



BOBBY ROSS JR.

On a recent Sunday, Davy Dansberry leads a prayer at the Ferguson Heights Church of Christ in Ferguson, Mo., where the Michael Brown shooting has made national news.

‘Worship is our protest’

IN FERGUSON, *a predominantly black church focuses on healing its community by glorifying God*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

FERGUSON, Mo.

Brian Owens feels a need to protest. But his protest doesn't involve waving a "hands up, don't shoot" sign, staging a "die-in" or chanting "I can't breathe" during a march.

"Worship is our protest," Owens

told fellow members of the predominantly black Ferguson Heights Church of Christ on a recent Sunday.

It's the fight for hearts and souls — not the fight in the streets — that matters in "Christ's righteous revolution," the 34-year-old Christian said.

His comments came amid a national spotlight on high-profile police shootings of unarmed black men.

Violence that included gunfire,

looting and buildings set on fire erupted Nov. 24 in this St. Louis suburb after a grand jury declined to indict officer Darren Wilson, who said he fatally shot 18-year-old Michael Brown in self-defense.

Nine days later, a New York grand jury chose not to indict police officer Daniel Pantaleo, who used a fatal choke hold on 43-year-old Eric Garner when the suspect resisted arrest.

The deaths of Brown and Garner — and similar cases nationwide — have sparked coast-to-coast demonstrations emphasizing that "black lives matter."

Here in Ferguson, the 200-member
See **FERGUSON**, Page 12

DIALOGUE: Conley Gibbs Jr., minister for the Ferguson Heights Church of Christ, discusses the realities not captured by television cameras in Missouri — and the church's response. **Page 14**

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On a Christmas Eve layover, 'Lord, give me your eyes'

CHICAGO

Touch down on the cold blacktop. Hold on for the sudden stop. Breathe in the familiar shock of confusion and chaos.

Brandon Heath must've had O'Hare International in

mind when he penned the song "Give me Your Eyes."

This airport serves nearly 67 million passengers per year. It's a hot maze of frustra-

tion (though it has *nothing* on Frankfurt International in Germany or Jomo Kenyatta in Nairobi, trust me).

It's hard to describe the profound loneliness I've felt here, just before taking off for London, Hong Kong or New Delhi. I adore seeing the world as I cover international news for *The Christian Chronicle*, but I hate leaving my wife and two girls.

Here, adrift in a sea of souls, I am stabbed with guilt for loving a job that takes me so far from home.

All those people ... going somewhere.

Why have I never cared?

Then there are the times when I travel *with* my family to see my dad and sister in Tennessee. No loneliness, just flight delays, short connections, a gate-checked stroller and more carry-ons than it's humanly possible to lift.

But something happened in this airport three years ago that trumps all of the negative emotions I associate with it.

It was Christmas Eve, and

See **LAYOVER**, Page 4

Inside Story



Erik Tryggestad

A child molester's son shines a light

MINISTER JIMMY HINTON strives to create awareness of the threat posed by pedophiles.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SOMERSET, Pa.

Jimmy Hinton grew up at the feet of the wolf. For 27 years, his father, John Wayne Hinton, proclaimed the Gospel to the sheep of the Somerset Church of Christ — a century-old congregation in this southwestern Pennsylvania coal-mining community.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JIMMY HINTON

Jimmy Hinton preaches for the Somerset Church of Christ in Pennsylvania.

"I went into ministry because of him," said Jimmy Hinton, 35, the middle child of 11 brothers and sisters.

But three years ago, the son — who became Somerset's preacher in 2009 — learned a horrible secret: John Hinton was a longtime child molester who had sexually abused young girls and escaped discovery for decades.

Jimmy Hinton uncovered the truth after an adult molested as a child confided in him. The Holy Spirit, he believes, drove his response.

"I believe you," he told the victim.

He reported his father to police and prompted an investigation that resulted in the pedophile preacher, now 65, pleading guilty to sexually assaulting and taking nude photographs of four young girls, ages 4 to 7.

See **PENNSYLVANIA**, Page 22

VIEWS: What can the church learn from Bill Cosby? Christians who minister to victims of abuse — and abusers — share insight.

Page 29



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Jeff Miller, holding one of his children, hugs Alex McKay at the Somerset church. Jody Jurgeovich is in the background.

Christian higher education coming of age in Africa

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MBALE, Uganda — Enroll at LivingStone International University in this East Africa nation, and you'll receive a faith-based education — plus your own Kindle tablet computer and access to state-of-the art equipment.

You'll also have classmates who are survivors of famine and conflict, including Uganda's long war with the Lord's Resistance Army. One student, Moses Dipak, endured kidnapping and

abuse by his own father as a child and, after a soccer injury, addiction to pain killers.



Dipak

LivingStone, supported by Churches of Christ and Christian Churches, is one of a growing

number of faith-based campuses in Africa. Other higher learning institutions have forged relationships with universities associated with Churches of Christ, including Heritage Christian College in Ghana and Obong University in Nigeria. In Swaziland, a ministry training school has transformed itself into African Christian College.

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LAYOVER: A Happy Meal toy and hope

FROM PAGE 3

we had an hour-long connection. We picked up cheeseburgers at a triangle-shaped McDonald’s between concourses and sat at our gate — on the floor — scarfing them down.

On that same, worn, dark blue carpet stood a toddler, maybe 18 months old, crying for his mother. She was lying, cramped, across two vinyl bench seats, attempting to sleep. (I’ve tried it many times. Never works.)

She was Asian, with grizzled features that made her look too old to have a young child. She patiently motioned the boy away, seeking a few moments of peace before the flight — an equally vain endeavor. He just cried louder.

She was part of a group — deeply weary, huddled together — holding white plastic bags with the letters “I.O.M.” emblazoned in blue. I grabbed my phone and did a quick search. “International Organization for Migration.”

Refugees.

Maggie, our oldest, was 3 at the time. I fished through her Happy Meal sack and grabbed the toy. “You already have this one,” I told her. “Why don’t you give it to that boy?”

I’ll never forget watching Maggie walk those few, timid steps to the toddler — a host of foreign eyes suddenly transfixed on her. There were no thank-you’s as he took the gift, just slight smiles and nods. The boy stopped crying ... for about 90 seconds. He wanted mom, not a toy.

“Had they ever been on a plane?” I thought. I’ve flown those long hours from Southeast Asia back home. I know how brutal those final layovers can be. What else had they endured to reach this place? How different this dingy airport must look to them, these souls seated a few chairs — and another life — away from us.

Suddenly, one of them was standing in front of me, thrusting a cell phone at my ear. She seemed ancient — the family matriarch, perhaps, afraid but assertive. I took the phone, almost dutifully, and heard a man chattering in broken English on the other end. A translator. He quickly handed his phone to a man with a southern accent who identified himself as a pastor.

The refugees were Burmese,



BOB MAHONEY, ALCON ENTERTAINMENT

In the 2014 film “The Good Lie,” refugees from Sudan show their “luggage” to Carrie (Reese Witherspoon). The white bags come from the International Organization for Migration.

he explained, and his church was assisting them as they resettled in Tennessee. Burma, or Myanmar, was ruled by a military junta until 2011. It has a bad record on human rights and has restricted freedom of religion — though things have improved in the years since I met these refugees.

The minister and the translator were waiting for the new arrivals in Nashville — and didn’t even know if they had made it to the right gate in Chicago. Could I check?

I did. Everything was fine. I told the minister I’d make sure they got on the plane. He thanked me.

It seemed almost absurd.

“Uh, no problem,” I said. “And God bless you for doing this.”

“Thank you,” he said. “Merry Christmas.”

Christmas. I’d almost forgotten. A day of gift-giving, feasting, celebration. A day when we think of home.

And now a day when a huddled mass of tired, poor souls, yearning to breathe free, would see their first sunrise in a new world.

Give me your eyes for just one second. Give me your eyes so I can see, everything that I keep missing. Give me your love for humanity.

Give me your arms for the broken-hearted — the ones that are far beyond my reach. Give me your heart for the ones forgotten. Give me your eyes so I can see.

To all of you, Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. May God grant you blessings in 2015, and may we all use what we’ve been given to his glory.

CONTACT erik@christianchronicle.org.

JULY 2016

CALIFORNIA

BAKERSFIELD — About 350 volunteers recently formed assembly lines at the Westside Church of Christ and packed 80,000 meals for the nonprofit Feeding Children Everywhere.

"It was an amazing day," minister Matt Dabbs said. "It was men, women and children as well as inter-generational. We had a kid zone for kids under 8 ... and they served alongside people all the way up into their early 80s."

For more information, see www.feedingchildreneverywhere.com.

FLORIDA

MIAMI GARDENS — Two Florida ministers recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the "Alvin & Anthony Show."

The hosts are Alvin L. Daniels Jr., senior minister for the Hope Church of Christ in Miami Gardens, and Anthony Campbell, minister for the 15th Street Church of Christ in Pompano Beach.

The radio show features "two men of God committed to equipping, empowering and encouraging people through the discussion of God's word and its relevance and application to our daily lives and the current affairs of our world," according to their website at www.alvinandanthonyshow.com.

OKLAHOMA

TULSA — In a front-page feature in May 2014, *The Christian Chronicle* highlighted Night Light Tulsa, a homeless ministry under a bridge organized by the Park Plaza Church of Christ.

Tulsa animal welfare officials found out about the ministry and began dispatching an officer to the bridge — not to round up the guests' dogs and cats but to distribute bags of pet food.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Night Light Tulsa volunteers feed the homeless under a Tulsa, Okla., bridge.



PHOTOS BY JASON ISBELL

'Why do I do this? I know that the almighty God is alive'



Each Sunday, Arthur "Arturo" James gets up at 5:30 a.m. to prepare the Lord's Supper for the Manhattan Church of Christ in New York. He has served the congregation in this way for more than 15 years.

To celebrate his 95th birthday, Jason Isbell, the church's associate minister, followed James through his Sunday routine — and got a free sermon from the Cuban-born immigrant, who fled the island nation for his freedom. "Why do I do this? Because I love the Lord," James told him, "and my life was, is and will be in his hands. ... I do this because I realize this signifies the pains and the aches that he passed on Calvary.

"I know that the almighty God is alive. ... He gave his life for us so he could give his life to us — and live his life through us."

SEE THE VIDEO at www.christianchronicle.org

Recently, the animal welfare officers launched an organization called "Feeding the Pets of Tulsa's Homeless." The effort is helping provide food for the pets of the homeless people served by the Park Plaza ministry.

"The second longest line at Night Light Tulsa ... is the pet-food line," the *Tulsa World* reported.

TENNESSEE

UNION CITY — The "Soul Food Café" started as a community meal hosted by the Exchange Street Church of Christ one Wednesday night per month.

But after building a new fellowship hall, the church expanded the outreach effort this past fall — and began offering it two Thursday nights per month.

"The greatest accomplishment of

this new Soul Food Café is that other churches, civic groups, sports teams and others would be hosting the Soul Food Café," said Dan Huggins, the Exchange Street church's minister.

"The venue will always be at the Exchange Street building, but now so many others in our community can come and work together with us in blessing the community," Huggins added. "It's a wonderful

opportunity for Christians across our county to work together."

TEXAS

OGDEN — The Church of Christ in Ogden had been meeting as long as anyone could remember.

The Haley family was a mainstay, with Roy Haley — the oldest of three brothers — serving as the preacher in recent decades.

However, the brothers' mother, Ruth Haley, died in 2013, and Roy's health no longer will allow him to preach. Brother Matt and Joe Haley live elsewhere.

So the family recently gathered for a final worship assembly at the Ogden church building.

"It is sad to see a congregation close its doors, but the time has come when the remaining members are scattered throughout



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Night Light Tulsa volunteers feed the homeless under a Tulsa, Okla., bridge.

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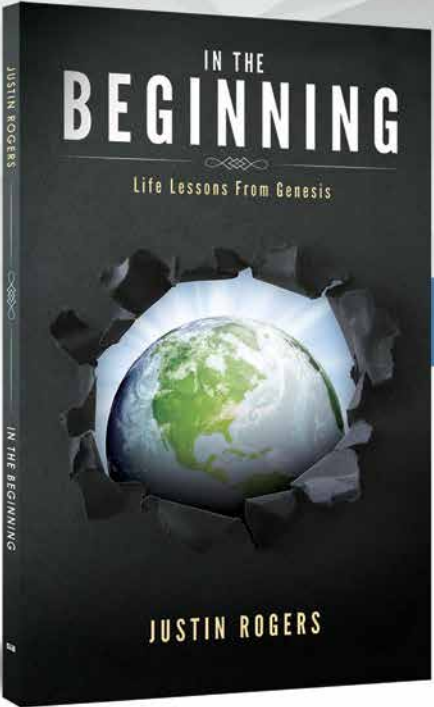


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The Christian Chronicle



Joyce Edmondson receives a hug as the Summit View church recognizes her for a half-century of cleaning the church building.

Have your cake and clean up, too

IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, a church custodian celebrates a 50-year labor of love

YAKIMA, Wash. — When it was all over, Joyce Edmondson did what she’s been doing for 50 years: She pulled out her vacuum cleaner and began to tidy up after the worship service.

Since November 1964, Edmondson, 88, has served the Summit View Church of Christ as part-time custodian, cleaning up after the church’s members and keeping the building looking good for members and guests alike.

“She’s a hard worker, faithful in all she does and impeccably reliable,” said minister Kevin Jensen. “She shows her deep love for God and for the church through her diligent service week in and week out.”

Elder Gerry Sentel added: “She’s such a delightful, caring person. She loves serving her God.”

Recently, the Summit View church honored Edmondson with a 50th anniversary cake between Bible classes and worship on Sunday morning. Then, the elders surprised her at the start of



Joyce Edmondson shows off the cake made in honor of her 50th anniversary as the Summit View church’s custodian.

worship with words of appreciation, a monetary gift from the church’s members, gift cards to one of her favorite restaurants and 50 balloons brought in by the church’s children and teens. Her daughter Connie McCloud and grandsons Brian McCloud and Michael McCloud were among those present.

“I feel lucky. The good Lord’s

blessed me,” Edmondson said. “And I’ve kept busy.”

Asked what motivates her, she replied, “I just like to have everything clean. I’ve just enjoyed doing it. And it’s helped me out, you know. Being active helps me more than anything.”

Her late husband, Ralph, began helping her when they married in 1974. He died in 2010.

Secretary Brenda Wardrip recalls a day a few years ago when Edmondson, recovering in the hospital after pacemaker surgery, called the church to make sure the diaper pail in the nursery and the waste basket in the communion preparation room had been emptied. Edmondson was concerned that people often forget to empty those particular receptacles.

“Things that others don’t think about, she notices,” Wardrip notes. “One thing that amazes me about Joyce is that she can see a speck on the carpet from across the room.”

TIME’s ‘Person of the Year’

CHRISTIAN PHYSICIAN Dr. Kent Brantly honored along with fellow ‘Ebola Fighters.’

NEW YORK — Dr. Kent Brantly, the Texas physician who contracted Ebola while serving in Liberia, shares *TIME* magazine’s “Person of the Year” honor with other health-care workers — African, American and European — who “risked and persisted, sacrificed and saved” during the worst outbreak of the deadly virus in history, the magazine reports.

“It’s an incredible honor,” Brantly told NBC’s “Today.”

“Those who paid the highest price for their service are themselves West Africans. It’s an honor for me to be considered as a part of that group.”

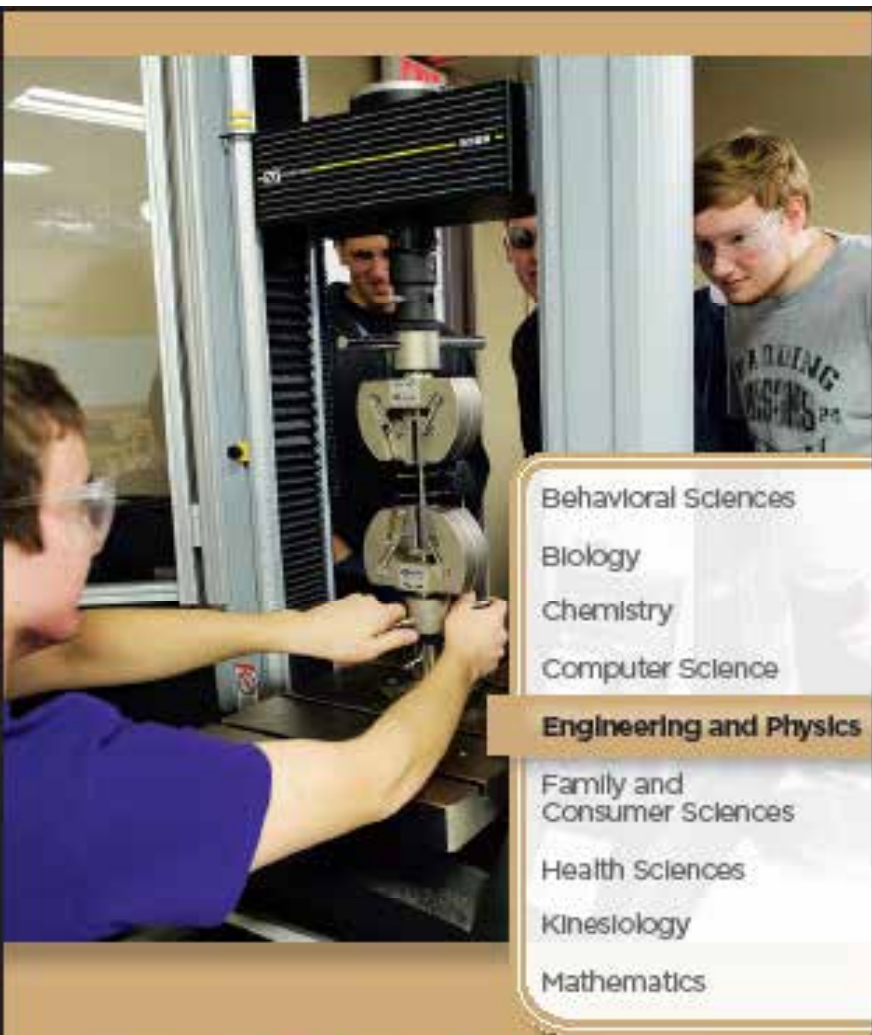


Brantly grew up in the pews of the Southeastern Church of Christ in Indianapolis, where his father and two uncles have served as elders.

A graduate of Abilene Christian University in Texas, he and his wife, Amber, worshiped with the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth before committing to work as full-time medical missionaries. Kent Brantly served in a post-residency program in Liberia overseen by medical mission Samaritan’s Purse.

“When I thank God for saving my life, I am not unique in that,” Brantly told the magazine. “If you watch videos of survivors in Liberia, so many of them thank God for saving their lives. ... I’ll probably get tired of talking about my experience someday, but I went to Liberia because I long felt it was my vocation to spend my career as a medical missionary.

“Deep in the core of my heart, I still think that’s my calling. I don’t want to go on with life and forget this.”



Improving the quality of life

Engineering is an evolving field. In the same way, Harding's department of engineering and physics changes and adapts to meet the needs of this growing career. With programs in computer, electrical, mechanical and — most recently — biomedical engineering, the department offers state-of-the-art equipment and skilled faculty members to help students prepare for in-demand jobs, which improve the quality of life for individuals and society. Students are given hands-on opportunities to put theory into motion and are equipped with the tools they need for success as Christian professionals after graduation.



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PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Cuba Gooding Jr., right, portrays attorney Fred Gray in a courtroom scene next to Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) in "Selma," debuting in theaters Jan. 9.

Civil rights attorney, minister Fred Gray portrayed in 'Selma'

BY KIMBERLY MAUCK | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

"No one can win the war individually. It takes the wisdom of the elders and the young people's energy."

That's a lyric from "Glory," written and performed by John Legend and Common. It's the theme song of the upcoming film "Selma," and it encapsulates Fred Gray's dual roles — attorney and advocate — in the Civil Rights Movement.

The film follows the lives of the movement's leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr., and the Selma to Montgomery marches in Alabama in 1965. Oscar winner Cuba Gooding Jr. portrays Gray, who sought protection for the marchers in the court case *Williams v. Wallace*.

Gray, an attorney who represented King, Rosa Parks and other civil rights leaders, also is a longtime minister and elder of the Tuskegee Church of Christ in Alabama.

In a 2008 dialogue with *The Christian Chronicle*, Gray discussed the role of churches and people of faith in the movement.

"When I hear people talk about the church not being completely involved in the Civil Rights Movement, I know that isn't the truth," Gray said. "I was involved. Most of the members in our church were involved. I think the

Lord played a major role in bringing about civil rights."

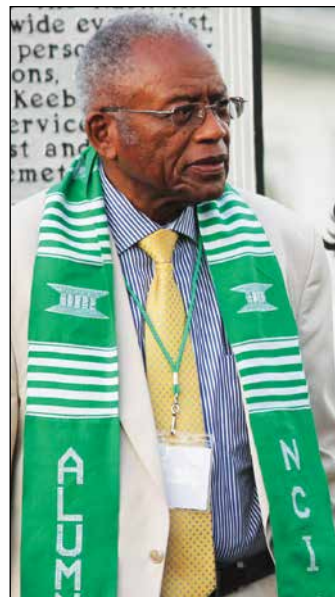
King, also a minister, is portrayed in "Selma" by David Oyelowo, a classically trained British stage actor who has had several supporting roles in recent films, including "Interstellar" and "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

Critics praise the film, which is predicted to earn Oscar nominations in categories including Best Picture.

Fifty years after the events of "Selma," as new protests in Missouri and New York appear on TV screens, the film "ends on a note of queasy triumph," writes Scott Foundas in *Variety*, "with the sense that we have come so far and yet still have so

far to go, and the hope that the arc of the moral universe does indeed bend toward justice."

"Selma," not yet rated at press time, opens nationwide Jan. 9.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Fred Gray stands next to a historical marker honoring his mentor, Marshall Keeble, in Nashville, Tenn., during a reunion of Nashville Christian Institute alumni in 2012.



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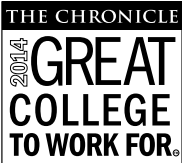
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See acu.edu/academics/provost/positions.html for complete descriptions of these positions. In a letter to the appropriate dean or chair, applicants should address their qualifications for the position. They should include in the application a statement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

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ARGENTINA

LA PLATA — Minister Joel Banks and members from the Caballito Church of Christ in Bueno Aires take turns making the hour-long drive to a new congregation in La Plata, which meets in houses, to encourage their efforts and help with worship services.

“Momentum seems to be on the upswing, as well as a vision for evangelism outside of Caballito,” said Banks, adding that he hopes the La Plata congregation will one day be a self-supporting church.

BOLIVIA

SUCRE — A mission team in this South American city recently asked Christians to fast and pray alongside them for 60 days as they collected funds for their first church building.

Shortly after their fast began, Angela Meyers said that her team was forced out of their temporary meeting space because of high rent.

Feeling hopeless, a team member stumbled across a potential space that seemed too good to be true — but it wasn’t.

“God not only provided an affordable place, he provided a place that is shockingly low for Sucre,” Meyers said. “This means the extra money can go into savings for the new building. ... This happened while we were praying and fasting. God is so good.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

Christians in France perform a skit for children during an after-school program.

FRANCE

MARSEILLE — Recent changes within the French government have permanently left students with no school on Friday afternoons — and nothing to do.

Dolores Dauner, whose husband ministers for the Chapelle de Fuveau Church of Christ, seized the opportunity by starting an after-school program at the church.



WWW.FRENCHAFRICANMISSIONS.ORG

In West Africa, women wait on the Lord

In the West African nation of Benin, women hear a lesson on the theme “The Christian Woman Who Awaits the Return of the Lord.” The lesson was part of the third annual Ladies Retreat on the campus of the Benin Bible Training Center in Zinvie, north of Cotonou.

More than 250 women from Churches of Christ in southern Benin gathered for the event, hosted during a break in the ministry school’s training programs. During the retreat “I could hear, from my office, a lot of excitement, great singing and praises to the Almighty,” said George Akpabli, the center’s director. “At the end of it, they came to me and asked that I organize a retreat for couples. They told me they heard so many wonderful things from the Bible that they wished their husbands were present to share.”

“We have 50 children from all walks of the neighborhood who spend Friday afternoon in after-school activities at the church,” said missionary Katie Young.

The program currently offers homework help and English and dance classes. Church members hope to add music and art classes. Each afternoon is capped off with a Bible class.

“Already, after just a month, we had our first family visit the church after learning about us through the children’s program,” Young said.

GREECE

ATHENS — Philadelphia 2014, an annual women’s meeting hosted by the Omonia Church of Christ, had more participants than expected — but no shortage of food. This year’s theme was “The Most Beautiful Relationship” from Ephesians 4:31.

Eleni Melirrytos, whose husband, Alexander, ministers for the church,

is known for her drool-worthy culinary creations. But she knew the participants were hungry for more than just good food.

“I had the sense that every sister who was present desperately needed to be present,” Eleni Melirrytos said. “It seemed that everyone was so hungry for this time of community and fellowship.”



Melirrytos

THAILAND

TOKOROA — More than 300 people, representing 40 churches, attended a recent family camp at Phu Kradueng National Park, said longtime missionaries Kim and Rebecca Voraritskul. Two people were baptized, and several more expressed the desire to be baptized after they returned home, the missionaries said.

SPOTLIGHT

‘Street punk’ preacher starts new chapter

KLAIPEDA, Lithuania — Illia Amosov was a self-confessed “street punk, a hoodlum” who often was in trouble with his mom — and the law.

He once was arrested for shoplifting a Pepsi and wanted nothing to do with Christianity.

“My mother brought Christians to preach to me, and I was cursing them,” he said. He was 20 at the time. A year later, he was a convert.

Now a full-time preacher, Amosov and his wife, Daiva, recently moved to Klaipeda, a city of 158,000 souls on the Baltic Sea, to work with a Church of Christ.

For 10 years, the Amosovs served a congregation in Lithuania’s capital, Vilnius. Ilia Amosov also helped direct Camp Ruta, an annual youth camp that has resulted in changed lives and baptisms. The Amosovs join Kestutis Poudziunas, who has served the Church of Christ in Klaipeda for more than 10 years.

Winning hearts to Christ in an increasingly jaded post-Soviet Europe is challenging, Ilia Amosov said. He takes encouragement from Bible stories about Jesus blessing small efforts — including the miraculous catch of fish in Luke 5.

One of his favorite verses is Proverbs 24:27: “Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.”

“This really motivates me to finish what I’m doing,” he said.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Daiva and Ilia Amosov



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EDWIN INSO

In the Philippines, Christians distribute food to people affected by Typhoon Ruby.

In the Philippines, church members become ‘first responders’ after typhoon

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Another year, another typhoon. In the Philippines, one of the world’s most disaster-prone nations, Typhoon Hagupit, also known as Ruby, claimed 18 lives and injured more than 900 people as it swept across the islands in early December. As the storm made landfall in the country’s Eastern Samar province, Christians who work with relief ministries waited anxiously for damage reports — ready to serve. “Two days before the typhoon, we purchased food and packed it to be ready to hand out after the storm,” said Mike Baumgartner, director of Disaster Assistance CoC. “That worked really well because we were ready as first responders.” The islands are home to an estimated 1,000 Churches of Christ, and church-supported ministries that serve after disasters have become adept at responding to typhoons, earthquakes and floods. Across the Philippines, Christians and their neighbors continue to recover from Typhoon Haiyan, or

Yolanda, which devastated the islands in November 2013. That storm claimed more than 3,600 lives and injured 12,000 people. Though Ruby was predicted to take a similar path to Yolanda, the storm veered north and caused little additional damage to areas impacted by Yolanda. Edwin Inso, a Filipino minister, distributes aid for Disaster Assistance CoC, which is working with six Churches of Christ in the Philippines and has a Bible study center — currently serving as housing for those who have lost homes, Inso said. Other church-supported ministries, including MARCH for Christ, a Filipino-led medical and relief ministry, also are providing aid. Many church members in Eastern Samar lost their homes, Inso said, and many are hungry. “Please continue praying for the relief efforts,” Inso said. “Right now we are only in phase one. Phase two will include building houses.” **FIND A LIST** of ministries accepting donations for Typhoon Ruby relief at www.christianchronicle.org.

TEAM P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E.

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Mark 10:27

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LESSON TITLES

- Lesson 1: **Shine God’s Light on Deception**—Deception is working in the heart of Saul of Tarsus to convince him that his persecution of the church is God’s will. Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E. goes to work to shed God’s light on a seemingly impossible situation. (Acts 9:1-19)
- Lesson 2: **Unlock Different Doors**—Different has been assigned to make it impossible for Peter to share the good news of Jesus with Gentiles. Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E. must step in to show that God loves people who are different from us. (Acts 10:1-48)
- Lesson 3: **Knock Out Doubt**—S.E.R.P.E.N.T. releases Doubt into the church group that is praying for Peter’s release from prison. Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E. soon has an impossible solution knocking on the church’s door. (Acts 12:1-19)
- Lesson 4: **Sing Discouragement Away**—Finding Paul and Silas in prison, Discouragement hopes to get the best of them. Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E. is able to overcome Discouragement and bring about an impossible turn of events. (Acts 16:16-34)
- Lesson 5: **Focus Amidst Distractions**—When the sailors see Paul’s promise of safety as an impossibility, Distraction goes to work to offer worldly alternatives. Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E. helps Paul to focus their hopes in God. (Acts 27:13-44)

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FERGUSON: Unrest draws black, white churches together



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Reola Davis, right, and other worshipers sing during a Sunday morning assembly of the Ferguson Heights Church of Christ in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Mo.

FROM PAGE 1
Ferguson Heights congregation has worked with other Churches of Christ to get food and monetary support to residents who barely could leave their apartments because of the large police and media presence, minister Conley Gibbs Jr. said.
At the same time, the unrest has prompted Church of Christ leaders of all races to meet together and discuss ways to make a positive difference, said Mike Root, minister for the Florissant Church of Christ, a 400-member, racially diverse congregation north of Ferguson.
“Jesus can heal us, Ferguson,” the Ferguson Heights church’s marquee sign proclaims.

HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS PROTEST?
In the aftermath of Brown’s Aug. 9 shooting death, Owens — a professional jazz singer with a voice recognized by many in St. Louis — said he has struggled with what his role should be.
“After all, I am an African-American man. I am the father of African-American men,” said Owens, who has four young sons and a daughter.
Unlike many of his fellow church members who commute to worship from 30 to 45 minutes away, Owens

also lives in Ferguson — a town of 21,000 where two-thirds of residents are black but all except three of the 50-plus police officers are white.
However, Owens said God impressed upon him that he should not use picket signs, anger or the government as his means of protest.
“We are not surprised by the lawlessness of man, the arrogance of politics, the irresponsibility of the media, the dishonesty of religious leaders, the false teaching of self-proclaimed modern prophets or the inability of government to bring justice, fairness, equality and peace to this world,” he said in his 45-minute sermon.



Owens

“Because, after all, it’s the same system that crucified the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.”
Historically, Church of Christ leaders have not taken an active role in fighting racial injustice in America, said Tanya Smith Brice, a black scholar in South Carolina. Notable exceptions include Alabama church elder and attorney Fred Gray, who represented civil rights icons Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.
“Heaven is our real home — that’s what folks said during the institution of slavery,” said Brice, a Church of



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK.COM

The community enjoys the #HealFerguson Concert for Peace and Unity, organized by church member Brian Owens in the Ferguson Heights congregation’s parking lot.

Christ member who serves as dean of education, health and human services at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C.
Brice counters that Christians ought to be active in disrupting a system in which blacks are much more likely than whites to be killed by police.
“I think that Christians should be in the streets and at the policy table to effect these changes,” she said.
“I think we should use the words of the prophets, from our sacred biblical texts, as support for what we do, as our voice against injustice.”



Brice

In the 1950s and 1960s, many black Churches of Christ failed to engage in the Civil Rights Movement, brushing aside such activism as a “social Gospel,” said James O. Maxwell, vice president for institutional expansion at historically black Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas.
Maxwell, who has preached for 56 years, said he sees an increased willingness today to engage in peaceful protests.
“Many blacks who are members of the church have gone to Ferguson just to be a part of the protests,” he said.
Retaliation and violence never

mix with the Christian way of life, Maxwell said.
But if the good people in a community remain silent, he said, “then that means the wrong can continue to go on.”
“You can protest by preaching the word of God,” Maxwell said. “But why should we enjoy the privileges of freedom if we didn’t make any sacrifices to make a difference?”
Owens stressed that he was not saying a Christian cannot be involved in the political process or take part in the American system of government.
However, he cautioned fellow Christians to remember that they are first and foremost citizens of heaven — not of the United States.
“Our kingdom is not of this world. We can’t be distracted by things of this world,” Owens said. “Our response is worship because it is through our worship that people see the glory of God. It is when we love without hypocrisy that people see the glory of God.”
‘I SAW MYSELF IN MICHAEL BROWN’
Ferguson Heights church member Herbert Lomax Jr. grew up near where Brown was killed.
“I saw myself in Michael Brown because that could have very easily been me in that situation, had it not been for the grace of God,” he said.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

The marquee sign at the Ferguson Heights Church of Christ in Ferguson, Mo., voices confidence that Jesus can heal a community riveted by protests and violence.

Rather than join an organized protest, Lomax said he decided to collect school supplies for poor children in Ferguson. He asked fellow Christians to help him.

“The protests, there’s a place for that,” Lomax said. “But to me, a lot of it seemed very unorganized.

“I feel like it’s hard to give hope to somebody when they’re already grown and hopeless,” he said. “It’s better to start in their formative years, and one way I figured I could do that is by something as basic as school supplies.”

Ferguson Heights deacon Ken Anderson, who lives in Fairview Heights, Ill., said he doesn’t see anything wrong with protesting.

But Anderson, who is black, wonders about the priorities of some of the protesters.

“One of my biggest concerns is, when will we, as a black community, stop killing each other?” said Anderson, pointing to the prevalence of black-on-black slayings. “I know that this is a separate issue (from police shootings), but they’re not so separate in my mind.”

Why, he asked, doesn’t drug and gang violence draw the same kind of outrage as the police-involved shootings?

“There’s a lot of angles to all of this,” he said, “and at the root of it

is the devil.”

Another Ferguson Heights deacon, Joe Douglas, said he joined a march to City Hall.

“We went down, and we sang hymns, and we talked about change,” Douglas said. “It was peaceful, and it was effective. I think people listened to it.”

For his part, Owens used his connections as a recording artist to organize the #HealFerguson Concert for Peace and Unity. The event, held on a Sunday night, drew a racially mixed crowd of about 300 to the Ferguson Heights church parking lot.

The concert got front-page coverage in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where Owens described the goal as “healing through engagement.” He said he hoped to recruit 100 new volunteers for a local youth initiative.

“I’m not saying what other people should do,” Owens told *The Christian Chronicle*. “I’m saying, for me, if I’m going to minister to the community, the way I see it being most effective is we as a church being healthy, living lives that glorify God, and then being open to the opportunities that he brings us to impact the community.”

WEB EXCLUSIVE: Church leaders from across the nation share insight on the Ferguson protests. See www.christianchronicle.org.

‘I WISH THE NEWS CAMERAS WERE UP HERE LOOKING AT US’

50-50 split: A Ferguson-area church models racial diversity

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

FLORISSANT, Mo. — As national media attention focuses on neighboring Ferguson, minister Mike Root looks into the faces of the 400-member Florissant Church of Christ and sees an almost equal mix of whites and blacks.

“I think our biggest role is to model Christ-like behavior to each other,” said Root, discussing the racial unrest and protests — some violent — that have made headlines since Michael Brown, an 18-year-old black suspect, was shot to death by Darren Wilson, a white Ferguson police officer, on Aug. 9. “The Sunday after all that first happened back in August, I told the church here, ‘I wish the news cameras were up here looking at us.’”

What would the cameras see?

“They would see something very different because we love each other, and we care about each other, and we don’t even agree on everything politically,” said Root, the Florissant preacher for 10 years. “I think we are able to look beyond that, which you have to do to be a multiracial church. We have to have compromise and balance. That’s going to have to be reflected in our community, but we have to model it.”

The church has six black elders and six white elders.

Two of those elders — Stan Williams and Leonard Payne — said the congregation prays fervently for Ferguson and provides support for the Ferguson Heights Church of Christ, which intensified its benevolence program after the turmoil started in that community.

“I am so pleased that over the 35 years I have been here, this church has already been so far ahead of time in dealing with the fact that this surrounding community and



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Stan Williams and Leonard Payne are among 12 elders of the racially diverse Florissant church, north of Ferguson.

the demographics have changed,” said Faye Williams, Stan’s wife.

“Sunday, generally speaking for most churches, is the one day of the week where there is more separation of Christians than any other time, and that is just ridiculous.”

Member George Barnes, a retired crane operator, said the Florissant church comes together to worship and has no real issues as far as race is concerned.

“I pray a lot that people on both sides will come together,” Barnes, who is black, said of the situation in Ferguson. “You got bad people, and you got good people, on each side.”

A white police officer — a Florissant member who has worked overtime since the St. Louis-area protests started — said the congregation emphasizes respect for differing opinions.

“We are Christians, and we’re taught to love everybody,” said the officer, a father of three who asked not to be identified out of concern for his family’s safety. “We don’t judge anybody on their opinions, so I think that if there were other congregations that were diverse like this, it would help.”

The officer said he carries his respect for all people into his job.

“I’m not allowed to really express my religious opinions as a police officer,” he said. “I just have to go out there and act like a Christian while I’m doing my job.”



Faye Williams

FERGUSON MINISTER Conley Gibbs Jr. discusses the realities not captured by television cameras *'This is not a race issue, it is a humanity issue'*

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

In the midst of violence and turmoil, Conley Gibbs Jr. seeks to be a voice of reason and compassion.

He serves as minister for the Ferguson Heights Church of Christ in Missouri, a 200-member congregation near the epicenter of clashes between protesters, rioters and police after the Aug. 9 shooting death of Michael Brown, an 18-year-old black man, by Darren Wilson, a white Ferguson police officer. In recent weeks, church members have helped people in their community, providing for the needs of those who have found their access to shopping blocked by police or the National Guard.

Conley preached his first sermon at age 12, under the guidance of minister David C. Penn, at the Robbins Church of Christ, near Chicago. He earned a bachelor's in human development from Amridge University in Alabama and a master's in organizational leadership from St. Ambrose University in Iowa. He worked in student services at Robert Morris University in Chicago and transitioned to full-time ministry.

He served Churches of Christ in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan before moving to Ferguson Heights two years ago. He serves on committees including the advisory board of the National Lectureship, the largest gathering of predominantly black Churches of Christ in the nation.

He has published a book on marriage: "A Symphony: Creating the Sound of Marital Harmony." He and his wife have a son, a student at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, and a daughter who attends college in St. Louis.

In recent months, "Ferguson" has become a synonym for racial tension. How do you and members of the Ferguson Heights church feel about that?

In reality, this is not a race issue. It is a humanity issue.

We want to make sure that human dignity, respect and concern trump any efforts to minimize this to an issue simply of race.

If race is indeed the issue to be addressed, then it should be addressed within the context of the



LYNN McMILLON

Conley Gibbs Jr. stands on the campus of Oklahoma Christian University, where he spoke recently about faith and Ferguson. Radio news outlets and the BBC have interviewed Conley in the wake of the shooting and protests. "I welcome these opportunities," he said, "because my role gives the Lord's church greater visibility."

bigger issue — a heart issue — that results from the corruption from sin.

We've seen images of violence in Ferguson on our TV sets. What are the cameras not showing?

The media gives the impression that this issue has polarized race relations. I do not believe all African-Americans have the same view. Neither do I believe that about all Caucasians.

In fact, the news would have you believe all the protesters are African-American and that all the Caucasians are outraged about the protests. There is a vast, considerable number of Caucasians of all ages who participated in the protests. Many Caucasians share the concern about excessive policing, economic disparity and the injustice they witness in the treatment of others.

If people think that only the

African-American community is outraged by what happened, I invite them to come and see for themselves that this is not just an issue being addressed by one race of people.

As the Queen of Sheba states after she witnesses firsthand the splendor of King Solomon, half of the story has not been told.

Tell us about the Ferguson Heights church and its connection to the community.

We are blessed to have a well-blended demographic of individuals by way of age, profession and background. We really do have a great blend — younger and older people, blue-collar workers and high-level professionals.

Also, we have a lot of people who grew up in the Churches of Christ and a great number who were converted from denominations. This allows us

to operate with a greater sense of balance in how we view matters.

Even though most of our members do not live in Ferguson, we do feel connected to the plight of this community. After all, we not only worship in Ferguson, but we also share concern with the brokenness experienced by those around us.

This case has brought about a greater visibility for the church because of our geographical proximity to the incident. We have been asked by a number of organizations and community interests to be a resource for social improvement. This has allowed us to access resources, contacts and opportunities like never before.

I have reminded the congregation of Mordecai's words to Queen Esther in the Old Testament, believing that God has called us to the Kingdom for a time such as this.

We do not consider our role "special" in the sense of our significance, but we do consider it special in that we have to fulfill God's purpose by serving those around us.

Tell us about the recent prayer service hosted by Ferguson Heights.

In the wake of this unfortunate tragedy, the hearts of African-American and Caucasian members have been awakened to the need for spiritual healing and renewal.

We held a multiracial prayer service that brought hundreds of members from churches all around the area. Now we are doing more together than we have in the immediate past.

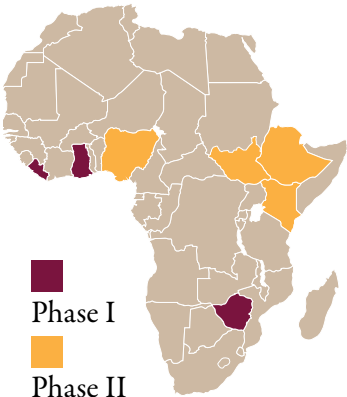
How have you seen these events impact the church's members?

I see our members eager to help and wanting to be involved in real solutions — not just the rhetoric.

Whenever an opportunity to help has presented itself, we've had a tremendous response from our members. That shows they care beyond mere words.

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COMMENTS SOLICITED FOR ACCREDITING AGENCY

Harding University is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit Feb. 16-17, 2015, by a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Harding has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1954. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the University:
Public Comment on Harding University
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential.

All comments must be received by January 17, 2015.

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Members of the chorus at LivingStone International University sing during an opening convocation for the 2014-15 school year. The Christian university opened in 2012.

Building Africa's future

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY in Uganda seeks to meet the continent's demand for higher learning with faith-based education

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MBALE, Uganda

Jenga! The tower of wood blocks collapses on the white plastic table as Anita Ngadie screams with delight.

It's lunchtime at LivingStone International University, a new, faith-based school in this East African town. And Ngadie, a 22-year-old Christian ministry major, is the self-appointed ambassador of goodwill.

With an ever-present smile, she flits from table to table in an outdoor courtyard as her classmates tuck into steaming plates of beans, mashed

root and chapati (flatbread). She sells them bowls of fruit salad and bottles of ginger beer she made herself. (Don't refuse. You're having some.)



Ngadie

And, on occasion, she offers free advice on which block to nudge on the precarious tower.

Jenga — like Ngadie — has roots in West Africa, where inventor Leslie Scott named it after a Swahili word that means “to build.” Ngadie brought it here from her native Sierra Leone, where she grew up in a Christian

orphanage run by Americans. There she prayed, studied her Bible and developed an abiding love for Christ — and a fondness for Parker Brothers.

Now her home is 3,200 miles away and impossible to visit, due to the deadly Ebola outbreak.

But LivingStone “is just like family,” she says. “They teach us Jesus in our lectures, in our leisure time.

“I so love this school.”

It's one of a handful of higher education campuses in Africa associated with Churches of Christ and the congregations of the Restoration Movement.

Christianity has flourished on the

CONTINUED



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

During her lunch break, LivingStone student Evelyn Majer plays Jenga.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

LivingStone students check schedules to find their classrooms.

CONTINUED
continent in the past century, and ministry training programs here struggle to keep up with demand for preachers. Even greater is the struggle to produce self-sustaining churches and ministries, free from dependency on foreign finances.

For more than two decades, the Mbale Mission Team has worked among the people of eastern Uganda, helping establish a network of some 500 churches.

The team “recognized the need of lifting up Christ in places of higher education in Africa,” says Daryl Bates, a former missionary in Kenya who teaches Bible and Greek part time at LivingStone.

The average age of Uganda’s 37.5 million souls is less than 16,

according to population estimates. Many can’t afford the fees for secondary school — much less university. Options are limited for those who achieve the “O” and “A” levels required for higher learning.

In eastern Uganda, one of the largest is an Islamic university system with 6,000 students.

LivingStone seems tiny by comparison, with a student body of 115, served by 13 faculty and 36 staff. Most are African. Some are missionaries from the U.S., supported by Churches of Christ and Christian Churches. Congregations including The Hills Church of Christ in North Richland Hills, Texas, and the Quaker Avenue Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, help support the work.

LivingStone International University
Mbale, Uganda, East Africa
Founded: 2012
Website: livingstone.ac.ug

SO YOU WANT TO ATTEND CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IN AFRICA ...

IF YOU GROW UP IN AFRICA and are able to attend a college of any kind, you’re one of the lucky ones. In the East African nation of Uganda, each year tens of thousands of academically qualified students are unable to enroll because of a lack of facilities, according to the founders of LivingStone International University, which opened its doors to its first class on Jan. 16, 2012. Here are a few snapshots of campus life:



EMILY RENKEN

Your campus

LivingStone shares space with Messiah Theological Institute. The school’s partners have purchased 56 acres of land in Mbale and plan to build a permanent campus there.

Johnson Balye, a third-year Christian ministry major, acknowledges that he was a bit disappointed when he saw the campus. But he quickly gained a love for the small, close-knit family of faith. His sister attends a large university in Uganda’s capital, Kampala, and has never met her university’s vice chancellor. Bayle sits next to his at lunch.



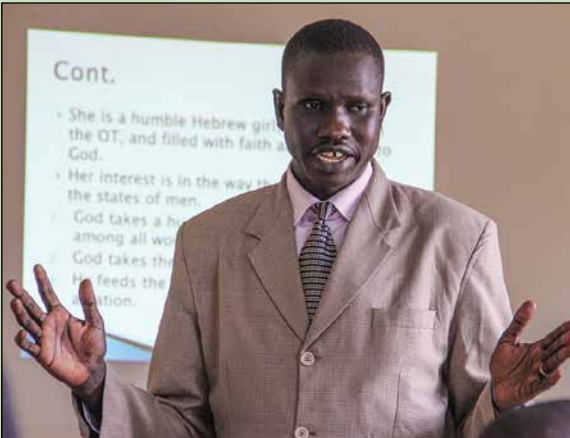
EMILY RENKEN

Your classmates

At LivingStone, many students were orphaned at a young age. Some have overcome addiction or survived war.

David Ojera came to LivingStone from northern Uganda. His father had two wives and was killed by the Lord’s Resistance Army, a rebel force, led by Joseph Kony, that turned boys into gun-carrying killers. Ojera grew up hiding from the LRA and eventually moved to a refugee camp. There he sat outside a crowded classroom, trying to overhear as much of the lessons as possible. He persevered and now is a workstudy student at the university.

“I have learned what being an orphan is,” Ojera says. “I pray God will raise me purposely to stand for the needy.”



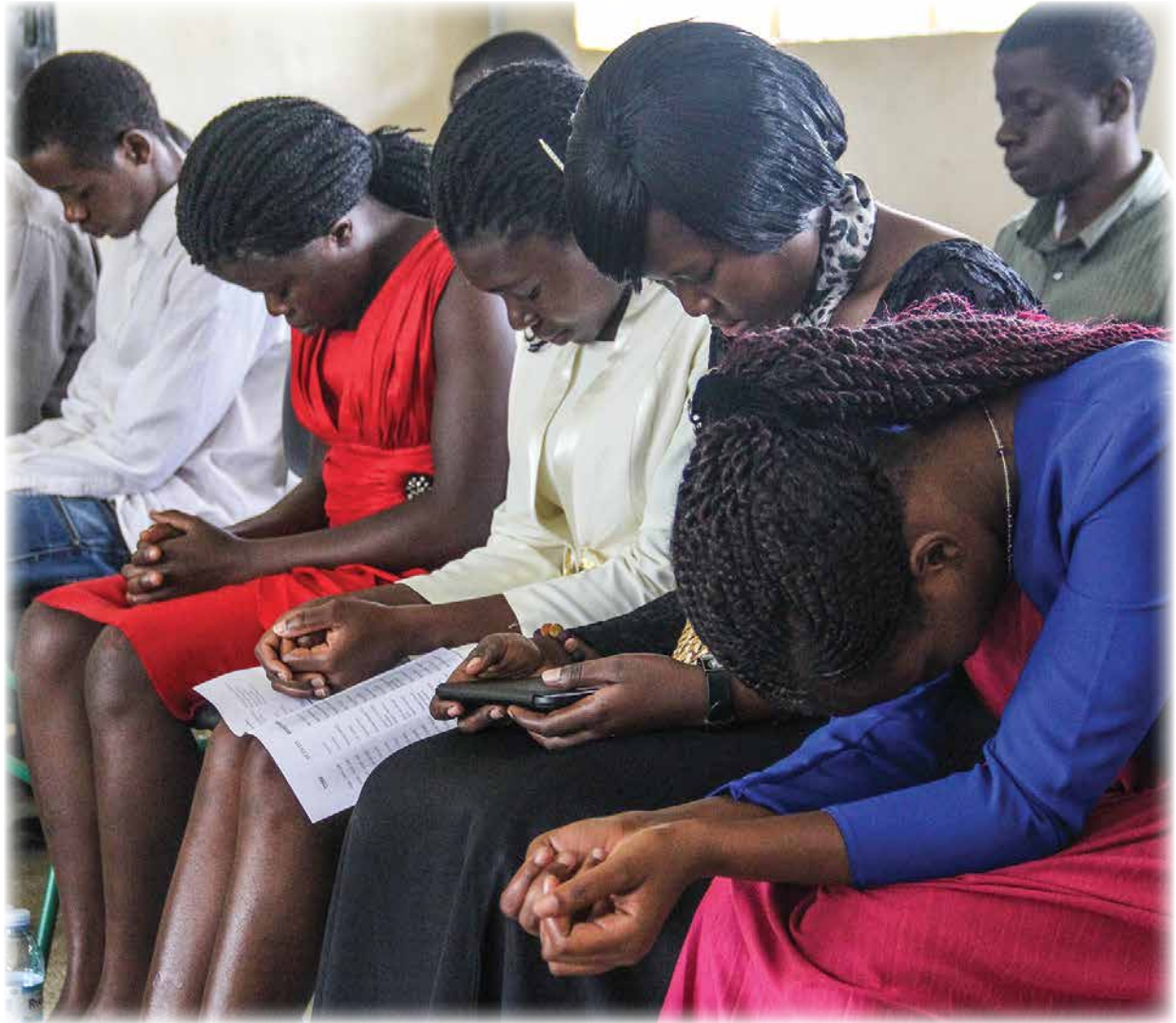
ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Your professors

Instructors at LivingStone bring real-world experience to their jobs — including battlefield experience.

Zechariah Manyok Biar served as a chaplain in the Sudan People’s Liberation Army during the decades-long conflict with his country’s predominantly Muslim north. Educated at Abilene Christian University, he worked as a government official for the new nation of South Sudan before moving to Uganda.

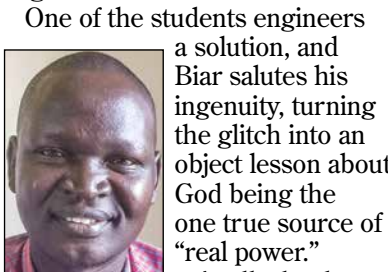
“He’s a professional,” says one of his students, Musa Wanyoni. “I have really been inspired by his testimony — the hardship he has gone through in South Sudan and his heart for Christ.”



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Incoming freshmen pray at the conclusion of LivingStone International University’s fourth convocation.

In one of them, professor Zechariah Manyok Biar fiddles with the damaged power cord of an overhead projector as he begins his “Life of Christ” class.



Chebet

Sudan, Biar once fought for the liberation of his nation against the predominantly Muslim north. Educated at Abilene Christian University in Texas, he doesn’t lecture the students but asks them questions about amino acids, the primordial soup and

the ability of God to create life.

It’s not a typical teaching style at African universities, says Patrick Chebet, the university’s dean of students. Most focus on lecture and memorization.



Grenier

Chebet also studied in Texas, at Lubbock Christian University. The campus culture in the U.S. is very different from Africa, he says, remembering the shock of seeing “young ladies wearing pajamas to class. “Here, that is abominable,” he jokes. But the teaching style in the U.S., which encourages discussion and problem solving, is something faculty at LivingStone strive to adopt, he adds. The small class

size gives instructors the chance to know their students. Many are from children’s homes. Some have lived through wars. Counseling and spiritual encouragement are part of every staffer’s job.

Chebet shares his office with Dan Grenier, a youth and family ministry student at Abilene Christian University. He hopes to help the students launch a campus ministry.

“Students here really have a passion for leadership,” Grenier says. “There’s never a lack of preachers for devotionals.”

He sees many similarities — and a few stark differences — as he experiences Christian education on a new continent.

Back at ACU, one of the biggest complaints he heard on weekends was the lack of available washers and dryers for laundry. “Here,

they wash their clothes by hand,” he says. “That’s humbling.”

A UNIVERSITY ‘BORN OUT OF PRAYER’

As classes end and the students return to their dormitories, security guard Joseph Mulako walks the campus, securing the computer labs.

He doesn’t own a computer or know the first thing about them, he says, but his daughter does.

He beams as he talks about Juliet, a third-year

information technology major at LivingStone. He never dreamed he could afford a college education for her — much less one in a

Christ-centered environment.

“This school is shepherding our children,” says Mulako, who attends the Mbale Church of Christ on campus. He prays for

the day when his daughter will be an alumna — able and willing to use the money she earns to support the university and the church.

As they become wage earners, Rosemary Matovu prays that the students will fight against the corruption and lust for money she sees too often in her homeland.

Matovu, 66, is a caretaker for the female students and works in the school’s business office.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Campus guard Joseph Mulako and his daughter, Juliet.

“The students who live here, they will not be like other students,” she says, “because God will have worked on their personal lives.”

“When I asked God, ‘Why did you bring me here?’ God showed

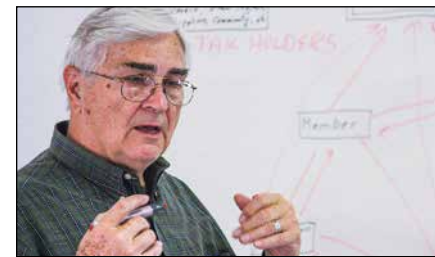


Matovu

me a baby in nappies,” she says, using the British term for diapers. The Lord wants her “to raise them from nowhere,” mentoring them in the faith, she says. “Whatever I share with the girls is from the Bible.”

LivingStone “was born out of prayer,” she adds, “and the glory of God will be seen in this university.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, and to learn how to partner with the university, see **www.livingstoneuniversity.org**.



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGSTAD

African Christian College, once known as Mazini Bible School, trains students from eight nations from South Africa to Kenya. Alumni serve in more than a dozen countries.

‘Gifts of the hand, head and heart’

AT AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, *a new generation of church and community leaders ponders development and dependency*

BY KELLY BARNECHE | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

TUBUNGU, Swaziland

The poor and the rich are God's people — and God has good plans for all of us.

Daniel Chesebe, a man of few words, shared that thought as he reflected on a Community Development course at African Christian College. He was one of seven students in this tiny, southern African kingdom who spent two weeks exploring questions vital to the continent's future leaders:

Who are the poor? What is holistic ministry? How can we help motivate people who feel powerless? Is foreign assistance required?

Brad Carter, the college's president, asked me to teach the students, who have served as preachers, educators and missionaries in countries including Burundi, Kenya, Swaziland and Zambia. Since 1967, the college, associated with Churches of Christ, has prepared Christian men and women for lives of service across the continent.

I pulled a lot from my experience as a social worker for faith-based, community-based and non-governmental organizations that serve refugees, asylum seekers and survivors of torture and trafficking.

This was my first teaching experience and, despite the long hours, I looked forward to our discussions.

I really enjoyed seeing the students connect the reading material and lectures to their own experiences.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Community Development class at African Christian College included (top row, from left) Ntokozo Samuels, Sean Boehrig, Salomon Ntibaharire, Dennis Chintelwe and Roberts Kirui and (front row) Daniel Chesebe, Kelly Barneche and McDonald Chanda.

They were passionate, engaged and — as ministers and community leaders — eager to ask questions and share about their lives and work.

It's one thing to read high-profile economists debating the pros and cons of foreign assistance to Africa (which we did), but it's another to hear from students who have experienced the good and bad of this assistance firsthand.

Salomon Ntibaharire, for example, had lived as a refugee and saw NGOs at work. They made a lot of mistakes, he said, especially when they made decisions on behalf of the community without getting input.

African Christians can make the same mistakes, said Chesebe, who encourages dropouts to return to school as part of his ministry. For years he had little success with this

effort, finally realizing that he was not adequately convincing other members of the students' families of the necessity of education.

Dependency was a theme that came up throughout the class. The students all knew of projects that thrived while the benefactors were present but came trampling down as soon as they left.

We talked about ways that community developers can work alongside church members instead of making decisions for them. We recognized that development projects need to help communities grow in a variety of ways — socially, economically, politically, physically, mentally, culturally and spiritually — without creating dependence on outside supporters.

It is possible. Patience and humility are required. Practitioners must be prepared to help the community iden-

tify its own needs, let the community choose who should represent its interests at all stages of decision-making, remain open to feedback and criticism from the community, and maintain full transparency regarding the project's vision and details.

As Christians, we believe that people made in God's image make up each community — and that God has gifted all people with intellectual, emotional and physical abilities that can be used for the benefit of our neighbors. When people employ their gifts, they achieve a sense of ownership.

We also trust that community development bears witness to the Good News by radically transforming community members' relationships with themselves, each other, their environment and, most importantly, with God. Addressing the physical, economic, relational and environmental situations a person faces — in the name of Jesus — communicates that God cares about the whole person and that we, as his followers, should do the same.

One student, Roberts Kirui, said his takeaway from the class was that we all should use “gifts of the hand, head and heart” as we serve developing communities.

Another student, Ntokozo Samuels said that, when we use these gifts, those we serve will “see practical evidences of what God is doing through us as we touch people's lives, giving them hope, water and food.”

KELLY BARNECHE, the daughter of missionaries to Brazil, earned a master's in social work from Columbia University in New York. She and her husband live in Lausanne, Switzerland.



HARDING

U N I V E R S I T Y

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

CANNON-CLARY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. Seeking full-time faculty member in the area of technology/educational generalist beginning fall 2015. The successful candidate will have an earned doctorate in instructional design and technology or closely related area and should have teaching experience in a K-12 school setting. Experience teaching in higher education with research and statistics is preferred. Experience working with accrediting agencies such as CAEP would be helpful. Candidates should hold a current teaching license. Responsibilities include advising, serving on committees and other assigned tasks. In addition, the successful candidate will also serve as technology facilitator.

Submit introductory letter, curriculum vitae and contact information to Dr. Donny Lee, associate dean, at dlee@harding.edu or Box 12254, Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149.

PAUL R. CARTER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. Seeking full-time faculty member to serve as director of finance program. The successful candidate will possess a doctorate degree or have a clear plan to complete that degree. Work and teaching experience is preferred. Responsibilities include administrative duties and teaching undergraduate and graduate classes in finance.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Bryan Burks, dean, at bburks@harding.edu or Box 10774, Searcy, AR 72149.

COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MINISTRY. Seeking full-time faculty member to teach youth and family ministry. An M.Div. and a Ph.D. in youth and family ministry or a related field is preferred. Candidates should also bring significant congregational experience in youth and family ministry. The faculty member in this position will also teach freshmen and sophomore textual Bible.

Submit applications to Dr. Monte Cox, dean, at mcox@harding.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES. Seeking full-time faculty member for the Criminal Justice Program. Requirements are a master's in criminal justice with a doctorate preferred. J.D. degree with prosecutorial duties is a plus. Teaching duties will be solely in criminal justice including course content in the areas of forensics, investigation and terrorism.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Terry Smith, chair, at tsmith@harding.edu or Box 12260, Searcy, AR 72149.

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

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Ronald Smith, chair, at rgsmith@harding.edu or Box 10764, Searcy, AR 72149.

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

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

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

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

ADDITIONAL OPENINGS ANTICIPATED

Due to increasing enrollments and anticipated retirements, Harding expects to have additional openings in graphic design, mass communication and mechanical engineering. Graphic design candidates will have a background in print design with a strong emphasis in Web, mobile and app design. M.F.A. required with a minimum of five years studio/agency experience. Mass communication candidates will have skills in digital and visual communication including design, social media, photo and video production and editing, and motion graphics. A terminal degree is preferred, but applicants with strong professional experience or A.B.D. candidates will also be considered. A minimum of three years professional experience is preferred. Mechanical engineering candidates must have a Ph.D. Individuals interested in any of these positions should contact Dr. Larry Long, provost, at provost@harding.edu to obtain more information. These openings will be filled as funding is approved.

Managing Couple Needed

Partners In Progress is seeking a couple to manage the *Ship of Life* in Cambodia.

Personnel management experience would be helpful.

For further information contact us at:

PIPWEM@aol.com

MINISTER WANTED

The Ypsilanti church of Christ, located in Ypsilanti, Mich., is seeking to fill our vacant minister position; this includes pulpit, class and evangelistic duties. We are a diverse congregation with a current average Sunday a.m. attendance of 130.

If you desire to be considered for this position, please submit your resume with three sermons (audio and/or video) to:

ypsicofc@gmail.com

For further information contact:
Bob Bowen (elder) at (734) 482-6213.

Full-Time Minister

The Aberdeen Church of Christ is seeking a full-time minister who will help us grow spiritually and reach the lost of our area. We desire a married man, preferably with children.

Mail resume and recent sermon to:

Aberdeen Church of Christ
5121 Olympic Highway
Aberdeen, WA 98520

For further information contact:

Roger Brumfield
360-580-6331 or rogerwb@comcast.net

MINISTER WANTED

Florence Boulevard Church of Christ is looking for a sound, spiritually motivated minister who can deliver in-depth and challenging lessons, enjoys working with people and can demonstrate a life of love and care for others.

Please email or mail resume and 2 lessons on CD or DVD to:

elders@florenceblvd.org
2502 Florence Blvd.
Florence, AL 35630

More details in our ad on *The Chronicle* website.

PENNSYLVANIA: Voice of molester's son 'has to be heard'

FROM PAGE 3

While his father — inmate No. KP7163 — serves a 30- to 60-year sentence in Rockview State Prison, Jimmy Hinton works to help heal his home congregation and create awareness far beyond Somerset, a town of 6,300 about 75 miles east of Pittsburgh.

"Jimmy's voice has to be heard," said Harold Shank, president of Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., who attended Oklahoma Christian University with John Hinton and considered him a good friend. "Jimmy has certainly undertaken the mission of informing congregations of the dangers and also letting people know how to respond when things like this do occur."

Jimmy Hinton has spoken on sexual abuse of children at Ohio Valley University's lectureship and the Tulsa Workshop in Oklahoma. He and an associate, Jon Uhler, have launched a website at churchprotect.org.

"When I go and do seminars on abuse, I say, 'If you're looking for the weird guy who's hiding in the bushes or even the guy that's awkward to be around, you're looking in the wrong place,'" said Hinton, who earned a bachelor's degree in Bible from Harding University in Searcy, Ark., in 2001 and a master of divinity degree from Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn., in 2007. "By definition, a successful pedophile is somebody that you would least expect."

A MASTER MANIPULATOR

His father's secret forced Jimmy Hinton to rethink his entire life — and even his view of God.

"I wish I could stand here and tell you that Dad was a deadbeat, that he was an alcoholic, that he was physically and verbally abusive," he said. "Because if he was all of those things, it would be a little easier to wrap your mind around how he was able to do the things that he did. But he wasn't any of those things."

John Hinton was a master manipulator.

A father of four young girls told *The Christian Chronicle* he was looking for spiritual support when



PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

Elders Elton "Tex" Blenden, left, and Bob Martin, right, join the Somerset Church of Christ in prayer. The southwestern Pennsylvania congregation enacted a new child protection policy after John Hinton's arrest.

he met John Hinton. The man had divorced his wife and received custody of the girls after she physically abused them. Little did he know that John Hinton would victimize them again.

"I just thought he wanted to be my friend," said the father, whose name is being withheld to protect the identity of his daughters, who were sexually assaulted. "I even asked him one time to be my mentor because I was going through so much stuff that I was getting angry with God and wasn't doing very well with my faith walk."

John Hinton exploited the family's vulnerability, showering the girls with gifts and — under the guise of giving the single father a break — volunteering to keep the girls overnight.

"If I could get ahold of him today, I'd kill him," the girls' father said.

But the father described Jimmy Hinton as "an amazing man of God."

"Romans says that all things work together for good," the victims' dad

said. "I told Jimmy, 'If there's any good that comes out of this, it's because of what you've done.'"

The elder Hinton was not prosecuted in numerous other cases, including some in which the statute of limitations had expired, said Somerset Borough police officer Ruth Beckner, who investigated the allegations.

Beckner praised Jimmy Hinton's effort to shine a light on the problem.

"He is making a big difference," the detective said. "People that work in law enforcement see it a lot and are aware of things. ... People in the public don't see what we see, so they're not aware of things that happen."

DEVILS DRESSED AS 'ANGELS'

The trusting nature of Christians and the frequent need for volunteers such as Sunday school teachers can make churches easy prey, said Shank, longtime national spokesman for the Christian Child and Family Services Association.

"The New Testament warns us that the devil is wise and cunning, and clearly, this would be a prime example of that," Shank said. "We do know that there are people who are not what they seem to be, and they many times come dressed as angels of light."

"I certainly don't think we need to start a witch hunt or become suspicious of every person. I just think we need to be prudent," he added, noting that many churches require criminal background checks before someone can interact with children.

A background check would not have turned up a negative report on John Hinton. Still, a new policy at the Somerset church requires background checks, at least two adults in each children's class and locked doors on every unoccupied room. Doors must remain open during classes.

"It may be overkill, but I don't mind overkill when it comes to protecting our children," said elder Bob Martin, a retired police officer.

‘EMOTIONALLY, I WAS DESTROYED’
Like many of the 80 souls who make up the Somerset church, Jennifer Riggs said she came to Christ because of John Hinton. “Because he was very knowledgeable and very well versed, I hung on every word John preached,” said Riggs, 35. “It definitely made me question a lot of things,” she said of his arrest. “But then, I had to realize that all those things are still true that he taught me, and the things I know are still true even though it came from a convicted felon.”



Riggs

While the congregation’s recovery remains ongoing, she said, “I think we’ve healed a whole lot faster than we ever would have because of Jimmy.” As a teenager, Jimmy Hinton worked on a 300-acre dairy farm owned by Jeff Miller’s grandfather. Miller later followed Jimmy Hinton to Harding and became a Christian. “I’ve seen a man kind of question it all,” Miller said of his friend’s response to his dad’s sins. “I can remember the night he told me. We sat here and cried together. I’ve seen a brother kind of go through the lament and be tested and come out with a faith that isn’t the health-

and-wealth Gospel, but it’s been refined by the fire.” Natalie Hinton, Jimmy’s wife and the mother of their two children, Eden, 4, and Cameron, 1, said she’d be happy never to see John Hinton again. However, her husband has not abandoned his dad. Jimmy Hinton still writes his father and occasionally makes the 120-mile drive to visit him in prison. “I have a lot of anger, and it’s hard,” Jimmy Hinton said. “But I can’t erase the fact that he’s my father.”

Behind bars, John Hinton is active with a Christian hymn choir and Bible studies, said Shank, who also has visited him. “Are there signs of remorse? Yes,” Shank said. “Are there indications that he doesn’t understand what he’s done? Yes.” Even from prison, the pedophile preacher has sent letters seeking pictures of children and expressing “love” for the girls he molested, said Jimmy Hinton and the victims’ father. Despite his father’s betrayal, Jimmy Hinton said his faith remains strong. “But emotionally, I was destroyed,” he said. “I still struggle with the identity issue because I’m still trying to separate what was real and what was fake and what was manipulation throughout my whole childhood. I still don’t know.”



Elder Bob Martin, left, teaches a youth class at the Somerset church. Terry Strobe, right, serves as Martin’s helper. The church requires at least two adults in each class.

Tips for protecting kids from sexual predators

By Jimmy Hinton, minister, Somerset Church of Christ

1. **EDUCATE KIDS:** Teaching a child to say, “No, I’m telling!” is the most effective way to deter an abuser. We teach fire safety, tornado safety, pedestrian safety, etc., but not sex abuse safety.
2. **CREATE BOUNDARIES/POLICIES:** Parents should create appropriate boundaries for their kids and demand that schools, churches and daycares respect them. Policies must have clear guidelines for reporting suspected abuse.
3. **EDUCATE ADULTS:** Our Christian colleges and graduate schools are not training church leaders how to detect, prevent or deal with the aftermath of abuse. There is good reason why churches remain an easy target for abusers.
4. **ACCEPT REALITY:** Denial that abuse occurs in our churches has greatly multiplied the number of victims being abused.

EXPANDED LIST: www.jimmyhinton.org



Preacher Jimmy Hinton, who discovered his father John Wayne Hinton was a child molester, visits with church member David Swain after a Sunday morning assembly.

THE
PAPERLESS
HYMNAL

1 - Be Thou My Vision

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Naught be all else to me save that Thou art,

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972-524-3341, ext. 161, swccadmissions@yahoo.com.

For online classes, contact the online coordinator, Dr. Joyce Cathey, at:
972-524-3341, ext. 110, jcath@swcc.edu.

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BIBLE CAMPS

CAMP BLUE HAVEN

LAS VEGAS, N.M. — A recent special banquet in Amarillo, Texas, honored Camp Blue Haven founder Scotty and his wife, June.

In 1956, Scotty Witt, his two Abilene Christian University roommates, Guy Sullivan and O. G. Lanier, and two other charter board members purchased the Flying B Guest Ranch, 1,083 acres adjacent to the Santa Fe National Forest near Las Vegas, N.M.

Since 1957, 48,233 campers have attended, and 3,084 campers have been baptized. Three new staff cabins were completed last spring. Three new buildings are on the drawing board.

HIGHER EDUCATION

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — President Billy Hilyer said he is “very shocked and disappointed” after the off-campus shooting death of Ryan Brooks, a student who played football for the university, and the arrest of three other student-athletes, Marshall Wall, Ronnie Williams and Tabias Russell.

According to court documents, the four students attempted to enter the home of another Faulkner student and former athlete in an attempt to steal illegal drugs. The homeowner shot Brooks in self-defense.

Hilyer promised decisive action to assess the scope of drug-related issues on campus, including a more rigorous drug-testing policy for athletes, a review of the vetting process for prospective students and a confidential process for reporting activity involving drugs.

“This tragic incident is completely counter to everything that we stand for at Faulkner,” Hilyer said. “Faulkner University is a Christian university, not only in name but in the way we conduct ourselves, as an example of Jesus Christ.”

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — Freed-Hardeman University canceled a scheduled appearance by comedian Bill Cosby at its Dec. 5 fundraising dinner.

Recent sexual assault allegations against Cosby “overshadowed the



BARRETT STINSON, THE GRAND ISLAND INDEPENDENT (NEBRASKA)

Nebraska church helps with community's homeless project

While looking for clothing, Laura Guardiola, center, holds her daughter, Mia Alvarez, 4 months, during a clothing distribution in conjunction with Project Homeless Connect at the Stolley Park Church of Christ in Grand Island, Neb. The project is a one-day, one-stop event where people can receive a wide variety of immediate, on-site services and support. For more information, see theindependent.com.

FHU Benefit Dinner's mission of helping students,” said university spokeswoman Dawn Bramblett.

Dr. Ben Carson, a renowned neurosurgeon, author and political commentator, spoke instead at the 50th annual dinner.

“I thank our board and administrative team, who have sought wisdom in carrying out this milestone celebration,” President Joe Wiley said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BOB TURNER

Don and Evelyn Meredith were honored for their years of service to Harding.

HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Harding School of Theology honored Don and Evelyn Meredith at a recent dinner

celebrating the 50th anniversary of the school's library, built in 1964.

The Merediths have served Harding for a combined 80 years, and Don is one of only two people who have served as the library's director. The other was Annie May Alson Lewis. The Merediths continue to work in the library.

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

VIRUNGA VALLEY ACADEMY

MUSANZE, Rwanda — School is in session for the Virunga Valley Academy Silverbacks. The international school, taught by American teachers, recently welcomed 17 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12.

“We believe VWA will be a blessing to our community and city,” missionaries Matt and Andrea Miller said, allowing them to “provide a solid platform from which to continue our discipleship and leadership-training ministry.” The couple seeks teachers for the 2015-16 school year. See virungavalleyacademy.org.

SPOTLIGHT

Elevator music for Addy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Students at Nashville Christian School heard that a sister school, Columbia Academy, was raising money to install an elevator for a first-grader who is in a wheelchair because of a car accident.

NCS joined the cause and used a school musical to raise \$4,000 toward the \$60,000 needed for the elevator for Addy Elkins, Columbia Academy President James A. Thomas said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EMILY LANSDELL

Addy Elkins, center, with NCS students Kassidy Perez, left, and Olivia Charnes.



Central Texas Children's Home Seeking Executive Director

Job Summary: Responsible for the administrative, business and logistical operations of Central Texas Children's Home

Job Qualifications: Must be a faithful member of the Church of Christ. Master's Degree preferred with a minimum of five years' experience in the field of child care, preferable, as an administrator. Must have a valid Child Care Administrator's License issued by the State of Texas or be qualified to be licensed by the State of Texas. Must have public speaking/presentation/public relations skills and be available for travel as needed.

Applicants can submit a resume and cover letter to:

Scott Epperson
Chairman Search Committee
13200 Crane Rd
Buda, TX 78610

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To carry on this conversation further, please contact Derrick Bam, Vice President of Children's Services, 254-968-2143 X 284 or email him at derrick@fostershome.org.

For Parents
Call: 254-968-2143
254-968-2143



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Home Parents Needed! Seeking couples of great faith with love for Jesus to serve 14-18 year youth. Children receive excellent salary and benefits and Home both husband and wife full time. Become a part of an outstanding and supportive team! For more information, contact Executive Director, Dr. Ann Wright, at phone or email address above. To learn more, visit www.childrenshome.org!

Lads to Leaders, LTC seek devoted, diverse participants

BY LAURA AKINS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As Christians across the nation unwrap presents, feast on turkey and ring in the new year, more than a few of them already are making plans for Easter weekend.

That's when thousands of children and their parents — representing hundreds of Churches of Christ — gather at the annual conventions of the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes ministry.

"It's a major undertaking," said Phillip Hines, vice chairman of Montgomery, Ala.-based Lads to Leaders' board of directors. "It's an amazing thing that happens to pull these six conventions together — which involves 20,000 people and is done mostly with volunteers."

The church-supported ministry challenges children to hone their Bible knowledge, speaking and singing abilities and literary skills, with the goal of developing Christian leaders. Participants may choose from a variety of competitive and non-competitive events.

Another church-supported youth program, Leadership Training for Christ, or LTC, also hosts conventions on Easter weekend. Terry Kitson, senior minister for the Central Church of Christ in Topeka, Kan., has worked with the program for nearly 25 years.

Many coordinators meet as early as November to plan for the conventions, Kitson said, and soon after meet with parents and students to share the year's theme and energize them for the training that will soon follow.

By now, most congregational leaders involved in the conventions have familiarized themselves with this year's themes, said Danny Holmes, a board member for the North Texas LTC in Dallas.

"However, no one at this point is behind," Holmes said. "All LTC-imposed deadlines are ahead of us

and it's not too late to begin the process."

The Pleasant Ridge Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas, recently hosted its annual LTC kick-off. Tenth-grader Anna Jordan was one of the excited attendees.

"I have been involved with LTC for eight years, and I love every second of it," she said. "I am planning on participating in choir, Bible quiz, speech, drama, service challenge and teaching challenge."

"I feel that LTC brings me closer with all of my friends in the youth group and helps me draw closer to God and grow in my faith."

PARTICIPATING EN ESPANOL

Kitson, who has served as an event coordinator, judge trainer, board member and chairman of the board of LTC events, acknowledges that many of the conventions are predominantly white.

He and other organizers said they would love to see the events expand to reach the diverse variety of Churches of Christ in the U.S.

Lads to Leaders encourages its participants to cross cultural and language barriers, Hines said, by offering Second Language, an event designed to help young men and women communicate basic information and teach the Gospel in a foreign language or sign language.

The North Texas LTC offers its Bible-reading event in English or Spanish. With prior notice, organizers can accommodate Spanish-speaking students who want to participate in other events as well, Holmes told *The Christian Chronicle*.

"LTC would love to see more congregations, more families and, more importantly, more children get involved in our ministry of encouragement," he said. Signing up is easy, he added, "but that doesn't mean you should wait."

RELATED EDITORIAL, Page 28



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“Celebrating the Covenant”

EDITORIAL

Lads to Leaders, LTC and racial harmony

The events of recent weeks in Missouri and New York and the protests in Washington, D.C., and on college campuses across the U.S. show us that our nation still has a long way to go in terms of race relations.

As followers of Christ, this should be a clarion call to do everything in our power to show our countrymen that there *"is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus,"* as Paul urges us in Galatians 3:28.

We salute our brothers and sisters who reach across lines of race in response to the violence.

We recognize that we must promote racial harmony by demonstrating it for the next generation of Christ-followers.

As we report on Page 26, Churches of Christ across the country are preparing for the annual conventions of Lads to Leaders and Leadership Training for Christ. These activities promote Bible knowledge, leadership and character.

We can think of no more perfect setting for children of all races to come together in a spirit of cooperation. We urge organizers to reach out to the diverse congregations of our fellowship that don't yet participate. Let's fill the host hotels to capacity in 2015 with youths who will praise the name of God through their actions and words — in English, in Spanish, in sign language. Please see a list of venues and contacts at www.christianchronicle.org.

It may seem like a simple step, but getting our kids together could make an eternal difference.

In Russia, in Cuba, 'keep on preaching'

"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth."

— Hebrews 11:13

My recent visit to the U.S. was filled with many blessings. One of them was the opportunity to meet Juan Antonio Monroy.

I had heard about brother Juan for years — an evangelist from Spain who has baptized more than 3,000 people and helped establish churches in Spanish-speaking nations. In 1985, he became the first missionary from Churches of Christ to enter Cuba since the rise of Fidel Castro.

We met at the University Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. I taught a Bible class, telling about God's work in Russia. Brother Juan, who works with Herald of Truth Ministries, preached the sermon — and he started it in a way that surprised me (and I think it surprised him too).

He praised God for Churches of Christ in Russia and urged Christians to help spread the Gospel in the post-Soviet world.

During the Cold War, it was difficult to work in Russia, but *"este es el momento,"* ("this is the moment") he said, as Tim Archer, who also works with Herald of Truth, translated his words into English.

"Having 56 Churches of Christ in Russia is a great triumph," he continued. "And America needs to wake up. This is the time to help Russia. It was impossible in the past, and we don't know about the future. This is the time."

After the service we had a short visit, during which brother Juan encouraged me by saying, "Keep on preaching. Do not hesitate, do not pay attention to what other people in Russia may say about you."



VIDEO STILL VIA CRCRUSSIA.COM

Juan Monroy, right, was so encouraged by the work in Russia that "I've forgotten I'm not Russian. I'm Spanish," he said as Tim Archer, left, translated.

I knew exactly what he meant. It is culturally acceptable in Russia to be either an atheist or Orthodox. But if you are neither, our culture makes you feel like a foreigner in your own country. This probably is how early Christians felt.

In a second-century letter to Diognetus, an author named Mathetes described followers of Christ this way: "They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners. They bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland is foreign."

As European evangelists, striving to reach the lost in communist and post-communist worlds, we understand each other well.

Shaking hands with Juan Monroy was a great, strengthening moment for me.

IGOR EGIREV directs the Christian Resource Center in St. Petersburg, Russia (www.CCRCRussia.com), and preaches for Churches of Christ.

In the Word



Igor Egirev



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What can we learn from Bill Cosby?

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COMEDIAN *highlight an all-too-common scenario for faith communities*

Churches should care about Bill Cosby.

In recent weeks, the controversy surrounding the beloved comedian and father figure for millions of us has reached a fever pitch, as woman after woman comes forward with allegations of sexual assault. Many of these allegations are decades old.

Are they telling the truth? Why did they wait so long? Social media seethes with opinions — most of them speculative and almost none of them helpful.

Though celebrity makes this story seem sensational, it is all too familiar for those of us who minister to victims of abuse and abusers. Our congregation, the Agape Church of Christ in Portland, Ore., partners with local agencies to train, prepare and protect families caught in cycles of violence.

Unfortunately, many churches are not effective at protecting vulnerable people. The advocates, police, investigators, counselors and legal representatives we work with tell us that faith communities are deficient when it comes to assisting victims, holding offenders accountable and providing safe communities.

The story we often hear is not that a “good man” has been taken down by unfounded allegations. It is that multiple victims have suffered from abuse — and those who suspected the abuse did little to protect them.

In the case of Cosby, we see common patterns that reflect the typical way non-consensual sexual abuse occurs.

- **Offenders who feel a sense of entitlement often have multiple victims**, and their victims usually are silent for fear of retaliation, shame, humiliation and guilt.
- **Offenders tend to choose victims who are accessible**, seen as not being credible and easy to humiliate. Hence, the highest percentage of sexual abuse victims are females age 8 to 12, single females and those with disabilities. The offender often

carries a sense of power, influence and control over the victims — convincing them that any accusation they make will not be believed.

- **When one victim finally feels safe reporting the abuse, other victims come forward.** And, as the allegations grow, others who are not the direct victims of the abuse acknowledge that they knew or suspected it was occurring.

Research on bystanders to abuse indicates that the majority of witnesses become silent — thereby siding with the abuser.

This is not out of a desire to support the abuser, but the shock that the person “is that flagrant.” This particularly is true in cases where the offender has created a persona of honesty and integrity.

These common patterns offer an opportunity for churches and faith communities to recognize oppressive and abusive behaviors while protecting victims and survivors.

The God of Israel offers the church many resources to protect vulnerable people and confront offenders.

- **Churches must provide a safe community for vulnerable people.** Throughout his ministry, Jesus warns about ignoring the cries of the oppressed, as recorded in scriptures including Matthew 25.

A safe environment means allowing victims to have a voice, a community and protection. That means communicating regularly that any form of oppression is to be confronted and held at bay. It also means hearing allegations from victims, standing with them as they speak out and promoting equality and a healthy balance of power. The prophets of Israel did not confront the poor, but those abusing their power.

- **Churches must work with the legal system to provide justice.** Currently, our legal system and protective services are overwhelmed with abuse allegations. As a result, abusers receive little punishment, and their victims get little compensation.

Views



Ron and Lori Clark

While false allegations do occur, they are small in number compared to actual victims who never find justice. Churches must work with the justice system and allow for honesty and openness in both parties. We do not have to take sides. We simply support those who are vulnerable and confront those we know are misusing their power.

- **Christian leaders must realize that “wolves” in the flock are predators.** Offenders have a patterned behavior of dishonesty, lying, compulsiveness, arrogance and fear. Assuming one is innocent because they say so is not spiritual wisdom. Church leaders must pray for and practice discernment — recognizing patterns in behavior by using spiritual insight.

Typically, victims are hesitant to acknowledge that they are victims. Abusers, however, are quick to call themselves victims.

Spiritual wisdom means that we listen to victims and beware of those who manipulate and claim that “everyone is against me.” It also means calling people to empathy, compassion and love, promoting peace and safety in relationships.

Most ministry training programs do not offer classes for church leaders in addressing abuse, oppression and offender management. Little is offered to prepare our ministers and church leaders to help victims feel safe, heal and find support.

The church has an opportunity to rise up and become the voice of victims, the marginalized and the oppressed. Like Jesus — the friend of tax collectors and sinners — the church can provide safe communities for survivors of abuse.

Doing so requires that we become modern-day prophets — confronting those who wield power recklessly, calling them to repentance, healing and salvation.

RON AND LORI CLARK are church planters for the Agape Church of Christ in downtown Portland, Ore. Ron Clark has a doctorate in ministry from Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn. Married for 26 years, the Clarks have three sons.

In churches, silence may lead to more abuse

Our churches must be places of safety, refuge and healing for the weak and hurting.

Abuse that involves church members is frightening and often overwhelming to church leaders. Unintentionally, they become protective — not realizing that they are putting the welfare of the church above that of the victim.

They focus on protecting the name of the church by not reporting incidents and by not seeking the facts.

Many believe that they are doing the right thing by keeping matters quiet.

They are not.

Silence further victimizes the victim and sets up the opportunity for more abuse. Victims wonder if they are important enough for anybody to care. In silent fear, they question if anybody believes them — especially church elders or leaders.

Inexperience in handling such sensitive and potentially destructive issues leads to simply doing nothing. This is an avoidance and denial reaction. Seek help and counsel in these trying situations.

Churches and their members are best protected by leaders who deal with the issues straight on, providing compassionate support to those who have been abused or mistreated. This includes notification of abuse to the authorities — as most states require.

Church leaders are not investigators, but they are spiritual shepherds who must value the personal and spiritual welfare of the members entrusted to them.

LYNN McMILLON, president and CEO of *The Christian Chronicle*, is a Licensed Marital and Family Therapist, a Licensed Professional Counselor and an elder of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

Views



Lynn McMillon

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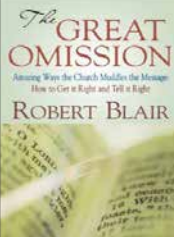
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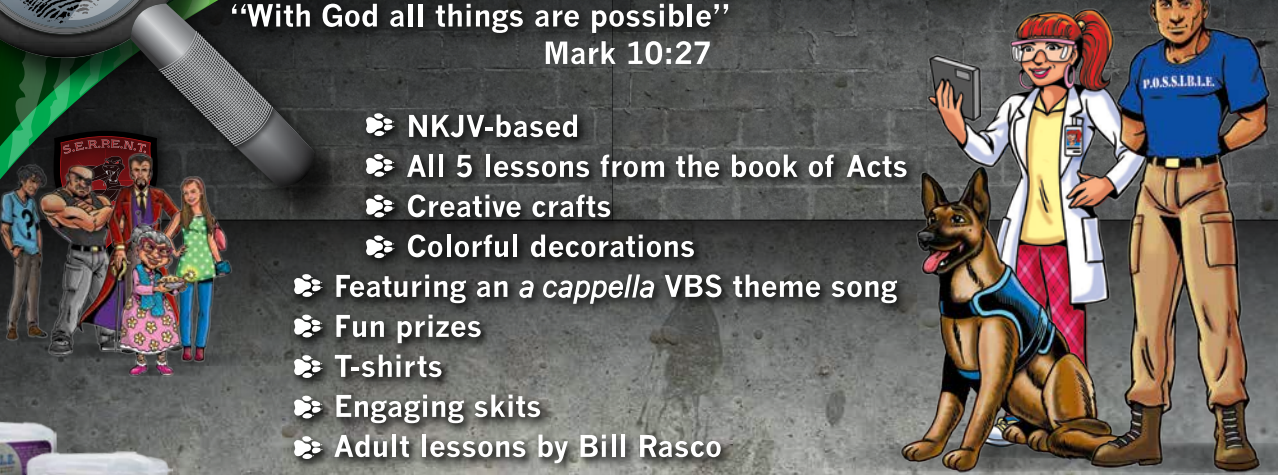
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Controversy shouldn't keep Christians silent, Platt writes

Sometimes not speaking is really speaking. The powerful intimidation of the “political correctness” mindset has silenced Christianity into a mute acceptance of an immoral culture.

Bestselling author of “Radical” David Platt, former megachurch preacher and current president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s International Mission Board, sees the effects of a flesh-driven civilization around the globe.

In “**A Compassionate Call to Counter Culture in a World of Poverty, Same-Sex Marriage, Racism, Sex Slavery, Immigration, Abortion, Persecution, Orphans and Pornography**,” he exposes the worst, most pervasive sins of the world. Platt contends that Christians do not hesitate to get involved in

popular issues like poverty and slavery, yet “on controversial issues like homosexuality and abortion, where Christians are likely to be criticized for our involvement, we are content to sit down and stay quiet. It’s as if we’ve decided to pick and choose which social issues we’ll contest and which we’ll concede.”

Although many among the Churches of Christ will not agree with Platt’s social-driven purpose for the church, individual brothers and sisters will come away from the book with a renewed courage to stand up for their faith in their daily lives.

To this end, each chapter ends with “First Steps To Counter Culture,” useful advice on how to pray, participate and proclaim.

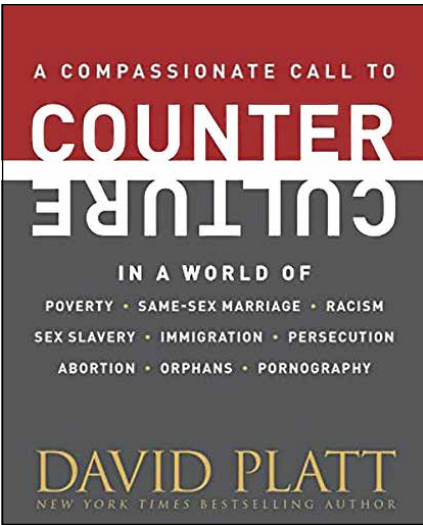
Both the pulpit and the pew will find much useful information in this book. Platt’s statistics and asser-

tions are documented in nine pages of endnotes. Within the text of the book, many Scripture references substantiate his claims.

Yet he acknowledges that the goal of this book “is not information about the Gospel and social issues; it is application of the Gospel to social issues.” The objective in taking a stand against Satan’s forces is the salvation of souls, he says. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the means by which the war must be waged and won.

Most readers will close this book with a renewed desire to be counted for Christ. It has the potential of energizing the apathetic and emboldening the fearful, to live out the countercultural Gospel of Christ.

GUY ORBISON JR. has more than 40 years of experience in preaching and writing. He has served as a pulpit minister for the Durango Church of Christ in Colorado for 26 years and teaches in the congregation’s preacher training program. He conducts up to 20 gospel meetings each year.



★★★★☆
David Platt. **A Compassionate Call to Counter Culture in a World of Poverty, Same-Sex Marriage, Racism, Sex Slavery, Immigration, Abortion, Persecution, Orphans and Pornography.** Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2015. 261 pages. \$19.99.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

MOTIVATIONAL

Diane Burton.

The Master's Masterpiece: A Preacher's Wife's Journey from a Broken and Fat Masterpiece to the Master's Peace. Maitland, Fla.: Xulon Press, 2014. 288 pages. \$16.99.

“How in the world can I be God’s masterpiece when I am overweight and out of shape?”

Burton, whose husband, Ken, is minister for the College and North Church of Christ in Mountain Home, Ark., presents a workbook to motivate Christians struggling with that question. She details her struggle to overcome obesity and addictive food behaviors — to achieve discipline and contentment. The book includes a 10-week devotional journal for personal or small group use.

Book on prayer provides tools – not gimmicks

A \$27 hardback book on prayer — written by a well-known minister with a huge church — already has two strikes against it, in my eyes.

“Wouldn’t it be cheaper to just start praying?” some readers, including me, might ask.

And, like many books by large-church preachers, this book could be a publisher’s bottom-line-focused request: a popular topic with a built-in audience, but nothing new to offer most of us.

So it was with that unapologetically critical eye that I thumbed through Timothy Keller’s “**Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God**,” and, surprisingly, found a reason to keep going.

Keller seems to have read my mind as he begins with the introduction, “Why write a book on prayer?”

He suggests that there are two ways of viewing prayer — “communion-centered,” emphasizing “prayer as a means to experience God’s love,” and “kingdom-centered,”

seeing prayer as “a calling on God to bring his kingdom ... a wrestling match.”

I agree with that general assessment: Prayer is discussed widely in those terms — perhaps easily categorized as passive praying (focused on the believer) and active (focused on God at work).

Despite making that authentic introduction to the topic, Keller leaves that approach and crafts a more general survey of prayer, but it’s not a bad one.

Keller takes the reader through all the classic texts of prayer, focusing on Scripture and including quotes and thoughts from many theologians.

The book is sub-divided into five parts: desiring, understanding, learning, deepening and doing prayer. A very practical

appendix offers patterns for daily prayer.

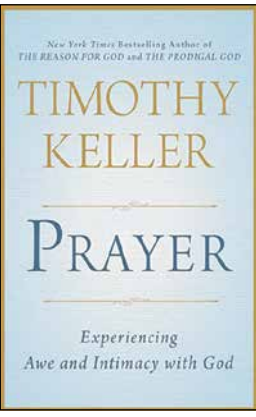
This book will be a valuable reference tool for the student of prayer but not the novel discovery that the introduction seemed to offer — or at least I hoped for.

That is praise for Keller. He never resorts to manipulating us into believing he has made prayer simple and easy to do everyday, and that is refreshing. He writes about prayer, humbly. That tells me he must know God, and that’s a pretty good credential when writing a book on prayer. Perhaps the only one.

S.J. DAHLSTROM has a biblical studies degree from Rochester College in Michigan and is the creator of “The Adventures of Wilder Good” series for young adults. He and his family attend the Quaker Avenue Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas.

In Print

S.J. Dahlstrom



★★★★☆
Timothy Keller. **Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God.** New York: Dutton, 2014. 321 pages. \$26.95.

Milestones

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Anniversaries

Lloyd and Stella Boyll



Lloyd A. Boyll, 97, and his wife, Stella, age 93, plan to celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on Dec. 22, 2014. They are former Indiana residents, now retired in Abilene, Texas, since 1996.

Lloyd was a minister-evangelist throughout Indiana and surrounding states beginning in 1945 as well as a public school teacher. He was a full-time minister for three years each in Mentone, Ind., Sullivan, Ind., and Evanston, Ill. He preached for five years in Lafayette, Ind., and served as a school guidance counselor in Indianapolis for 26 years.

After their retirement, the Boylls moved to Abilene, where they are members of the Minter Lane Church of Christ. They have recently donated Lloyd's preaching records and materials to the history department at ACU, under the direction of Douglas Foster.

Stella is incapacitated and is currently under home health care.

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Lloyd and Karleen Joy Price, 50th
Broken Arrow, Okla.

Jerry and Naomi Bonney, 30th
Greensville, Texas

Memorials

Earle Barry Robinson

Earle Barry Robinson III, grew up in Johnstown, Pa., and graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School in 1972. Two years after his graduation, he married Sharon and started his ministry. Feeling the guiding hand of the Father, he moved his new family to Lubbock, Texas, to attend and graduate from Sunset School of Preaching in 1977. He returned home to Johnstown and served as a minister at a local Church of Christ. His love for people and influence in others continued to grow.

Earle and Sharon then moved to Fargo, N.D., in 1979, after a colleague of Earle's invited them out to help with the needs there.

He served as minister for 15 years. Not only was Earle the pulpit minister, he also used his time during the service to invite the children up front for a kid-oriented sermon with hand-drawn cartoons of Bible stories. Additionally, he used puppet shows and exciting illustrations to reach out to children in the hospital.

During their time in Fargo, the Lord blessed them with a son, and he passed



his family's namesake on to him — Earle Barry Robinson IV. Teaching, helping and instructing others in their walk with Christ were only part of Earle's job. He always found time to take care of his family, support Sharon as she pursued a Ph.D. and be the most loving husband and father.

Earle enjoyed God's creation from a young age and loved being able to take his family camping. Passing on life lessons and sharing time together became one of the their most cherished memories. The love of life, family and the Lord continued to be the driving force in Earle's life.

He then moved to Battle Creek, Mich., in 1994 after Sharon's Ph.D. and acceptance of a job. He connected with the 20th Street Church of Christ and served as the Youth and Outreach Minister. Earle led youth trips to Bible rallies all over the nation and camping trips to northern Minnesota.

His endless energy and vibrant soul helped him connect and influence the young and the old. His desire to baptize and lead people to Christ had no end.

In 1999, the family moved to College Station, Texas, where he began work at Bryan Texas Utilities as the Production Support Operator. In addition to his responsibilities, he quickly became fond of guiding tours of the power plant facilities for city employees and student engineers. He also was the volunteer leader for the children's church at the A&M Church of Christ in College Station. His love and his passion for the young never dwindled — still teaching the young with the same cartoon illustrations he made 30 years earlier.

On Sunday, May 4, 2014, Earle was welcomed home to the Father. All his life, Earle told everyone he met — young and old — about the people of the Bible. His family takes great comfort in knowing that Earle has joined that heavenly host and that he has been restored by God as told in Isaiah 40:28-31.

NEWSMAKERS

AWARDED: Jasper Bawcom, Justin Carver, Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference Men's Coach of the Year. Carver coaches cross country for York College in Nebraska. **Gabriel Gasiorowski and Megan McKinley** of the Oklahoma Christian University Ethics Team in Oklahoma City, first place in the Texas Regional Ethics Bowl in San Antonio, with **Chas Carter, Sean vanDyke and Brandon Yeates** winning third place.

HONORED: Harold and Sally Shank with the 2014 Distinguished Alumni from Oklahoma Christian University. Harold is President of Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W. Va. **Harold Fletcher, 91**, for 64 years of service to Oklahoma Christian University. Fletcher, said to be the oldest active university professor in the United States, retired on his 91st birthday.

NAMED: Lauren Gibbs to the United States Bobsled National Team for competition in the 2014-2015 World Cup and Intercontinental Cup tours. Gibbs recently earned a master's in business administration from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. **Scott Wong**, women's head volleyball coach at Pepperdine University.

NEW MINISTERS: James Johnston, preaching minister for the Mainland Church of Christ in Texas City, Texas. **Brian Lewis**, minister for the Eugene Church of Christ in Oregon. **Mike Miles**, youth and family minister for the Livonia Church of Christ in Michigan. **Ben Pickett**, discipleship minister for the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. **Mark Hadley**, minister for the South Baton Rouge Church of Christ in Louisiana.



Fletcher



Johnston

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

Jan. 5 Teen Lifeline Training at National Conference on Youth Ministries. Arlington, Texas. www.ncym.org, www.lifelivedbetter.org/
ncymtraining.org, (817) 281-9900.

Jan. 5-8 National Conference on Youth Ministries. Arlington, Texas. www.ncym.org.

Jan. 10 7th Annual Korean Mission Forum. San Antonio, Texas. www.macarthurchurch.org, swolf@harding.edu.

Jan. 18-23 Quartzsite Church of Christ Gospel Meeting. Quartzsite, Ariz. www.quartzsitechurchofchrist.com, (559) 299-2002.

Jan. 21-24 Sunset Vision Workshop 2015. Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, Texas. www.sibi.cc/workshop.

Feb. 6-7 Women of Hope Conference. Murfreesboro, Tenn. www.hhi.org/womenofhope, (615) 832-2000.

Feb. 9 History Speaks: A Time with Claudette Colvin and Fred Gray. Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City. www.oc.edu, (405) 425-6300.

Feb. 19-21 National Urban Ministry Conference. Capitol Hill Church of Christ, Oklahoma City. www.nationalurbanministryassociation.org.

Feb. 23 Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner. Speaker: Dave Dravecky. Oklahoma Christian University. www.oc.edu, (405) 425-6300.

Feb. 28 Lubbock ElderLink Seminar. South Plains Church of Christ, Lubbock, Texas. www.acu.edu/elderlink.

March 1-5 Faulkner Lectures 2015. "iCulture: Pursuing Holiness in a Self-Saturated World." (334) 386-7154, sgleaves@faulkner.edu.

March 6-7 Fourth Annual Virtue in an Age of Promiscuity. "Lifting as We Strive: Continuing the Christian Journey." Columbia, Md. www.virtue2015.com, (877) 490-3456.

March 19-21 Homeschool Convention. Hosted by Teach Them Diligently. Nashville, Tenn. (864) 235-4444.

March 20-21 Atlanta ElderLink Workshop and Forum. North Atlanta Church of Christ. www.acu.edu/siburt-institute/elderlink.

FULL CALENDAR, www.christianchronicle.org

Milestones

continued

William T. (Bill) Brown

Bill Brown, of Redmond, Ore., went home to his Lord in his sleep on Nov. 7, 2014, at age 92.

After becoming a Christian at the age of 27, he felt the call to ministry. He preached for many small congregations in Oklahoma, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington and Montana, often driving more than 160 miles each way every Sunday. In addition to preaching, he worked full-time jobs to support his family as a welder and appliance salesman. He also preached for churches full time in Buhl, Idaho; Santa Maria, Calif.; and Taft, Calif.

As a building contractor, he built church buildings for more than 25 years all over the West Coast. Upon his "retirement," he and Gracie spent 12 years serving and traveling with the Sojourners to Wisconsin, Tennessee, New Mexico, Colorado, and Montana.

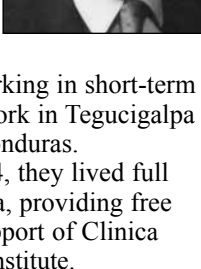
He is survived by his wife, Gracie, 92, who is living in a private Christian care home. She has Alzheimer's and is not aware that her Bill is no longer with her. They would have celebrated 75 years of marriage on Jan. 1, 2015. He is also survived by his four sons and seven grandchildren.



Dr. William McKinney Young Sr.

Funeral services for Dr. William McKinney Young Sr., age 78, of Fayetteville, Ark., were conducted Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014, at 1 p.m. at the Washington Street Church of Christ with brother Jim Black officiating.

Dr. Young was a member of the Washington Street Church of Christ, serving as an elder and a deacon. He and his wife, Suzanne, have supported and participated in medical mission



Passages

Kenneth Wells Free, 85

Garland, Texas

Bill Cauthorn, 84

Cleveland, Texas

Birthdays

Helen Gregg, 99th

Cambridge, Ohio

Leroy Garrett, 96th

Denton, Texas

Ministry News

Tenth and Broad Church of Christ

Larry Suttle, along with his wife, Nicki, and young son, Marc, moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, in August of 1980 to assume the role of director of the Church of Christ Bible Chair at Midwestern State University, under the direction of the elders of the Tenth and Broad congregation. A native of Amarillo, Texas, and a graduate

of Oklahoma Christian College and Abilene Christian University, brother Suttle had most recently been the minister of the Haskell Church of Christ in Haskell, Texas. While at the Bible Chair, Larry taught state-approved Bible courses for college credit for seven years.

A daughter, Mandi Jo, joined the family in 1983. In March of 1987, Suttle became the pulpit minister of the Tenth and Broad church and remained in that position for more than 27 years, officially retiring from the pulpit on Aug. 17, 2014.

Brother Suttle will continue to be active on the staff of the congregation as associate minister, leading the small group and adult education ministries.

Josh Yaeger, a native of Longmont, Colo., and most recently the pulpit minister for the 4th and College congregation in Cordell, Okla., has stepped into the role of pulpit minister for the Tenth and Broad church.

Brother Yaeger and his wife are both graduates of Oklahoma Christian University.

Welcome, Josh, Jennifer, Bryton, and Elliana to Wichita Falls!



Memorial Gifts

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts donated in memory of Rizel and Miva Bittle, Tom and June Doan, Glen and Audrey Hanks, Joy Straw, and Glenn Sweeney.

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



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Maui Church of Christ

Maui Church of Christ is looking for a minister. We are a congregation of 55 members located in a mission field/tourist destination. Interested candidates should email or send resumes to the following:

**mauicoc@hotmail.com or
810 Waiehu Beach Road
Wailuku, HI 96793**

No phone calls please.

Management and Business Faculty

The Department of Management and Business at Messiah College invites applications for potential full-time/term-tenure track faculty positions in the Department of Management and Business to begin in August 2015. There are potential openings to teach Accounting, Marketing, Finance, International Business, Entrepreneurship, Economic Development, and General Business.

In addition, Messiah College is actively seeking candidates to serve as Chair of the Management and Business Department. Candidates for departmental leadership must have a vision for excellence and have the skills to actively lead strategic department initiatives.

Qualifications: For qualifications, please see applicable job link below.
Compensation: Salary and rank commensurate with qualifications and experience
Applications and Nominations: Application materials will be reviewed upon receipt and will be accepted until the position is filled. Please see job posting for additional details.
Paper applications will not be accepted.

- To apply for the potential opening(s) in Accounting, please see: <http://jobs.messiah.edu/postings/4961>
- To apply for the potential opening(s) in Marketing, please see: <http://jobs.messiah.edu/postings/3771>
- To apply for the potential opening(s) in Finance, please see: <http://jobs.messiah.edu/postings/4963>
- To apply for the potential opening(s) in International Business, please see: <http://jobs.messiah.edu/postings/4964>
- To apply for the potential opening(s) in Entrepreneurship, please see: <http://jobs.messiah.edu/postings/4965>
- To apply for the potential opening(s) in Economic Development, please see: <http://jobs.messiah.edu/postings/4966>
- To apply for the potential opening(s) in General Business, please see: <http://jobs.messiah.edu/postings/4967>
- To apply for the potential opening of Chair of the Management & Business Department, please see: <http://jobs.messiah.edu/postings/5107>

Messiah College's strategic plan includes a commitment to community engagement in diverse settings and the development of cross-cultural competencies as well as a commitment to developing a comprehensive and integrated approach to global engagement. As such, Messiah College is fully committed to a culturally diverse faculty, staff and student body. Successful candidates will evidence similar commitments.

Messiah College is a Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. The College is committed to an embracing evangelical spirit rooted in the Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan traditions of the Christian Church. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.



Messiah College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, disability, or veteran's status in the recruitment and admission of students, the recruitment and employment of faculty and staff, or the operation of any of its programs. Consistent with our nondiscrimination statement, the College does not tolerate abuse or harassment of employees, students or other individuals associated with the College. This includes, but is not limited to, vendors, contractors, and guests on the basis of, but not limited to, any of the above categories.

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At age 82, he remains a respected scholar, a passionate proponent of faith-based education and a voice of wisdom among Churches of Christ.

He once was introduced as a man who had preached in every church building in the state of Mississippi — and most of its cow pastures. He grew up just north of the Magnolia State in Memphis, Tenn., and attended the Union Avenue Church of Christ. The church's elders and minister E.W. McMillan encouraged him to preach. His parents also were very supportive of his desire to minister, he said.

He attended Harding University in Searcy, Ark., and graduated with a degree in biblical languages. Through most of the 1950s and 60s, he preached in north Mississippi, usually taking one graduate course each semester at Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis.

He married Winnie Williamson, they had four children — each now serving the church in different roles. His two sons are preachers. So is one son-in-law.

After completing his degrees, he taught at Columbia Christian College in Portland, Ore., and preached for Eastside Church of Christ on campus.

Two years later, the family moved back to Mississippi, where May preached for the Vicksburg Church of Christ. Charles Coil, president of International Bible College in Florence, Ala. (now Heritage Christian University), recruited him to serve as a dean and teacher.

Soon after, he was recruited to serve as president of another college associated with Churches of Christ — Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko, Miss. Under his leadership, the college achieved accreditation from the Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools.

One semester after retiring from Magnolia, May was selected to lead the V.P. Black College of Biblical Studies at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. For nearly 16 years he served Faulkner through an era of tremendous growth. He wrote



Bailey McBride

prolifically, penning answers to questions about the Bible and producing a study of God's providence.

"Cecil has the unusual ability to take the most difficult of subjects and explain them in ways that are easy to understand," Faulkner's president, Billy Hilyer, wrote. "He is balanced in his speech and writings — as well as in his life — and is one who truly has the mind of Christ."

When I asked May about his own influences, he listed great thinkers including G.C. Brewer, James Bales, W.B. West, Donald Simes, Harold Hazelip and Jack Lewis.

He publishes *Preacher Talk*, a quarterly magazine that offers information, encouragement and resources to ministers. The magazine has about 4,100 subscribers.

He also writes for *Gospel Advocate* and produces the "Bible Questions Answered" feature for the quarterly *Magnolia Messenger*.

Among his avid readers is Stafford North, distinguished professor of Bible at Oklahoma Christian University, who described May as characteristically "clear, kind, and biblical." His answers to controversial questions "show excellent knowledge of the scriptures."

He still has many projects he wants to accomplish — including a new commentary on the epistles of John — and he has great concerns about the future of the church.

We would all do well to listen to his words of moderation and wisdom.



Cecil May Jr.

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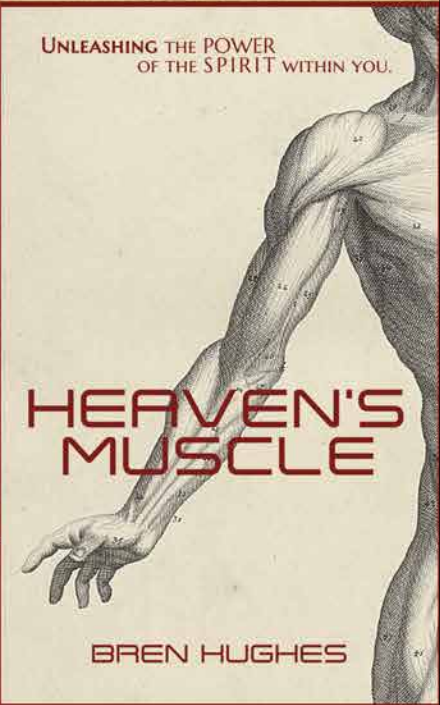


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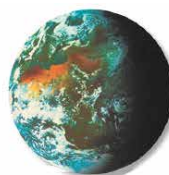


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LTC, Lads gear up for 2015

As Christians unwrap presents and eat turkey, organizers of Leadership Training for Christ, Lads to Leaders conventions prepare, seek diversity. **26, 28**



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