment to reporting the great news in the growing body of Christ worldwide without the negativity often associated with brotherhood papers.

That said, the article on the Syrian refugees in Canada (Page 1) was joy giving because of the love for the lost shown by the Toronto brethren and saddening because of its reminding me of the disgraceful policies of this otherwise great nation toward those war-ravaged victims looking for better lives.

I was troubled by the article on Attorney General Jeff Sessions (Page 6) whose past is not, in my view, overshadowed by being perceived to be on the right side in Ukraine.

Nonetheless, the April issue was otherwise filled with inspiring and uplifting news from the worldwide brotherhood of Christ — which certainly includes Tennessee. (See “After wildfires, the shows — and the ministries — go on,” Page 3.)

Chuck Reed | Rawlins, Wyo.

As far as the refugee policy/situation that seems to be targeted in *The Christian Chronicle* lately, there are strong biblical arguments that can be made on both sides: Let them all in unfettered or control who comes here. But one side tramples on other Americans’ rights; the other side does not. I know which I prefer. Please keep slanted political commentary out of our great paper.

Joel T. Smith | Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

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They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles... Isaiah 40:31

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The heart of God's plan for mankind

GOD'S LOVE STORY

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From 21st Century Christian Publishing

A Study You Can Trust

GOD'S LOVE STORY

THE HEART OF GOD'S PLAN FOR MANKIND

God's Love Story is the sweeping account of God's compassionate attempt to rescue lost and hurting people. A condensed, chronological version of the Bible, this new resource highlights the grand story of God's love for mankind throughout the ages. Major Bible characters and events unfold in easy-to-understand, 39-chapter segments, which read like a novel and are designed for church-wide study.

Developed by Brian Dowler and a team of faithful members of the Lord's church, God's Love Story includes biblical text and just enough connecting material to help weave God's unfolding story of love into a gripping drama of rescue and redemption.

MATERIALS INCLUDE:

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See www.21stcc.com/GodsLoveStory for pricing and release dates.

21st Century Christian 1-800-251-2477

21st Century Christian guides readers through a love story – the Bible

I am encouraged by the number of recent efforts to make the Bible available to people in fresh and innovative ways.

In addition to Bible apps and a proliferation of new study Bibles and translations, publishers offer thoughtful edits of Scripture that help people grasp the overall flow and message of the Bible.

“God’s Love Story,” published in 2016 by 21st Century Christian, is one such recent effort.

The editor, Brian Dowler, is an elder of the Zelenople Church of Christ in Harmony, Penn. The majority of the content in the book is words of Scripture from the World English Bible translation. Dowler’s contribution is his editorial choices of Scripture quotations, their order and placement, and the transitional paragraphs between sections.

The book is divided into 39 chapters — 24 focusing on the Old Testament and 15 on the New Testament. Generally, Dowler’s comments include brief transitions and occasional summaries of passages that, for the sake of the project length and flow, needed to be left out.

Dowler sometimes goes a bit far in offering his reflections on the ongoing significance of certain texts, such as his introduction to the first chapter. It is about the Genesis creation account, but his comments reference both the Old and New Testaments, Jesus as Messiah, the Church as the bride of Christ, and Revelation.

Dowler’s best editorial work is in his thematic arrangement of material, such as his groupings within the chapters on

prophecy and the various emphases on Jesus’ life, teachings and ministry.

Although the book claims to be a chronological arrangement of the material, there are exceptions, including parts of the prophetic books, some of the psalms and likely the books of Job and Esther. The material is still valuable — and some is particularly useful because of its thematic arrangement.

It seems appropriate to contrast “God’s Love Story” with “The Story,” published by Zondervan, which popularized this approach to arranging Scripture into a format that promotes readability and

comprehension. “God’s Love Story” is larger and includes more passages than “The Story.” Certain sections have a robust representation, such as the Mosaic covenant in Leviticus, Psalms, Proverbs, the post-exilic rebuilding and many New Testament epistles. All of these are only minimally present in “The Story,” likely due to their non-narrative nature.

If you are wanting a condensed approach to Scripture, focused narrowly on the flow of the larger narrative of Scripture, “The Story” does this better.

If you would prefer a condensed version of Scripture that pulls from a wider assortment of biblical material, “God’s Love Story” does this better.

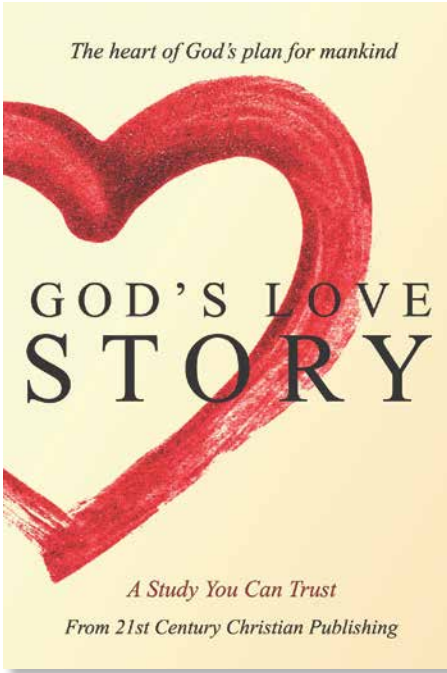
In these and similar efforts, may God increase and bless the reading of the Word.

MARK ADAMS and his wife, Carolina, live in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he is preaching minister for the Kings Crossing Church of Christ. He has authored several books for the FLEX curriculum series, published by 21st Century Christian.

In Print



Mark Adams



Brian Dowler, editor. **“God’s Love Story.”** Nashville, Tenn. 21st Century Christian, 2016. 448 pages. \$14.99.

What we're reading



Bledi Valca

Reading in seasons: Minister finds rewards in literary discipline

Reading is a discipline. It is my way of keeping my sanity in ministry — and it’s a way to constantly feed myself.

I try to read an average of two books per month, but I’ve been able to get through more than 24 per year in the past four years. I use www.goodreads.com to record what I am reading and receive recommendations for further reading.

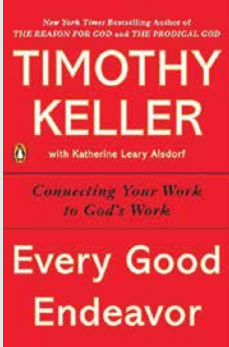
I read in seasons. Depending on what I am dealing with in ministry — or what subjects I would like to have better exposure to — I read several books related to one topic to gain a broader perspective. Last year my congregation organized a conference on the integration of faith and work. In preparation for leading the question-and-answer session, I read multiple books on the topic. Later, I took a graduate course on Islam and did another round of reading on that subject. Both of these cycles were rewarding.

Regarding the integration of faith and work, I recommend **“Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God’s Work”** by Timothy Keller with Katherine Leary Alsdorf. The book asks three basic questions. Why do we work? Why is work so hard? How do we overcome difficulties and find satisfaction in our work through the Gospel? The book traces answers Christians have given to these questions throughout history. This helps shape a Christian worldview in the workplace.

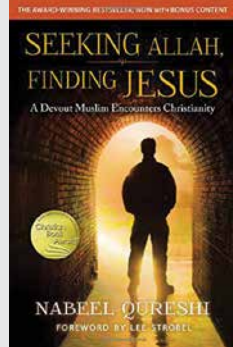
If you are interested in learning about Islam but hope to do so in a more conversational style than you’d find in a typical textbook, then Nabeel Qureshi’s autobiography is for you.

In **“Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity,”** Qureshi gives us an informative overview to understanding Islam. The book also introduces the issues that a Muslim must deal with to convert to Christianity.

BLEDI VALCA ministers for the Tirana Church of Christ in the European nation of Albania. He and his wife, Valbona, have two sons, Lemuel and Liam, and a newborn daughter, Siera. Read more of his book reviews at bookholicbalbania.blogspot.al.



Timothy Keller with Katherine Leary Alsdorf. **Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God’s Work.** Penguin Books, 2014. 336 pages.



Nabeel Qureshi. **Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity** (expanded edition). Zondervan, 2016. 368 pages.

WHAT ARE YOU READING? Email submissions to erik@christianchronicle.org.

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The **Anchorage Church of Christ** in Alaska is seeking a full-time Young Adult and Family Minister. For more details please visit our website at:

www.ancoc.org
and follow the link at the bottom of the page for the job details. Please send application info and queries to:

minsearch@ancoc.org
Deadline is May 15, 2017.

Preacher Training Camp

The elders and staff at the Oldham Lane Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, feel strongly that the Lord's church needs to be making every effort to train preachers and leaders so that the church will remain sound and thrive for years to come. Preacher Training Camp is for young Christian men (14-18 years of age) who show an interest in preaching and leadership. Cost is \$50, and space is limited. We would love to see you at camp!

Chris McCurley
cmccurley@oldhamlanechurch.com
(325) 695-0055

June 4-9
Deadline to sign up is May 7



Special Education Teacher: Knoxville

To plan, organize and implement an appropriate instructional program in a learning environment that guides and encourages students to develop and fulfill their academic potential.

1. Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution.
2. State Certification in Special Education.
3. Meet professional teacher education requirements of school, district, and state.
4. Single subject credential or certification if teaching a specialized subject.
5. State certification
6. Relevant teaching experience
7. Knowledge of relevant technology

Teacher: Spring Hill Tennessee

Middle is seeking a full-time teacher to work at their on-site school for the 2017-2018 school year. Candidate must be able to plan, organize and implement an appropriate instructional program in a learning environment that guides and encourages students to develop and fulfill their academic potential. Qualified candidates:

1. Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution.
2. Meet professional teacher education requirements of school, district, and state.
3. Single subject credential or certification if teaching a specialized subject.
4. State certification
5. Relevant teaching experience
6. Knowledge of relevant technology

Residential Counselor

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 able to adapt to a two-weeks-on-one-week-off schedule. Residential counselors are part of an interdisciplinary team consisting of case managers, credentialed counselors and support staff.

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May 1-5 Senior Quest. Pettijohn Springs Christian Camp, Madill, Okla. manager@pettijohnsprings.com.
May 2-5 74th Annual Pepperdine Bible Lectures. Malibu, Calif. pepperdine.edu/events.
May 6 39th Annual Ladies Inspirational Day. Northside Church of Christ, Jacksonville, Fla. nscocjax.com.
May 9 Eastern European Mission's Raleigh Event. Raleigh, N.C. eem.org/events.
May 11 7th Annual Spring Apologetics Lectures. Vienna, W.Va. warrenapologetics.org.
May 11-14 Campus Ministry United. Wentzville, Mo. campusministryunited.com.
May 15-27 Literary & Hymn Pilgrimage. England, Wales and Scotland tour. Oklahoma Christian University. oc.edu/pilgrimage.
May 22-25 36th Annual Sermon Seminar. Austin Graduate School of Theology, Austin, Texas. sermonseminar.com.
May 22-26 Come Before Winter Renewal for Men in Ministry. Filzmoos, Austria. comebeforewinter.org/men.
May 26-28 Camp Hunt 70th Anniversary. Hubbardsville, NY. camphunt@camphunt.com.
June 2-8 Churches of Christ National Lectureship. Atlanta, Ga. cocnl.com/web.
June 5-8 National Hispanic English Youth Conference. Lubbock, Texas. NHEYC.org.
June 6 Sunset International Solar Event. Phase III in Spanish. sibi.cc/solar.
June 6-8 Abundant Living Seniors Ministry Conference. Searcy, Ark. abundantlivingseniors.com.
June 9-10 Adult Third Culture Kids Retreat. Emory, Texas. MRNet.org/events.
June 12-16 Come Before Winter Renewal for Women in Ministry. Andover, Mass. comebeforewinter.org/women.
June 16-17 Parents of Missionaries Retreat. Fayetteville, Ark. MRNet.org/events.
June 16-23 Worship Leader Institute. Nashville, Tenn. praiseandharmony.com.
July 5-8 Florida State Youth for Christ Conference. Boca Raton, Fla. fsy4cc.org.

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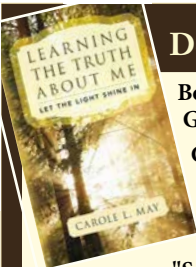
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400+ Churches Closed

The Need. Over 400 congregations of the Churches of Christ have closed in the last decade. Unfortunately, for most the decision was not only heart-wrenching, but the unplanned process created stress, division and lost stewardship opportunities.

The Solution. To address this tragic outcome, the non-profit Heritage 21 Foundation, was formed to provide care to distressed churches, providing them a path to follow, tools to use, counsel to walk with them, and increased stewardship.

The Heritage 21 Foundation's purpose is to minister to declining churches and to help repurpose the resources of congregations that for demographic and other reasons are destined to close.

To learn more about Heritage 21 and how you can bless these congregations, please contact us at www.heritage21.org, contact@heritage21.org, (360) 609-6700, or look for the Heritage 21 sessions at the Pepperdine, Lipscomb, and ACU lectures.

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MUST YOU DISOWN YOUR REMARRIED CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN?

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Why we support The Christian Chronicle. Tom and Glenna Trimble

Tom and Glenna Trimble have an abiding love for Christian education — and Christian news.

Tom Trimble, a Tennessee native, has served for 31 years on the Board of Regents for Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., making him a Life Regent. He's also a Life Trustee at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, having served on the university's board for 18 years. He and his wife have established endowed scholarships at three Christian universities. Their two children, James Trimble and Julie Trimble Minges, are Christian university graduates.

They began supporting The Christian Chronicle in 1989 and particularly enjoy reading firsthand reports about what's happening in Churches of Christ around the world — plus the writings of Editor Emeritus Bailey McBride.

Tom Trimble attended David Lipscomb College (now Lipscomb University) in Nashville, Tenn., before studying law at Vanderbilt University. While waiting for his application for the post of legal officer in the U.S. Air Force to process, he worked in New York and met Glenna at the Manhattan Church of Christ.

Glenna Trimble, an Oklahoma native, graduated from East Central

University in Ada, Okla., and accepted a job with NBC in New York. The couple married in 1957.

They said they continue to support the Chronicle's work because they believe in the paper's mission to serve a unique need as it informs and encourages Christians at home and abroad.

The Trimbles worship with the Camelback Church of Christ in Phoenix, where Tom Trimble has served as elder for 23 years.



Do you have a favorite part of The Christian Chronicle?

There are so many interesting parts to it, so it changes from one month to another. But one of the things that has been

interesting to me lately have been more and more international articles, what's going on with churches overseas as well as in the States.

Why have you donated to the Chronicle for 28 years?

I started just because (the Chronicle) asked me to with a solicitation letter. And then, of course, once I went on the OC board I was closely associated with it because of its ownership by the university and knowing the people, Lynn McMillon as well as Dr. McBride, so you couldn't be on the board without hearing about it and being encouraged to support.

To make a donation or to find out how to bless the Chronicle through the monthly Keepers program, contact Lynda Sheehan at (405) 425-5070.

On and off the field, Max Dobson demonstrates what it means to coach

OKLAHOMA CITY

Max Dobson came here to coach baseball, but his coaching wasn't confined to the diamond.

I met Max in 1966, when we both were new faculty members at Oklahoma Christian College. He moved his family of four into a small apartment on campus to serve as a residence hall director. After teaching all day, he spent long evenings mentoring young college men.

Max believed in the importance of physical education. He wanted future P.E. teachers to help children to develop coordination and strength while having fun. He invited faculty and staff to bring our elementary school children for an hour of games twice a week. My three children participated and even to this day talk about the fun they had with Mr. Dobson. For seven years, Max kept that program going — while he completed his dissertation, taught and coached.

Max was as concerned about ethics and moral development as he was about baseball skills. In one of his best seasons, his team qualified for the NAIA national finals. At least two members of that team went on to play professionally. He continued coaching baseball until he was able to find a successor.

He then began coaching women's basketball. He encouraged strong academic performance, high ethical standards and Christian behavior. One of his standout players, Sherri Coale, is now head coach for women's basketball at the University of Oklahoma — and has led her team into the NCAA Final Four three times. Max also coached Stephanie Findley, who succeeded him as head

coach of the women's program at Oklahoma Christian.

Max launched a program to provide physical education for elementary students with disabilities — and to train college students to serve these children. He directed the program for 37 years before

others assumed the responsibility. Max considers serving in this way as his greatest experience.

Max is devoted to God and the church. He has served as a deacon and elder of the Memorial Road

Church of Christ, always focusing on helping others. When he became an elder, he was assigned to a class of young married families. Through the years he developed a strong

relationship with many of the men. When he learned that some of them were unfaithful to their wives, he began meeting with small groups to create support for the men as they broke off the affairs. Those men are now strong husbands and fathers.

Sadly, Parkinson's disease has changed the nature of Max's life. But he still coaches, reaching out to people to help them through tough times. He remains close to his three children and their families. I see him

at church every Sunday and every Wednesday evening. He has a smile and greets people enthusiastically.

I know that Max Dobson has changed many lives through his service. He is very dear to me and hundreds of others he has served.

CONTACT: bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org

Insight

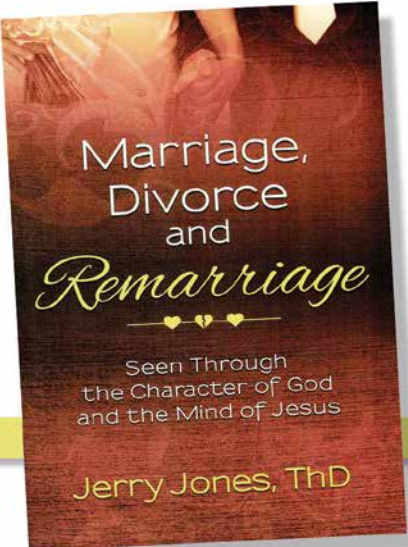


Bailey McBride



BRADY ROSS

Max Dobson, right, stands with Mark Wedel, one of Dobson's first special-needs students, who holds up the community hero award Dobson received at an Oklahoma City Thunder basketball game in 2013.



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- ◆ "One of the best scholarly treatments of the subject I have seen."
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- ◆ "Thanks Jerry for this book, it will bring grace, mercy, and forgiveness to many who have been told they have no hope."
- ◆ "This is a graceful study viewed from the heart and mind of God that will benefit a lot of families that live with the scars and guilt of a failed marriage."

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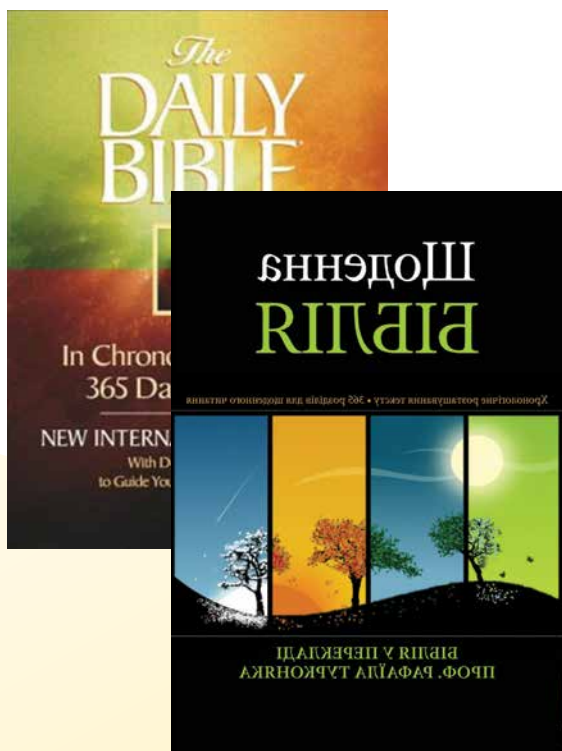
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