



In English, Spanish, ‘a church for all people’

IN TENNESSEE, minister urges Christians, in two languages, to ‘embrace God’s multicultural, multiethnic vision.’

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

Sweet tea and homemade tortillas. The faithful who dearly love each — and both — sang praises to God, side by side, during a bilingual worship service hosted by the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ. Lyrics to “I Will Call Upon the Lord,” or “*A Jehová Invocaré*,” flashed across the overhead screens, alternating between English and Spanish.



One Nación Under God
Reaching Hispanics in the U.S.

First in a series | More inside
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Enoch Rinks, a former missionary to Paraguay and songleader for the morning, knew many of the believers before him weren’t fluent in both languages. “Y’all just try the best you can,” he encouraged them. In Tennessee’s capital city, home to country music and no fewer than 74 Churches of Christ, it’s easy not to try — to remain in separate congregations, said guest preacher Dan Rodriguez. “Here in

Nashville, you can have a church of the shape or color you want — and I’m just talking about Churches of Christ,” said Rodriguez, who ministers for the Hollywood Church of Christ in California and teaches religion and Hispanic studies at nearby Pepperdine University.

But staying homogenous in an increasingly diverse city denies churches the chance to grow, he said — and to reflect the divine

See **TENNESSEE**, Page 12



Roberto Santiago, minster for the Grandview Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., translates from English to Spanish as Dan Rodriguez speaks at the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ in Nashville. At left, Christians sing songs of praise in both languages during the bilingual Sunday service.

PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

IN COLORADO, the Rocky Mountain Reunion crosses the language barrier.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

WESTMINSTER, Colo. — “Amen! Amen! Amen!” said a chorus of voices that echoed through the Northwest Church of Christ auditorium as visiting minister Steven Curo preached from 1 Corinthians 1:18.

Seconds later, Curo repeated the same verse about the message of the cross being foolishness to those who are perishing but the power of God to those who are being saved.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Again, a hearty round of “*Amén! Amén! Amén!*” followed the Scripture reading — only this time with distinct Spanish accents.

Steven Curo preaches in English and Spanish at the Colorado event.

Curo alternated between English and Spanish as he delivered a bilingual sermon at the recent Rocky Mountain Reunion — an event designed to improve unity among Christians in northern Colorado.

“It was amazing,” church member Jesús de Hajar said of the opening assembly, where the faithful sang hymns such as “Love Lifted Me” simultaneously in both languages. “It was really something that to me, personally, filled me up.”

Colorado is one of seven states with a Hispanic population of at least 20 percent.

See **COLORADO**, Page 14

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Breaking news reminds us — keep a packed bag for heaven

“Cab! LaGuardia! Now!” I had just walked through the front door of CBS News headquarters in New York when I heard my boss. He was dashing toward me with something in his hand, thrusting it toward me. It was a plane ticket — to Minneapolis. This wasn’t on my agenda for the day.

Inside Story



Doug Poling

I expected to write and anchor hourly news summaries on our radio network — just as I did more days than I can count during my years in broadcast journalism. But CBS had just learned that Hubert Humphrey, then vice president of the U.S. under Lyndon B. Johnson, had collapsed during a visit to Minnesota. He was at a Minneapolis hospital. So that’s where I needed to be. I didn’t know any of this at the time. All I knew is that I had to get to the airport, fast. Luckily, my bag was already packed.

The apostle Paul told Timothy to “*be ready in season and out of season*” (2 Timothy 4:2). The old-timers at the network echoed that sentiment, advising me early on never to assume it’s going to be a routine day — and to be ready for anything. So I kept a carry-on bag in my office — one that would keep me from wasting time at baggage claim. Inside the

See **BREAKING NEWS**, Page 4

THE CHANGING FACE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Love thy city

IN A HALF-CENTURY, *Agape* has expanded its mission from adoption and foster care to community programs fighting Memphis’ cycle of poverty.

BY JOHN R. IRBY | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.

“There will always be poor people in the land,” Moses proclaimed in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy.

Some 3,400 years later, in this metropolis on the Mississippi River, named after the ancient capital of Egypt — from which Moses and the children of Israel fled — statistics reflect the ancient words.

Memphis is the poorest large metropolitan area in the U.S., according to analysis of census data by a University of Memphis researcher. An estimated 28.3 percent of the city’s 655,000 souls live in poverty. For children under age 18, the rate is an alarming 44.3 percent, according to census data.

Of the 85 public schools in Tennessee that fall in the bottom 5 percent in performance, 68 are in Shelby County, which includes Memphis.

The city rarely makes “the good lists,” said Andreana Brown, who works for Agape Child and Family Services, a nonprofit founded in the late 1960s by members of Churches of Christ.

“And there’s a lot of potential here,” she said. “There are a lot of people

who love this community. There are a lot of people who want to be here and want to have their families here ... to go to the schools and be a part of the neighborhood.”

Increasingly, Agape is helping the people of Memphis improve their neighborhoods.

The nonprofit takes its name from a

Greek word found throughout the New Testament, often translated as “unconditional love.” Initially, its focus primarily was adoption and foster care.

While not abandoning that mission, Agape now offers a variety of services for families and entire communities.

The principle is simple, said

See **AGAPE**, Page 21



PHOTOS BY JOHN R. IRBY

Agape has served Memphis, Tenn., for nearly 50 years.



Michelle Wicks, a youth outreach specialist with Agape, reads to six of the children in the summer program in the Raleigh/Frayser neighborhood of Memphis.

An emergency landing — and a chance to preach

FROM STAFF REPORTS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

“I don’t want to scare you, but we need to realize that this is serious,” Brent Missildine told his wife, Lisa, and his daughter, Sarah.

“We are on a plane over the Pacific Ocean with the electronics burning enough that there is smoke in the plane. ... If this doesn’t turn out well, do you feel that you are ready to meet the Lord?”

Missildine, pulpit minister for the Prattville Church of Christ in Alabama, and his family were on their way to the Philippines, part of a mission team

led by Demar Elam of the West Hobbs Street Church of Christ in Athens, Ala.

On a United flight between Honolulu and Guam, the pilot and passengers smelled smoke, forcing an emergency landing on Midway Island, a remote, 2.4-square-mile atoll northwest of Hawaii. The church members prayed fervently as the plane landed — safely.

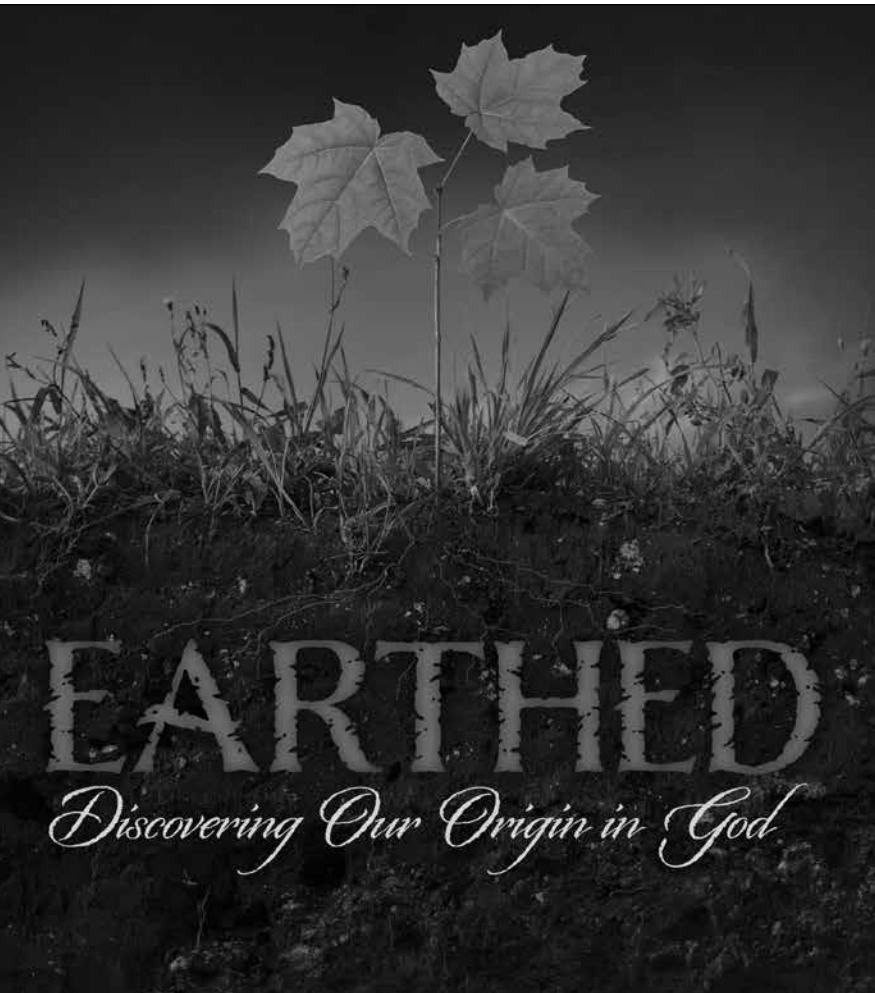
As they waited in a gym for a new plane, Missildine told his fellow passengers that he would study the Bible with any of them who felt, during the emergency, that they weren’t ready to meet God. At first, all he heard was a laugh from the crowd, he said but two people eventually responded to his request.

“Each person on our team showed courage and strength,” Missildine told *The Christian Chronicle*. “After the captain addressed (the) crowd of passengers, Demar shouted out his trademark phrase ‘God is good,’ and many people then shouted, ‘All the time.’”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PRATTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

On Midway Island, Brent Missildine invites fellow stranded passengers who weren’t ready to meet God to study the Bible.



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BREAKING NEWS: A heart attack that wasn't

FROM PAGE 3
bag I kept a suit, one dress shirt and a tie, one sport shirt, an extra pair of trousers, two sets of underwear and two pairs of socks. I had a bag of toiletries in there, too — shaver, toothbrush, etc.
Since I worked in radio, I also packed a tape recorder and microphone. In the bag's side pocket, I kept my passport and a little cash. Not all the comforts of home. But with the contents of this bag, I could function in most places for short periods of time.

Fortunately for Vice President Humphrey, the end of this particular story isn't too exciting. I grabbed my bag, hailed a cab and sped toward LaGuardia. As I dashed onto the plane, a flight attendant paged me. My boss had called. Get off the plane, he said. What they thought was a heart attack turned out to be a false alarm. It was just another day at the office after all.

Regardless, I'm glad I had that carry-on packed.
In the years since, I've thought

about how the Word of God urges us to be prepared at all times for ministry — and for Christ's return.
In Luke 12, just after Jesus tells his followers not to worry about food and clothes, he urges them to *"be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him"* (verse 35-36).
In verse 40, he says, *"You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."*
What about you? Got that carry-on packed? Are there sins in your life that need to be removed? Are there transgressions for which you need forgiveness? Are you the one who needs to forgive? At peace with God? Like my boss who said, "Go now," God can call you anytime.
Best to be ready and set to go.

DOUG POLING is a retired correspondent for CBS News and a member of the Heritage Church of Christ in Franklin, Tenn.

NOTEBOOK: Blest be the tie that binds

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

NAPLES, Fla. — On a Wednesday night, I found myself 1,400 miles from home.
But in the close-knit fellowship of Churches of Christ, home is never really that far away.
While in Florida for a religious freedom conference, I met Lyle Asbill, who preaches for the Naples Church of Christ in this coastal paradise.

Even though we had not met previously, my brother in Christ picked me up at my hotel and took me to dinner before midweek Bible study.
Asbill grew up in the Edmondton Church of Christ in Alberta and attended Canada's now-closed Western Christian High School and College. I mentioned meeting a minister named John Smith at the Red Deer Church of Christ in Alberta. "He was one of my roommates," Asbill said.
Like me, Asbill is a graduate of Oklahoma Christian University. Another one of Asbill's former



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Lyle Asbill, center, with son Christian and wife Carrie at the Naples, Fla., church.
roommates: Dr. Todd Wright, an elder of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.
"Todd is my optometrist," I said.
As we kept talking, I was struck — as I always am when I connect with fellow Christians — by how many of the same faithful servants we know.
As the old song goes, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

BOBBY ROSS JR. is chief correspondent for *The Christian Chronicle*. Reach him at bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org.

SEPTEMBER 2014

ALASKA

JUNEAU — Six adults and four teens from the Juneau Church of Christ traveled to the province of Zambales in the Philippines this summer.

The group conducted gospel meetings, visited hospitals, taught seminars, encouraged ministers and worked on projects such as painting, deacon Geoffrey Wyatt said.

"This trip was designed to build relationships between the churches in Zambales and the church in Juneau and find ways to support each other," Wyatt said.

COLORADO

DELTA — In the summer, the Thunder Mountain Church of Christ sponsors a regular kickball night for families.

As part of the outreach effort, the church invites everyone in the community to participate, minister Darin Hamm said.

"The church supplies prizes and treats for the teams when the game ends," Hamm said.

ILLINOIS

DECATUR — More than 200 people turned out for the recent Midwest Evangelism Workshop.

The Jasper Street Church of Christ, the Morningside Chapel Church of Christ and the Sunnyside Road Church of Christ — all in Decatur — sponsored the workshop.

More than 1,000 doors were knocked and nine people baptized in a campaign two weeks after the workshop, said Steve Webb, Morningside's associate minister.

"God has richly blessed us in our efforts," Webb said, "and we are currently looking at some ways to continue the fire that has been started."

NEW MEXICO

AZTEC — Eight teens from the Aztec Church of Christ got hands-on ministry experience while attending this summer's Camp Genesis at Oklahoma Christian University.

Like other Christian camps, this one features times of worship and Bible study. But it's different in that the participants "spend the week being the hands and feet of Jesus in Oklahoma City," Aztec minister Johnathan Dobbs said.



TARA ROBERTS

At VBS, a journey from Grumble to Humble

The "Last Chance Filling Station" provides the backdrop for a Vacation Bible School journey from Grumble to Humble at the Celina Church of Christ in Tennessee. "The group circles around each night to the same old gas station," member Tara Roberts said, "where humble, Goober-like Seymore Goode teaches the group, as well as his complaining, overpowering co-worker Osborne Grum, a new lesson on how God would have us to look to him and ... see the good in all situations." The recent VBS featured the stories of Moses and the Israelites.

Students helped with a homeless shelter, a retirement center, a food bank and other charities.

"It was a great week of growing in perspective and being encouraged to take that spirit of service home," Dobbs said.

TEXAS

AMARILLO — After 65 years of marriage, Vernon and Bobbie Alexander remain devoted to God and each other.

The Alexanders lead a small group at the Southwest Church of Christ and manage the church library, and Bobbie works with World Bible School.

Vernon, 90, and Bobbie, 87, celebrated their recent anniversary during the annual Red River Family Encampment in New Mexico.

"They still volunteer to work at

RRFE every year," said Warren Baldwin, minister for the Ulysses Church of Christ in Kansas. "Usually, they help selling the encampment shirts and caps."



WARREN BALDWIN

Vernon and Bobbie Alexander

KELLER — The Keller Church of Christ hosted its first TITUS camp this summer — standing for Teens In Training for Useful Service.

Nineteen boys in seventh through

SPOTLIGHT**A New England pioneer**

MANCHESTER, Conn. — Christians in New England and beyond are mourning the July 13 death of Eugene Brewer, a minister and elder who served the Manchester Church of Christ for more than a half-century. He was 87.

Brewer and his wife, Barbara, moved to Manchester in 1961 to plant the church. The congregation began with 17 adults and 13 children and has grown to 300 members.

"He was a teacher, a leader, a servant, a mentor and an encouragement to so many," the Manchester church said on its Facebook page.

Gareth Flanary, minister of the West Springfield Church of Christ in Massachusetts, called Brewer "a great pioneer of the New England church."



CLOE POISSON, HARTFORD COURANT

Eugene Brewer at the Manchester church.

ninth grades learned how to prepare and deliver sermons, youth and family minister Spencer Ross said. They attended classes on homiletics, public speaking, evangelism and sermon construction.

At night, the boys enjoyed activities such as swimming and a "Medieval Times" dinner theater.

Ross and preacher Cory Collins organized the camp.

WASHINGTON

SPOKANE — A new Wednesday night fellowship meal helps connect the Northside Church of Christ.

A member who is a former chef has stepped up to organize fun meals, said Patrice Fritsch, who leads the church's benevolence program.

"Young folks who had quit attending are showing up and sharing their lives," Fritsch said.

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CLAIRE JADIS

Clint and Kelsey Hill present a lesson on "Dating in Sequence" at the Campus Ministry United Workshop. Attendees learned God's design for spiritually fulfilling relationships.

Campus Ministry United workshop focuses on 'target-rich' mission field

BY KARI OGLE | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

TULSA, Okla. — Want to change the face of eternity?

Reach out to college campuses.

That's the advice of Campus Ministry United (CMU) director Wes Woodell, who notes that most people who commit their lives to Christ do so by age 21.

About 200 campus ministry leaders and students converged on the Park Plaza Church of Christ ministry center for the recent ninth annual Campus Ministry United Workshop.

The event is part of CMU's mission to minister to underserved university populations through regional church-planting movements.

According to a 2008 CMU national survey, campus ministries associated with Churches of Christ were active on only 150 out of a possible 4,100 colleges and universities.

The group has planted eight new ministries and sent out teams to assist two existing campus ministries since its inception in 2005.

"We saw that campus ministries were dying and closing down, but our universities were growing," said Carol Stringfellow, one of CMU's first full-time employees. "It was a target-rich environment that was being neglected."

With epicenters in Tulsa and St. Louis, CMU is focused on quality

church plants that involve training, support and encouragement.

Clint Hill, CMU trainer and board member, said nine people have gone through the two-year training program; four are now in the program.

"It's always exciting to see where God leads them to work and serve," Hill said.

The annual workshop is a primer for those interested in campus ministry as well as an encouragement for those already involved in ministry. This year's theme, "Sequence: From Origin to Offspring," focused on studying the DNA of Christ to multiply it in others.

Lessons focused on worship, loving God, others and the lost; serving singles; supporting spouses; conflict management; campus planting; and event hosting.

"During this workshop, we get training on how to bring others to Christ," said Claire Jadis, a campus ministry leader at Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla. "We all have our own battles, but these people are a support system, and they help. We all have the same goal."

The 2015 CMU Workshop will be July 9-11 in Tulsa. CMU will host its annual Family Vacation college-age retreat Jan. 16-19 in Panama City Beach, Fla.

ON THE WEB: www.campusministryunited.com



Wisconsin campers look forward to ‘Someday’

Campers surprise counselors with an impromptu singing of the hymn “Someday” at Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp. The camp operates on a site known as Fallhall Glen near Black River Falls, Wis. Four summer sessions each draw between 80 and 100 campers and last two weeks. The camp is “blessed with abundant natural beauty that only our God could provide,” according to its website at www.wcyc.org.

W.L. Fletcher, leader among churches in southern California, dies at 80

W.L. Fletcher III, a longtime church leader in southern California and trustee of *The Christian Chronicle*, died July 16 after a long battle with ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

He was 80.

“He loved all Christian ministries,” said *Chronicle* President and CEO Lynn McMillon, “and his life is a powerful testimony to his Christian dedication.”

A former U.S. Navy captain and insurance executive, Fletcher was the original moderator of “Know Your Bible,” a gospel TV program. He was an elder of the El Cajon Boulevard Church of Christ and Northern Hills Church of Christ, both in San Diego, for a combined 38 years. He served as a regent of Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and helped launch the San Diego Christian Foundation, which he chaired from 1972 to 2000.

In the 1980s, shortly after Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City acquired the *Chronicle*, Fletcher was enlisted to serve on its National Council, a support group to advise and finance the paper.

“In those early days, Fletcher was a lively participant in the discussions of how the *Chronicle* could reach more people,” said Editor Emeritus Bailey McBride. “His wonderful sense of humor often helped reduce the tension in dealing with difficult issues and topics.”

Fletcher continued to serve as a trustee of the *Chronicle* until his death.

FIND LINKS to contribute memorial gifts at www.christianchronicle.org.



W.L. Fletcher and his wife, Marilyn.



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ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES — Even the World Cup can't stop a young church in this South American capital from growing — but it can disrupt Sunday worship.

Argentina's national team had matches twice on Sunday afternoons as it advanced to the final round against Germany. The games coincided with services at a congregation planted in the La Plata area, missionary Joel Banks said.

"Despite the minor problems, the group ... continues to grow in enthusiasm as they meet to praise God and learn from his Word on Sunday afternoons," Banks said. The church meets in a member's apartment and is in need of more space.

BELIZE

COROZAL — Edward Pratt, a minister from the Bahamas and graduate of the Jamaica School of Preaching, is working alongside evangelist Luis Pedraza in the northern tip of this Central American nation.

Pedraza, a native of Cuba, has launched a Spanish-language congregation in Corozal and is working with an extension program of the Jamaica School of Preaching.

He also is making inroads among Spanish speakers in southern Mexico and Guatemala, Pratt said.

Recently, Predraza taught Christian counseling to a group of school teachers in Corozal at the request of the country's education officials. He used the NewLife Behavior Ministries curriculum developed by H.M. Motsinger.

Both ministers need support to continue the work, Pratt said. For more information, see jspmna.org.

LITHUANIA

MOLETAI — Eighty children from across this European nation on the Baltic Sea played games and learned about Christ at Camp Ruta.

Thirty Christians, including six from the U.S., served as counselors. Ministers Juozas Puodziukaitis and Ilia Amosov said they were pleased that, each year, increasing



Puodziukaitis



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Family, friends gather to witness a long-prayed-for baptism

Marie Mikulova, above, in the wheelchair, didn't let foot surgery stop her from watching her brother get baptized. Her family helped her along the path to the lake to join nearly 50 friends and family members of Tomas Mikula as he gave his life to Christ near the city of Olomouc, Czech Republic.

"It was a momentous occasion for him — and for those of us who have prayed for this for a long time," said Joshua Beall, a member of a mission team in Olomouc, "and it served as a strong example to several others there who are not yet Christians, but whose hearts are continually being softened."

Mikula, at right, was baptized in a shirt he received at the first youth camp he attended with the mission team. The theme that year: "Be Free."



numbers of Lithuanian Christians present Bible lessons at the camp.

NICARAGUA

DIRIAMBA — A medical mission team of 93 Christians, representing 19 congregations across the southeast U.S., treated more than 2,000 patients in this Central American town, west of Managua. The team also cleaned the teeth of 156 dental patients, filled more than 6,000 prescriptions and gave out more than 600 pairs of eyeglasses. Nicaraguans also received 720 dresses — handmade by the members of five U.S. congregations.

Ministers from Nicaragua and the U.S. conducted evangelistic services each night. Twenty baptisms resulted. Church members reported the results in EncourageNet, a publication of the East Ridge Church of Christ in Chattanooga, Tenn.



PHOTO VIA ENCOURAGENET

Dr. Matt Rider examines a patient during the Nicaragua medical campaign.

UKRAINE

GORLOVKA — Pro-Russian separatists have seized a second meeting place of a Church of Christ in this eastern Ukrainian city, minister Valery Kolchik said.

A church member who cleans the building was confronted by armed men on a Saturday afternoon. They told her they were taking

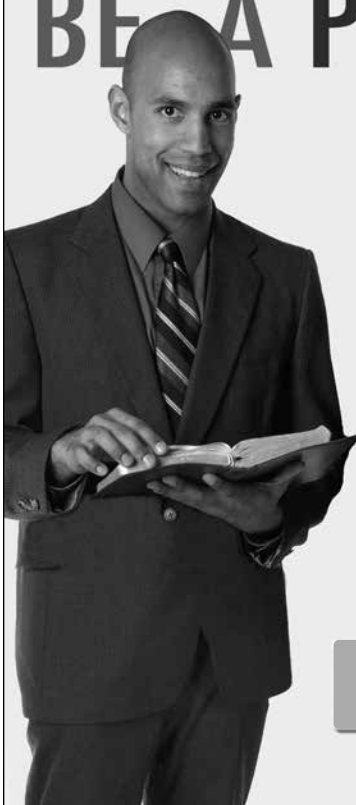
the building and that she should worship in an Orthodox church instead, Kolchik said.

On Sunday, church members arrived to find the building's locks broken and the meeting place looted. The Christians previously had removed money and important papers from the building — after armed gunmen seized the other Church of Christ building in Gorlovka a few weeks earlier.

By Monday the separatists had replaced the locks and seized the building, Kolchik said. Church members have appealed to government authorities for help and are in constant prayer.

"What has happened to the church building is the result of very deep spiritual and political problems in our region," Kolchick told *The Christian Chronicle*.

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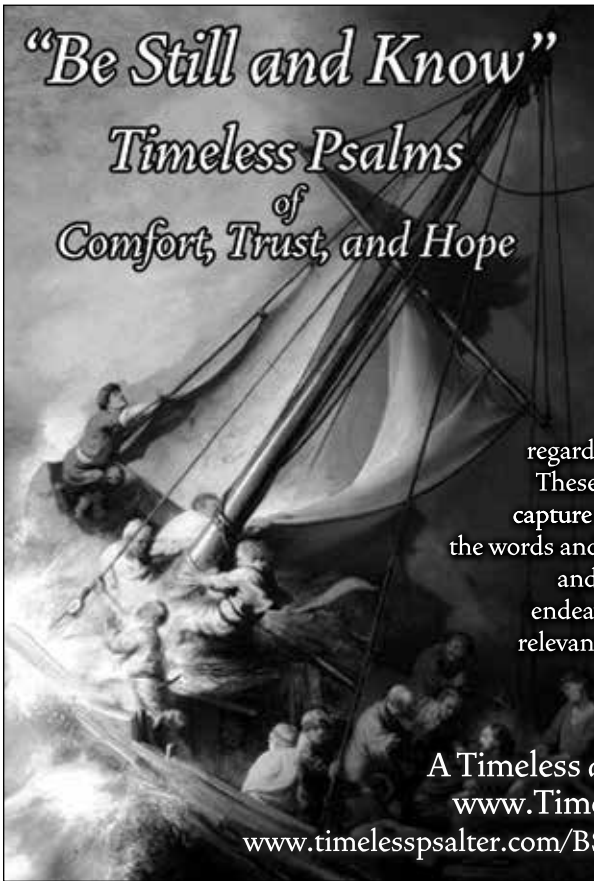
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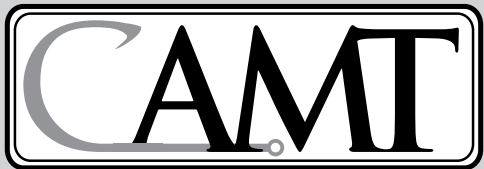
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We congratulate Dr. McKinney upon the completion of the Ph.D. degree awarded by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His dissertation topic is "Adolescent Christian Formation and Mother Nurturance and Involvement." Dr. McKinney is the husband of Angie; the father of Kaylee, Taylor, and Rylie; the discipleship minister at Fairfax Church of Christ in Virginia; and one of the outstanding instructors for the **Master of Ministry** program.

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CHI EKWENYE

'We want them to know that they are loved'

In the southeastern Nigerian city of Aba, children from Susana Homes and Right Steps Christian School remind their community to pray continually for "Chibok girls." In April, more than 270 girls were kidnapped from their boarding school by the militant Islamic group Boko Haram in the northeastern Nigerian city of Chibok. Students at the school and children's home, both ministries of Churches of Christ, have written letters of encouragement and support to the parents of the girls — and to the girls themselves, said director Chi Ekwenye. "We believe strongly that they will be home someday ... in God's own time," Ekwenye said. "When that happens, we want them to know that they are loved and always will be." For more information on the ministries, see rightsteps.org.

Christians from Congo denied entry – to another Congo – for gospel campaign

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo — The capitals of two nations, both named Congo, face each other across the Congo River. Twelve Bible teachers and students from the Hilton Terry Bible School in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC, planned to cross the river to take part in a gospel campaign alongside a handful of Christians in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo, often called Congo-Brazzaville.

But tension between the two Congos kept the believers apart. In recent months, Congo-Brazzaville has expelled more than 50,000 people from the DRC as part of an anti-crime campaign, British newspaper *The Guardian* reports. The 12 Christians from Kinshasa were denied permission to enter Brazzaville. Nonetheless, two Christians in Congo-Brazzaville, Clovis Tshimanga and Chrysostom Samba, conducted

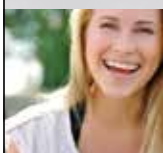


DOYLE KEE

Students take a World Bible School class during the Brazzaville campaign.

the campaign with two ministers from the U.S. and four from Europe. Twenty-nine people attended. The small Churches of Christ in the Republic of Congo "need a partnering church who will take on the entire country as its mission field," said Doyle Kee, a missionary in Geneva, Switzerland.

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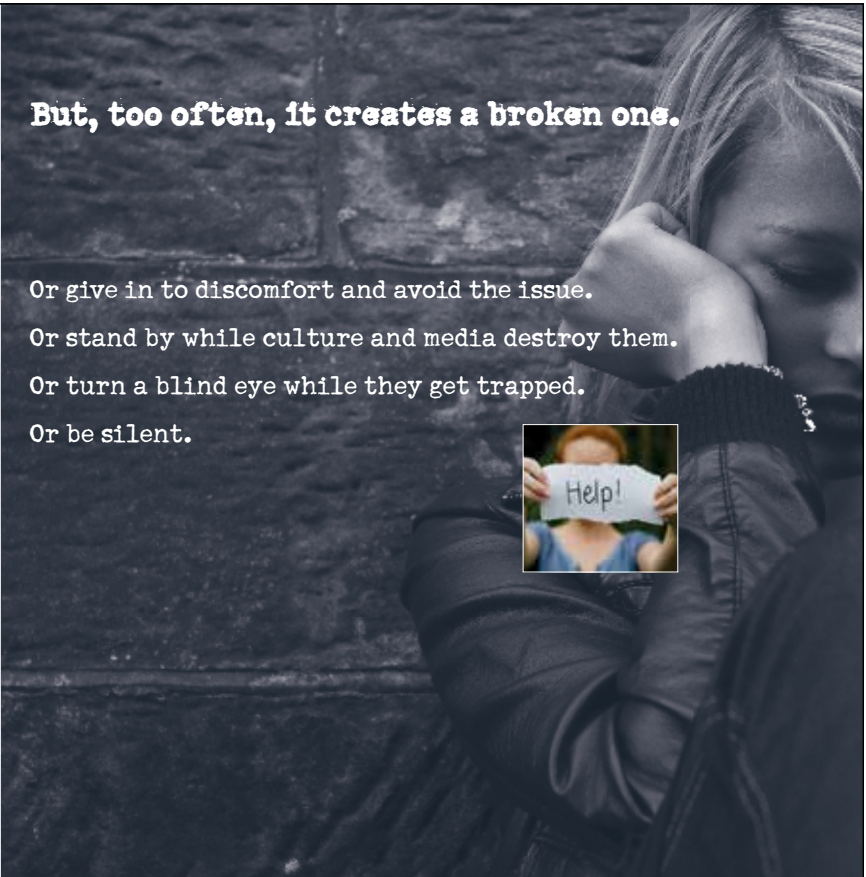
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TENNESSEE: ‘Heaven is going to be culturally diverse’

FROM PAGE 1

assembly depicted in Revelation 7:9 — “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

“It isn’t easy,” Rodriguez said. “We’re swimming against the tide when we want to embrace God’s multiracial, multiethnic vision.”

During the service, Junior High, an elder of the Brentwood Hills church, prayed that followers of Christ would “strive to be a church for all people.”

“Help us to know that you are one God for all of us,” he prayed.

A BOOMING DEMOGRAPHIC

The Sunday sermon “opened my eyes even wider to the exciting realization that heaven is going to be culturally diverse,” said Walt Leaver, Brentwood Hills’ pulpit minister.

The service included members of the *Iglesia de Cristo en Grandview*, a 70-member Church of Christ that meets about four miles east of the Brentwood Hills church. Roberto Santiago serves as minister.

“We function as one church with Brentwood Hills,” Santiago said. The church is under the leadership of Brentwood Hills’ elders, who appointed two Spanish-speaking members to serve as deacons with the Grandview church.

They serve a rapidly growing Latino population in the U.S.

Since 1990, the number of people who identify themselves as Hispanic has grown from 22 million to about 53 million, according to census data.

About 10 percent of the 659,000 souls in Davidson County, which includes Nashville, identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino — terms that Rodriguez and other ministers use interchangeably.

Grandview is the only stand-alone, Spanish-speaking congregation listed in Nashville in the most recent edition of “Churches of Christ in the



Tennessee
Population: 6,495,978
Racial/ethnic groups: 75 percent white, 17 percent black, 5 percent Hispanic, 2 percent Asian and less than 1 percent American Indian.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Enoch Rinks, of Great Cities Missions, leads “*Alabanzas Dad a Cristo*” (“When We All Get to Heaven”) during the bilingual service.

United States,” a directory published by Nashville-based 21st Century Christian in 2012. Nine other churches in Nashville’s metro area provide Spanish-language ministries.

Nationwide, Grandview is one of 222 Spanish-language Churches of Christ, according to the directory. An additional 315 churches provide Spanish services — a jump of 9.8 percent since the directory’s previous edition in 2009.

Preachers from Latin America fill many of those pulpits. Marco Diaz, a native of Guatemala, traveled with a group of Hispanic Christians from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Nashville for the combined service. It also was the first part of the Spanish-language program at Summer Celebration, an annual lectureship at nearby Lipscomb University.

Diaz worked for a church-supported medical mission, Health Talents International, before moving to the U.S. 12 years ago to preach for a Hispanic church.

He and other Spanish-speaking ministers introduce new souls to Christ — including many fellow first-generation immigrants.

Wilber Medrano is one them. He came to Nashville more than two decades ago from the Central American nation of El Salvador,

fleeing a bloody civil war and hoping to become a success in the restaurant business. Three years ago, he was a victim of identity theft. It destroyed his credit.

“I lost everything,” said the father of three children. A friend took him to the Grandview church. The Christians there supported him as he rebuilt his life.

“I saw the love of Jesus in them,” he said. “That touched my heart. I told them, ‘I want to be a part.’”

REACHING THE ‘SPANGLISH’ GENERATION

Medrano now owns a meat slicer and a growing business, supplying cubes of steak for the city’s burgeoning food truck industry. He and his family worship with the Grandview church.

His sons, Brian, 17, and Aris, 12, were born in Tennessee. They can study the Bible in either language, but “I feel more comfortable praying in Spanish,” Brian Medrano said.

In addition to Latinos, the Grandview church has some white and black members, they said. Classes for children and the youth group are primarily English. Worship tends to be mostly Spanish.

Another Grandview member, 19-year-old Veronica Giron Vasquez,

describes her native tongue as “Spanglish.” Born in Nashville and raised Catholic, she was baptized at Grandview about five years ago because she and her family “loved the environment and people,” she said.

She has traveled on mission trips with Brentwood Hills’ youth group to Honduras. It was “a huge eye-opener,” she said. “We don’t realize how much we have here.”

At Grandview, when she hears a sermon in Spanish, she follows along in her English Bible.

“It’s the love you feel around you,” she said, when asked why she prefers Grandview to an English-only church. “Even though you don’t understand everything, you feel the love.”

MULTICULTURAL: NOT EASY, BUT WORTH IT

Vasquez and the Medrano brothers represent the majority of Latinos in the U.S. — native born.

About 63 percent of Hispanics in the country are the children, grandchildren and descendants of immigrants, according to research by the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington.

Most are ignored by church leaders who equate “Hispanic ministry” with “Spanish-language ministry,” said Rodriguez, himself a third-generation Hispanic American — who didn’t learn to speak Spanish fluently until age 30.

Rodriguez researched churches from multiple faith traditions for



Vasquez



Dan Rodriguez discusses the problems in the first century church between Jewish and Gentile Christians, described in 1 Corinthians, and the modern-day challenges of ethnocentrism — judging someone else’s culture by the standards of one’s own culture.

his book, “A Future for the Latino Church,” finding that, in the U.S., multicultural churches that appeal to second- and third-generation Latinos are difficult to maintain. Churches that focus on becoming multiethnic instead of making disciples of Christ likely will fail, he said.

However, “the greatest growth is in churches that have overcome ethnic barriers,” he said. “Churches like this are rare, hard to sustain and worth the trouble.”

Cultural — not language — barriers are the hardest to overcome, he added. For Anglo Christians, bilingual services may seem long, boring and uncomfortable. And some Hispanic Christians see Anglo culture as unfriendly, at odds with family values — even “against the will of God.”

It’s easy for Christians in both groups “to segregate ourselves in any area of our lives,” said Rebecca Dorris, an Anglo member of the Brentwood Hills church who attended the bilingual service.

She saw those ethnic barriers crumble as her church’s youths — who have picked up some Spanish at school and on mission trips — sang with enthusiasm in both languages.

“When we seek God’s purpose for our lives and for our worship,



Medrano

that should bring us, as believers, together,” she said.

Wilber Medrano, who was shown compassion by the Grandview church, said that both ethnicities need to show that same spirit of generosity as they interact.

“The point is, the Latino has to change, too,” he said. “The way we’ve received, that’s the way we need to give.”

‘I LOVE YOU WITH EL AMOR DEL SEÑOR’

As the service concluded, Leaver asked the worshipers to join hands as Rinks led them in a final chorus of “I Love You with the Love of the Lord” (“*Te Amo en el Amor del Señor*”), first in English, then in Spanish and, finally, simultaneously.

Though the two languages may have clashed a bit, “at that moment, I felt like we were closer to each other and closer to the Lord,” Leaver said, “and perhaps a little closer to what heaven will really be like.”

In the vision of heaven Rodriguez referenced — recorded by the apostle John in Revelation 7 — the multitude sings “Salvation Belongs to our God” — not the national anthem of Mexico or the U.S.

“Our Savior is coming back from our homeland,” Rodriguez said. “He’s not coming for Americans, for Mexican-Americans, for Salvadoran Americans.

“He’s coming for his bride. He’s coming for the church of Christ.”

THE CHURCH AND THE BORDER CRISIS

Christians strive to look past politics as they seek ways to serve children

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As Hispanic and Anglo Christians celebrated unity in Tennessee and Colorado, tensions flared on the U.S.-Mexico border as thousands of immigrants from Central America — many of them children — crossed illegally into Texas, Arizona and California.

A massive spike in the number of border crossings by unaccompanied minors from nations including Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador has sparked waves of protests and demands for reform of U.S. immigration policy.

Meanwhile, the number of unaccompanied minors entering the U.S. illegally could top 90,000 by the end of September, compared to about 16,000 in 2011, the Migration Policy Institute estimates.

Many of the children are heading north “to escape violence, abuse, persecution, trafficking and economic deprivation,” the institute reports.

Images of hundreds of children crammed into shelters at military bases have created outcries for humanitarian aid.

Churches of Christ in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, where many of the border crossings take place, have received multiple calls from church members across the nation asking what they can do, said Craig Cooper, an elder of the Church of Christ North in Pharr, Texas, about 30 minutes north of the Mexico border.

“It is good that Christians are looking past the political part of this and just wanting to help — especially innocent children who are really being put in a bad situation,” Cooper told *The Christian Chronicle*. “We are helping with temporary respite, but most are moving out of the area fairly quickly, once they have been released for travel by the immigration authorities.”



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Healing Hands International is preparing shipments of Magi Boxes, usually delivered at Christmas, to help children at the U.S./Mexico border.

WHAT YOU CAN (AND CAN’T) DO

At the Texas border, “no unaccompanied children are currently being released to church-run care facilities,” Cooper said, “so no direct help is presently available for those children through private means.”

In McAllen, Texas, national and local authorities have set up three temporary holding areas, called Respite Centers, under tents near a bus station. The centers serve children who were accompanied by adults as they crossed the border.

The families served at these centers must be cleared by immigration officials for travel in the U.S., Cooper said. The Church of Christ North in Pharr and the Harvey Drive Church of Christ in McAllen are collecting funds and request items such as children’s shoes, hairbrushes and Pedialyte for children suffering dehydration.

Healing Hands International, a church-supported relief ministry, is sending Magi Boxes of clothes, toothpaste, soap and other essentials to families crossing the border through a partnership with the 8th & Harrison Church of Christ in Harlingen, Texas.

The Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley is accepting donations of money and food to be used specifically in the humanitarian effort.



Cooper

FIND LINKS to contribute to relief efforts at www.christianchronicle.org. Look for additional reports on the border crisis in future issues of *The Christian Chronicle*. Check our website for updates.

COLORADO: A Christian family reunion, regardless of language

FROM PAGE 1

Spanish explorers came to the state in the 16th century in search of gold. The name "Colorado" derives from a Spanish word for "ruddy" or "red" used to describe the Colorado River.

Between 2000 and 2010, Colorado grew from 4.3 million to 5 million people, with Latinos accounting for 42 percent of the increase, census figures show. The latest population estimate is 5.3 million.

Most Hispanics in the U.S. belong to the Roman Catholic Church. But the Catholic share of the population is declining, while rising numbers of Hispanics identify as Protestant or unaffiliated with any religion, according to a nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center.

What's the best way to reach the fast-growing Hispanic population with the Gospel?

Curo's suggestion is as simple as it is complex: "You need to learn to speak Spanish if you want to evangelize the Hispanic community. That's probably a place to start." (Other experts point out that many second- and third-generation Latinos speak English and even prefer it.)

Yet in the early 2000s, Curo and other church planters found only one Spanish-speaking Church of Christ in the Denver area.

Curo learned Spanish while growing up in the Bostonia Church of Christ in El Cajon, Calif.

By his junior year of high school, the native English speaker was leading worship and preaching in the church's Spanish assembly.

At Harding University in Searcy, Ark., Curo majored in Bible and minored in Spanish. In 2001, he moved to Denver and helped start a Spanish-speaking congregation that met in an immigrant's apartment before eventually moving into the Northwest church building.

"Preaching is pure joy," said Curo, now a minister for the Castle Rock Church of Christ, between Denver and Colorado Springs. "To be able to do it in both languages is exciting."



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Raúl Zamora, in the blue shirt, and his wife, Ada, pray during a bilingual assembly at the Rocky Mountain Reunion, hosted by the Northwest church in Westminster, Colo.

'ONE CONGREGATION IN TWO LANGUAGES'

Roughly 50 Spanish-speaking Christians worship each Sunday in the Northwest church's gymnasium.

"We are one congregation in two languages," elder Jim Bailey said.

Allan Javellana, a 37-year-old father of five who first studied Spanish in high school, worships with the Hispanic group. His children attend

Sunday school classes in English but join him and his wife, Mollie, for the Spanish assembly, even though they speak a different language.

"I feel strongly about the need to do some of that integration and the need to help with the Spanish group," Javellana said.

But creating true unity remains a challenge.

Some of the Hispanic women fear talking with their Anglo brothers and sisters, said Cynthia

Rivera, de Hajar's wife. They're afraid they'll say the wrong thing.

"A lot of the ladies tell me, 'They're not going to understand me,'" Rivera said. "I'm like, 'Don't worry. Just open yourself up.'"

Without purposeful efforts to overcome the barrier, it's easy for the groups to stay separate, said Javellana, who led singing at the bilingual assembly.

"We know that somebody else

meets here," he said of the mindset that can develop. "We just don't know each other."

All of Northwest's children — from Anglo and Hispanic families — attend the same Bible classes. That helps overcome the groups not knowing each other, church leaders said.

Regular joint fellowship meals bless the 350-member congregation, too.

In fact, the Anglo members particularly relish the nights when the Hispanic women prepare the meals, members said.

"The English-speaking members want to know if the Spanish group is doing the cooking because they know it's going to be really good," said member Michelle Goff, a

bilingual former missionary to Venezuela. "So even things like that have helped bridge some of the barriers."

A GESTURE OF UNITY AND LOVE

The differences that sometimes divide Churches of Christ inspired the Northwest congregation to organize the Rocky Mountain Reunion.

But in a state with a 21 percent — and growing — Hispanic population, bringing together diverse congregations naturally meant crossing the language barrier, too.

"It has been many years since the

churches of northern Colorado have gotten together for prayer, singing and studying the Word," said John Rakestraw, a Northwest elder. "We thought it was time to encourage each other again."

Preaching minister Sam Pace said: "In recent years, there has been quite a bit of polarization among churches in the Denver area, and we're trying to recover more unity."

John Wheeler, congregational minister of the University Church of Christ in Denver, applauded the effort.

"Anything that gets us together is probably good," Wheeler said. "There is still a little bit too much isolation among the different churches."

Northwest church leaders invited 65 congregations from Colorado Springs to the Wyoming state line — including eight Spanish-speaking churches — to participate.

In planning the event, organizers decided to open with a bilingual worship service Friday night, with separate English and Spanish lessons all day Saturday.

All 160 participants enjoyed a fellowship meal of chalupas, rice and beans on Saturday.

"Whether we speak Chinese or Portuguese or whatever, we're all brothers in Christ, so we wanted to make sure that that was highlighted," Rakestraw said.

Curo described himself as "super inspired" by the bilingual emphasis.

"We need to be more united," he said. "There are no divisions between us necessarily, but it's just because of the language barrier that we don't interact."

Goff leads Iron Rose Sister Ministries, which develops women's Bible study resources in Spanish and English. She characterized the bilingual assembly as a hugely important gesture of love and unity.

"The Kingdom is made up of all languages and all cultures, and I think the more that we can see that ... it helps expand our own vision," Goff said. "It helps us to be sensitive to and understanding of other cultures and languages, even in our own cities."



Colorado

Population: 5,268,367
Racial/ethnic groups: 69 percent white, 21 percent Hispanic, 4 percent black, 3 percent Asian and 2 percent American Indian.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Rivera



Goff

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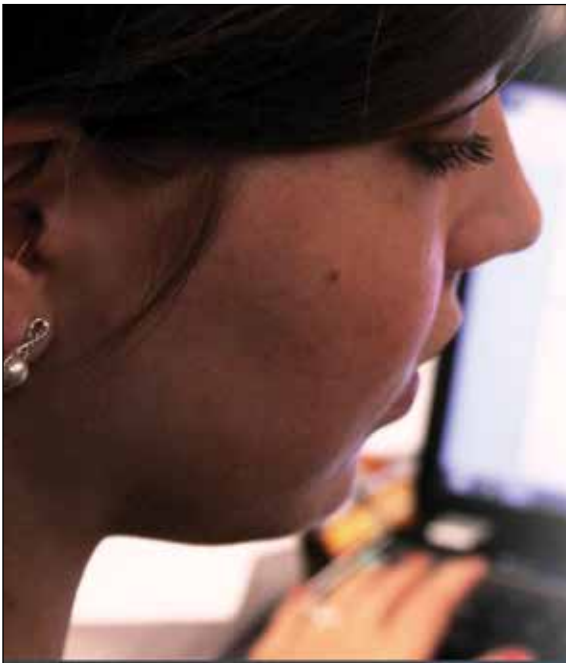
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HISPANIC CHURCH PLANTER Hector Hinojosa urges Christians to serve U.S. Latinos across multiple generations

'God has brought a mission field to us'

BY LYNN McMILLON AND ERIK TRYGGESTAD
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Hector Hinojosa and his family use a computer program, Rosetta Stone, to help them brush up on a foreign language — Spanish.

That may seem strange for a family with roots in Mexico, but just like many second- and third-generation Latinos in the U.S., the Hinojosas speak — and worship — primarily in English.

Born in Brownsville, in far south Texas, Hinojosa grew up in a predominantly Anglo neighborhood. Raised Catholic, he was baptized at age 33 after participating in a Bible study with members of the Brownsville Church of Christ.

Now a certified financial planner, he and his family worship with The Hills Church of Christ in North Richland Hills, Texas.

He worked alongside fellow Hispanic Christians through Genesis Alliance — a ministry designed to reach first-generation immigrants from Latin America.

Recently, he and other U.S.-born Latino Christians launched Hyphen, a sister ministry designed to reach a demographic they believe is underserved by churches — Hispanics who grow up speaking English and find themselves lost between two cultures.

There are differences between immigrants and their descendants, he says. (Throw a ball to a first-generation Hispanic, and he'll dribble it with his feet. Throw one to a third-generation Latino, and he'll likely catch it.)

However, "the one thing that is the same is family. It's not unusual for us to make huge sacrifices for our families."

What are some misconceptions about Hispanic ministry?

The big one is that all Hispanics speak Spanish. If there is one thing I want your readers to understand, it is that we are talking about both Spanish- and English-speaking Hispanics. For the English-speaking Hispanic, it's not about the language. It's about the culture.



RON HOLLAND

Hector and Melissa Hinojosa celebrate Independence Day at a park in Hurst, Texas.

Another misconception is that all Hispanics think the same and like the same things. "Not all Hispanics like tacos" is a saying we like to use.

Still another misconception is that if a traditional congregation sings one or two hymns in Spanish once in a while, Hispanics will rush to their church. While that is not a bad idea, much more has to be done.

What to do — and how to do it — is what Genesis Alliance and Hyphen are all about. We work with churches to help them formulate a plan to reach this community. Genesis Alliance focuses on first-generation Hispanics, while Hyphen focuses on the English-dominant Hispanics of the second and third generations.

Every church and community is different, so every plan will be different. We can work with church leaders to make their congregation Hispanic-sensitive.

We may not have all the answers, but we know the questions to ask.

How many Spanish-speaking Churches of Christ are there in the Dallas-Fort Worth area?

In the Metroplex, I count about 20 first-generation churches. Most of these are churches within a church. A Caucasian congregation saw a need to reach out to Spanish-speaking

people and started a work. Genesis Alliance has helped plant many such churches. This is why Sixto Rivera, executive director of Genesis Alliance, founded the ministry.

What kind of ministry is needed to serve the Hispanic community?

In a word, intentional.

Hispanics are not going to accidentally start attending our churches.

Spanish-speaking churches have been — and will continue to be — a vital area of our ministry. We will always be in this business because new immigrants are getting here every day.

They are not coming in the numbers they used to, but they are still coming, and

they need to hear about Jesus in the only language they know — Spanish.

But the real potential is in the second- and third-generation Hispanic. We live "in the hyphen" of the Hispanic American demographic — not being Hispanic enough to feel comfortable in a Spanish-speaking service, but not feeling that we belong in a predominantly Caucasian congregation. We need ministries that will introduce this demographic

to God's Word in a non-threatening, non-judgmental way. We will be more effective if we invite them to a relationship with Christ and are not viewed as trying to "convert" them out of Catholicism.

The Discovery Bible Study, used by our ministry, is a great tool for this. It's a way to get them into the Word. We need to make disciples that make disciples, because when you make disciples, you get a church. You don't necessarily get disciples if you plant a church.

What challenges face churches that want to reach the Hispanic community in their backyard?

The first challenge is to see who God has put in our backyard. Many of our churches have had Latino communities grow up around their buildings. Many already serve the community. The next logical step is to invite them to have a relationship with Jesus.

The Christian Chronicle has reported that there is a declining number of Churches of Christ in the U.S. — and that there are fewer people in those churches. This is a disturbing trend. But God has brought a mission field to us. And many in this mission field have an understanding of God because of their Catholic (or other church) backgrounds. But most have never studied the Bible.

A question I was hoping you would ask is, "How did I, a former Catholic, become a member of the church?"

It's pretty simple. It was not because of our doctrine or traditions, but it was because someone in the church demonstrated the amazing grace of Jesus when I did not deserve it but needed it most.

I think, ultimately, that is what we are called to do, with Hispanics or anyone else. Love people into the Kingdom.



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Hundreds of solar players are already in the hands of those who are using the power of the sun to teach about the Son.

*For an update on the progress to date,
go to Solar Report at www.sibi.cc*



RETURN!

STUDIES IN EZRA-NEHEMIAH-ESTHER

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Alan Robertson

Gary Smith

Jim Martin

William Bower

David Young

Mike Tune

B. Chris Simpson

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SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 1, 2014

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Job Opening

Director of Counseling

The Director of Counseling will lead efforts to launch the start-up of Georgia AGAPE's counseling program. He/she will handle the management functions of the program, provide the counseling, do public relations work, lead seminars, trainings and classes and build the program by adding additional counselors over time. The counseling program will include family counseling, marriage counseling, child/parent counseling, post adoption counseling, individual counseling and premarital counseling.

This is a full-time position with a competitive salary for an individual who is a member of the Churches of Christ. A master's degree or doctoral degree (preferred) must be in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Social Work, Professional Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy or a closely related field.

For more information, call Doug Mead,
Executive Director, at the AGAPE
offices, 770-452-9995 or email him at
Doug@GeorgiaAgape.org

Georgia

Atlanta, Georgia

ACCH

Albuquerque
Christian
Children's
Home



Houseparent Position

The Albuquerque Christian Children's Home is all about the children--loving them, helping them heal and teaching them about God's love. We are looking for a married couple who are faithful members of the church of Christ to come and work as houseparents. Benefits included.

If you are interested, send your cover letter of interest and resume(s) addressed to our Executive Director, Everett White.

*Please send to the email address:
sroberson@acch4kids.org
www.acch4kids.org*

50th Anniversary



**Fair Haven
Children's Home**

*50 years of serving children
1964-2014*

October 11, 2014
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on campus

3132 N. Fair Haven Loop
Strafford, MO 65757

We would like to personally invite all those who have been a part of this work to come and celebrate 50 years with us. Or, if you have an interest in this wonderful work, please come and learn more about us at Fair Haven.

Please RSVP online at:

www.fairhavenchildrenshome.com
or call (417) 862-6675

AGAPE: Adoption agency seeks to break the cycle of urban poverty

FROM PAGE 3
Executive Director David Jordan:
“We go into impoverished communi-
ties ... and ask them what they need.”
The nonprofit, he added, remains
rooted in three constants — love for
children, love for families and love for
Christ — as it seeks to “love thy city.”

ADOPTING ENTIRE COMMUNITIES
A half-century after its founding,
Agape has a staff of 60, about 1,600
volunteers and an annual budget of
\$4.5 million — 82 percent spent on
services, said Jordan, an elder of the
Church of Christ at White Station in
Memphis.

Those services have changed —
especially in the past decade — as the
childcare system in
Tennessee has trans-
formed, added Jordan,
who has worked
with the nonprofit for
nearly 20 years.



Jordan
In the past, the
state focused on plac-
ing at-risk children
in group homes and
ranches — orphanage-style institu-
tions — or foster homes. Often, they
were separated from siblings and
disconnected from their culture.
About 10 years ago, 15,000 to
16,000 children were in the state’s
foster care system, he said. Now, the
number is roughly half that.
The change resulted, in part, from
a class-action lawsuit, *Brian A. v.*
Haslam, filed against the state in
2000. Child advocates claimed that
Tennessee’s child welfare system
was overburdened and mismanaged.
Since then, state agencies have
shifted much of their focus from
removing children from homes to
providing services that can help
their families.
However, “just because you built
it ... it doesn’t mean they will come,”
Jordan said, using the famous line
from the film “Field of Dreams”
to describe government and com-
munity programs. Those who need
these services sometimes aren’t
aware of how to access the system
— or are hesitant because of bad
past experiences.
“We are making sure they walk
through the door,” Jordan said.



JOHN R. IRBY

Brenda Crawford, 10, shows some of the work she and others are doing at a site-based summer program in the Raleigh/Frayser neighborhood. Agape runs summer learning programs serving students in seven apartment complexes.

CONNECTING THROUGH POWERLINES
In Memphis, Agape serves commu-
nities including Whitehaven, Hickory
Hill and Raleigh/Frayser. All are
low-income, high-crime neighbor-
hoods that contribute to the foster
care population and have a combined
population of more than 225,000.
In 2009, the nonprofit launched
its Powerlines Community Network
initiative. The program uses on-site
offices in the neighborhoods it serves
to build intentional relationships.



Pruitt
Like power lines, the initiative seeks
to connect people with
resources they need
— resources that can
help empower them
to break the cycle of
urban poverty. The
purpose “is to be a
catalyst for Christ-
centered services,
education and advo-
cacy,” according to Agape’s website.
Workers with Agape host com-
munity cafes in the neighborhoods,
meeting residents and determining
what services they need. These
relationships drive the ministry, as
workers seek to help families build
strong, nurturing environments for
their children.
More than 100 other nonprofits
partner with Agape to provide medi-

cal, dental, counseling and mental
health services. Agape also helps
families find low-cost or free apart-
ments, based upon severity of need,
and can serve 67 homeless families
at once through its partnerships with
the owners of apartment complexes.
Agape has received \$1.5 million
in community funding to work with
schools in the communities they
serve. The nonprofit hosts after-
school programs that provide one-
on-one tutoring in literacy and math,
said Brown, a Powerlines coordina-
tor for Agape.
One such program
in the Raleigh/
Frayser neighbor-
hood helps students
improve academically
— and encourages
them to stay in school,
said Clairketha Pruitt,
property manager
for the Ashton Hills Apartments, a
Powerlines location.
“We try to do different events
with the children — back-to-school
parties, end-of-school parties, every-
thing to keep the children involved,”
Pruitt said. “We have groups come
in from Abilene, Texas, to do
Vacation Bible School with us.”
As a result, test scores are improv-
ing, said Jim Harbin, a site-based



Harbin

coordinator for Agape. Out of 114
students served by the program,
61 have a 3.0 or better grade-point
average — compared to 13 when the
program began.
“What is unique about our model
is the connectors who are engaged
in the homes,” Harbin said. “They
get to know the families to help with
whatever is going on.”
HOT MEALS AND CHANGED LIVES
Vincent Joplin, an outreach
worker with Powerlines, has seen
lives change in the Whitehaven
community, where he serves.
Particularly touching is the story
of a 76-year-old man who struggles
to support his daughter and her
seven children. Often, the food pro-
vided through Agape’s after-school
program is the children’s dinner for
the night, Joplin said.
The children have participated in a
faith-based “discipleship camp” and
several of Powerlines’ evangelistic
activities, Joplin added. He remem-
bers their grandfather once telling
him, “I love what you’re doing for
my grandkids.”
“God is truly allowing our efforts
to make an impact in the lives of the
under-resourced,” Joplin said.
ON THE WEB: agapemeanslove.org

Full-Time Minister

The **Richmond church of Christ** in Kentucky is looking for a family/youth minister to motivate, teach, and encourage Christian development that fosters unity among our youth and families.

Learn more: www.richmondcc.org

Serious inquiries send email to:
familyminister@richmondcc.org

We would like to have a man in the position by August 1, 2014.

CHURCH OF CHRIST in Jerusalem, Arkansas, is searching for a full-time pulpit minister.

A married man, soundly dedicated to preaching God's Word and wanting to work with the congregation and the community is desired.

The parsonage is a 3 bed/2 bath brick house with utilities paid except telephone.

Larry Nicholson (elder)
PO Box 5, Jerusalem, AR 72080
larry.kayenicholson@gmail.com
(501)669-2550

Full-Time Minister

Yucaipa Church of Christ

We are a medium-sized congregation with an average Sunday morning attendance of 120, looking to hire a full-time minister who is a family man and is evangelistically motivated. We desire to hire a man who believes in the restoration principle and that the Bible is ultimate truth.

For additional information, please contact:
Jack Shupe at (909)797-1919 or
Dan Campbell at (909)224-6114

REMOTE TEACHERS NEEDED

Teachers with a heart to serve and evangelize to communities in Latin America are needed.

We are seeking teachers with some experience in teaching: ESL, personal finances, and other trades.

Interested teachers will not need to leave their homes in the U.S. Teaching will be done using an existing video conferencing network.

If you are interested, please send a message with your contact information to:
torch2@roadrunner.com

PULPIT MINISTER POSITION

Ardmore, Oklahoma

The Maxwell Avenue Church of Christ in Ardmore, Okla., will soon be losing their pulpit minister due to retirement. We are now inviting interested parties to submit their resumes. If hired, the applicant may negotiate a starting date up to as late as June 2015, if needed.

MACC consists of 350 members and is growing. Evidence of such growth can be seen in our church plant opening in the spring of 2015. We have a large youth and family program and are involved with many community outreach projects. Small groups are in place, and a popular fellowship meal happens every Wednesday evening.

All interested parties should send their resume and a video/audio example of at least 3 sermons to: Elders, 421 Maxwell Ave, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401. Additional information can be found on our website at merrickdrivechurch.org.



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
acu.edu

Graduate School of Theology

Dr. Ken Cukrowski, Dean • ACU Box 29400, Abilene, Texas 79699-9400

The **Graduate School of Theology** invites applications for a tenure-track position in New Testament, beginning Fall 2015. Rank is open, depending on the candidate's experience and qualifications. The successful candidate should hold a terminal degree (Ph.D. or Th.D.) in the field. The successful candidate also must demonstrate competence in teaching and must possess a well-defined program of research as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications and presentations. Additional information about the Graduate School of Theology can be found at acu.edu/gst.

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

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

140388-0914

THE KANDIYOHI CHURCH OF CHRIST

a small, growing congregation in central Minnesota, is seeking a full-time minister. Partial outside support needed.

Send resumes to:

Box 267

Kandiyohei MN 56251

Student and Family Minister

The Church of Christ in Livonia, Mich., is a medium-size church seeking a second minister to work with students and families.

Salary will be in line with experience, and benefits will be provided.

Please send a resume with three references and a sermon (audio or video) to:

Larry Stephens
stephenskenya@juno.com
www.livoniachurch.net

The **church of Christ in Wheeler, Texas**, is searching for a pulpit minister.

Our preference is a married man with some experience as a full-time preacher, with a Biblical degree and a deep knowledge of the Scriptures. Our 125-member congregation is diverse in background and age, we have 3 elders and we have many young families who will be a major focus of our mutual efforts.

See online classified for more details.

Please contact: **Stacy McCasland**
(806) 886-4000
mccas@me.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:

ypsicoftc@gmail.com

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

P O Box 2070

Cullman, Alabama 35056

256-734-6720



J.wright@childhaven.com

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



Natalie Yeats takes notes during a daily reading of the Gospel of Luke.



Roberto Quintanilla, a missionary in Australia, hugs Nathan Leatigaga, an Australian college student and rugby player, after Leatigaga's baptism.



Australian minister Frank Cunningham reads from his Bible during the campaign.

A 'selfie' from Down Under

A MISSION TO AUSTRALIA to encourage Christians and make connections instills a desire 'to respond to God's calling'

STORY, PHOTOS BY KELCY NASH | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CAMPBELLTOWN, Australia

Mission work in Australia can be a slow process. It starts with connection — simply talking to people and beginning a friendship.

I was one of six students from Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City to spend a month in this Sydney suburb, working to make those connections with as many people — Christian and non-Christian — as we could. Kent and Nancy Hartman, former missionaries to Australia, led our group.

I was amazed at how easy it was to become close with someone quickly. The friendships we made grew fast and strong.

We visited several Churches of Christ in the Sydney area, sharing in food,



Kelcy Nash feeds a young kangaroo at Featherdale Wildlife Park.

fellowship and worship.

I began to realize that my family doesn't exist just in Oklahoma or my home state, Kansas, but all over the world.

While we were from opposite sides of the planet, lived in a different culture — and at times it seemed as if we spoke different languages — we had one common thread tying us all together: Christ.

While I set out with the goal of encouraging them, they greatly encouraged me. The people of Australia are my family.

The experience instilled a desire in me to respond to

God's calling for my life — whether it be in Australia, America or anywhere else in the world — and share our greatest connection of all, Christ's love.

KELCY NASH is advertising assistant for *The Christian Chronicle* and a senior at Oklahoma Christian University.



Kelcy Nash takes a "selfie" with several students — from Australia and the U.S. — during a youth and young adults weekend retreat sponsored by the Southwest Church of Christ in Campbelltown, Australia.



During a visit to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 2011 — one year after the devastating earthquake — Harry Hames walks with a group of children at an orphanage.

ERIK TRYGGESTAD

‘I’m getting more than I give’

CHURCH DEACON HARRY HAMES, *who thought he was retired, finds a surprising new calling in Haiti*

BY KAY CAMPBELL | AL.COM

DECATUR, Ala.

Harry Hames, a mild-mannered Church of Christ deacon and retired medical equipment company executive, didn’t mean to — not really — get involved in Haiti. He certainly never expected that his first trip — about a week after the 2010 earthquake that devastated the already impoverished country — would become an ongoing series of work visits to the country. “I was semi-retired, and something about the news from Haiti made me wonder if our company couldn’t help,” said Hames. “A week later, I flew to

Port-au-Prince with a planeload of medical equipment.” Hames had pictured flying in with the equipment, delivering it and returning home with the good feeling of knowing people had been helped. Long active in mission and service projects of the Beltline Church of Christ in Decatur, Hames never suspected that trip would be the first in a life-changing adventure that now keeps him in Haiti about half of most months. He works in Haiti through Healing Hands International, an aid organization headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., and through his fundraising program, Harry’s Kids. “There are amazing stories — God stories — that happened that totally

changed me as a person,” Hames said. One of the most memorable, and one that led to his enduring friendship with the Haitian President Michel Martelly and his wife, Sophia, began in a temporary government building near the remains of the destroyed presidential palace. There, a cargo load of hospital beds Hames had brought was stopped with customs and airport bureaucracy. As Hames and a friend were discussing the delay, an elegant woman stepped closer. “May I join the conversation?” asked the lady — as it turned out, the assistant to the country’s First Lady, Sophia Martelly. “You have hospital beds? This Friday, we are opening a hospital, and we have no beds.”



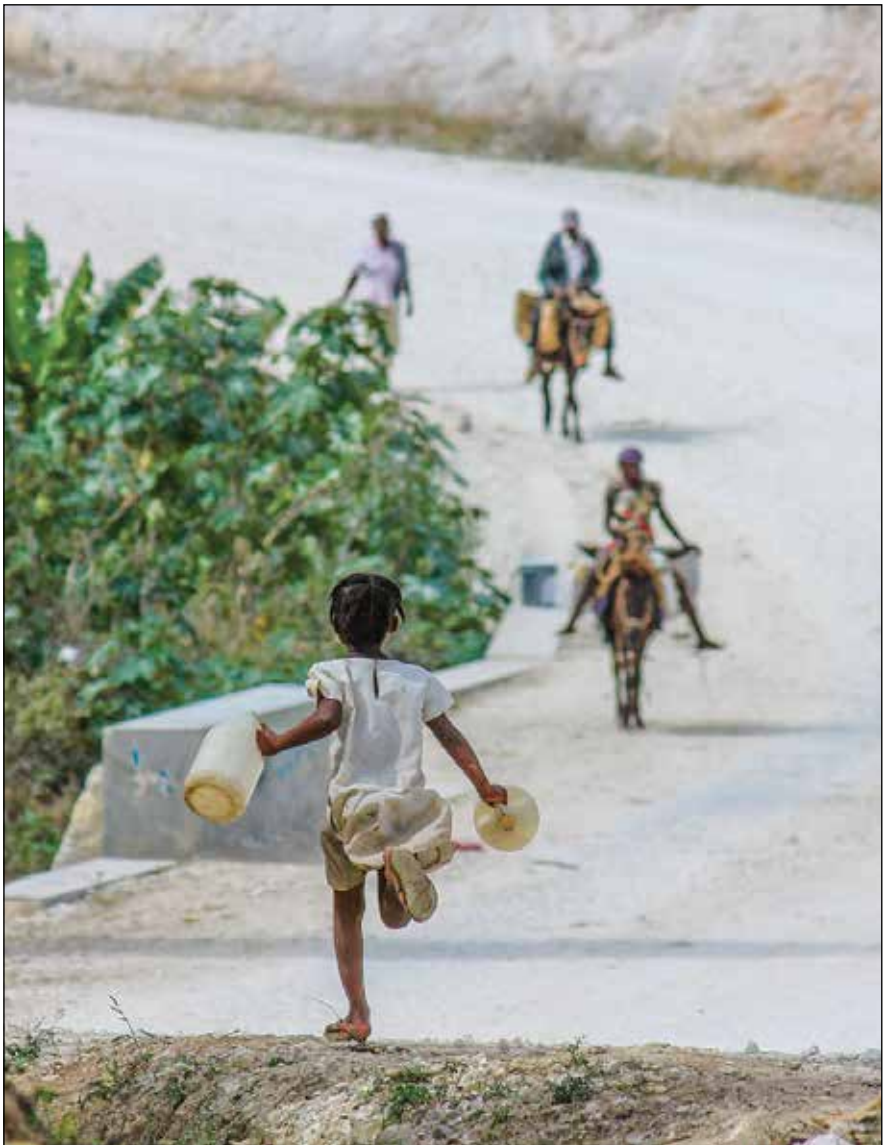
HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL

Harry Hames presents Haiti’s First Lady Sophia Martelly with an automated external defibrillator, or AED, in 2012.

government building near the remains of the destroyed presidential palace. There, a cargo load of hospital beds Hames had brought was stopped with customs and airport bureaucracy. As Hames and a friend were discussing the delay, an elegant woman stepped closer. “May I join the conversation?” asked the lady — as it turned out, the assistant to the country’s First Lady, Sophia Martelly. “You have hospital beds? This Friday, we are opening a hospital, and we have no beds.”

GIFT OF A CHILD

Hames tells the story with the matter-of-fact voice a treasurer would use to give a budget report.



Empty water bottles in hand, a child runs near the site of a well-drilling operation by Healing Hands International near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 2011. The church-supported nonprofit has drilled wells across Haiti since the 2010 earthquake.

But there’s one story that gets him every time he thinks about it. He was working at a food distribution center, serving people who stood in line all day. Then the food ran out. Hames looked up and saw the face of a man who was just realizing that the food was gone. The man told Hames that he hadn’t eaten in three days. “This won’t do,” Hames said to himself, and he began digging in his backpack for his own snack bars and a can of Vienna sausages. He followed after the man, who was holding a child by the hand, and offered what he had. “The man, without a word, put the hand of the child in mine,” Hames said. “I didn’t know what he was doing — I thought maybe he wanted

me to take his picture or something.” No, the translator told him. Both of the child’s parents had been killed in the earthquake. The man was giving Hames the child so that the child would have enough to eat. “I was still trying to separate myself from the situation and not get emotional,” said Hames, who had to push at his eyes to keep the tears from leaking. “But that did it. We found a place for the child.”

HARRY’S KIDS

Since then Hames has found a place for hundreds of children — through Healing Hands and Harry’s Kids, overseen by the Beltline church. The work of Hames and Healing Hands International has resulted in



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Harry Hames and a group of Haitian children watch eagerly as workers with Healing Hands International drill a new water well in a rural community near Port-au-Prince.



Jean T. Elmera, minister for the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince, presents Harry Hames with an award recognizing Healing Hands International in 2011. The earthquake destroyed the church’s building, which was in the process of reconstruction.

110 wells, four schools, two hospitals and an orphanage for 300 children. He also has helped set up a cement block factory — with tougher standards for the blocks than many of those made in Haiti — and a sewing shop to make school uniforms. The businesses provide badly needed income for men and women. Schools and churches in Decatur and north Alabama have heard about his mission. Groups and individuals have begun drives to collect funds, shoes, toys, new clothing and books for him to take when he travels to Haiti. Others sign up as a sponsor for a child. Sidelined since March as he recovers from open-heart surgery, Hames said he can’t wait to return

to Haiti. He loves arriving at the orphanage and schools, where the kids pour out to greet him with smiles and hugs. “My mother taught me, we can always give back, we can always help,” Hames said, relating how he’d watch his mother parcel out everything she had — \$5 bills and change — so that Hames and his two brothers each had an offering to take to church before she’d take the remainder to the grocery store. “In my four years there,” he said, “I’m getting more than I give.”

KAY CAMPBELL reports on faith and religion for Alabama Media group AL.com. This report is reprinted with permission. For more information on Healing Hands International, see hhi.org.

THE Word BECAME FLESH

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BOBBY MOORE

Showing love for children and the Texas Rangers

Children join a Christian Relief Fund mission team in showing their affection for the Texas Rangers baseball team. The photo was featured in the Rangers' game programs during August, said Bobby Moore, a Texas resident and Christian Relief Fund vice president. The Christian Relief Fund, which is associated with Churches of Christ, works with more than 800 children in Honduras and sponsors over 7,000 around the world.

Manatawny retreat draws 120

DOUGLASSVILLE, Pa. — More than 120 church members attended the annual men's retreat at Camp Manatawny.

The Pitman Road Church of Christ in Sewell, N.J., coordinated the retreat, which featured guest speaker John Cooper of Grand Junction, Colo.

Hurricane Sandy survivors Bob and Pamela Vazquez shared their story in a presentation titled "Praising Him in the Storm."

"They had never attended church before, but because of their life-threatening experience in riding out the storm, and because of Carl



DAN COOPER

Christian women serve Desmond Morris and his son, Nigel, during the retreat.

Williamson and the Gateway Church of Christ, they became believers," Pitman minister Dan Cooper said.

Ready to worship at Red River encampment

RED RIVER, N.M. — Imagine a tent the size of a football field erected in the middle of town.

That's the scene as hundreds of Christians converge on northern New Mexico for the Red River Family Encampment.

The recent 28th annual encampment drew a standing-room-only crowd of 1,500 to the Sunday

morning tent assembly, said Elise Haley, a member of the Cuba Avenue Church of Christ in Alamogordo, N.M.

"There were programs for the children, teens and college-age and a wide variety of classes for the adults," Haley said.

For more information, visit the RRFE website at www.rrfe.org.

NEWSMAKERS

AWARDED: Jennifer Goen-Runnels, director of nursing for Christian Care Centers Inc.'s Mesquite Campus Health Care Center, 2014 Southwest Region Nurse Administrator of the Year by The National Association Directors of Nursing Administrators in Long Term Care.



Morris

NAMED: Charles G. Morris, vice president of external relations for Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va. **Chad Porter**, athletic director for Ohio Valley University. **Ruth Ann Rigby**, director of business development for Capstone Treatment Center, in Judsonia, Ark. **Rory Waide**, chief financial officer and vice president of financial Affairs for Lubbock Christian University in Texas.



Rigby

NEW ELDERS: Ken Hovatter, Fort Walton Beach Church of Christ, Florida. **Brent Easdon, Donnie Edwards, Randy Mayfield, Kern Porter, and Ray Triplett**, Westhill Church of Christ, Cleburne, Texas.

ANNIVERSARIES: **75th:** Charley and Evelyn Leak, Stillwater, Okla., previously of Pratt, Kan. **67th:** Chuck and Ruth Cromwell, Lubbock, Texas. **59th:** Bryan and Carolyn Teagle, Missoula, Mont. **50th:** Lehman and Robyn Hall, Nashville, Tenn. Bob and Judy Ross, Haslet, Texas.

BIRTHDAYS: **102nd:** Anna Turner, Seminole, Texas. **100th:** Bertha Holder, North Bend, Ore. Elmo Snelling, Edmonson, Texas. **99th:** Larue Ashley, Frankston, Texas. **95th:** Dina Mitchell, Frankston, Texas. **91st:** Doretha Fitzhugh, Houston, Texas. **89th:** Chuck Cromwell, Lubbock, Texas. **88th:** Ruth Cromwell, Lubbock, Texas. Richard N. Taylor Sr., Florence, Ala.

PASSAGES: Charles Kenneth Hoover, 77, June 30, Emmitsburg, Md.



Classic doesn't mean old-fashioned.





Coming This Fall

Since 1855, Gospel Advocate's goal has always been to serve God and His people and to further the growth of the church. Times may have changed, but our aims haven't. Use *Companion's* easy year-long study with *Foundation's* quarterly focus to help your Bible class grow. New for fall: *Foundations* has new larger type to make it easier for your class to read. *Companion* provides great tools for teachers and gives another perspective on the same topics found in *Foundations*.

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Reunion at Northside Church of Christ in Wichita, KS

www.northsidecoc.org September 27-28, 2014 316.838.5200

Celebrating 75 Years

1939 - 2014



Northside Church of Christ
Wichita, KS

When your children ask you, "What do these stones mean?" tell them... **Joshua 4:6-7**

Get the latest on planned activities and register to attend on the Northside website or our Facebook page.
reunion75@northsidecoc.org | Facebook - Northside 75th Anniversary Celebration

Milestones

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

Appreciation

Susie Rowe

Dearest Mother,

Thank you for adopting me at age 2 months. I don't know how my life would have turned out if you and Daddy hadn't found me through the church.

Thank you for recognizing when I was 3 years old that I was going to be a singer. You sacrificed your time and money to give me ballet, voice, piano and drama lessons. You were always there for me. You professionally made all my costumes. You attended all my rehearsals and cheered me on, but most of all, you pointed me toward Jesus.

Your unwavering faith has been an inspiration to me and others. Everyone loves Susie Rowe. You treat everyone the same. You are our best friend. I have been blessed to have you as my loving mother, and I want you and all the world to know it!

I love you, my dearest mother!

From your loving and grateful daughter,

Debbie

Memorials

Philip Dean Bingham

Philip Dean Bingham was born March 14, 1940. Dean married his childhood sweetheart, Linda Pope, and they attended Abilene Christian College in 1958.

He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Austin and his Masters in Education from Sam Houston State University. Dean was serving as a high school math and science teacher in Houston when he answered the call to serve the Kingdom as a teacher, principal and superintendent at Boles Home,



Fort Worth Christian School and Shreve Christian School over the next two decades. He then joined the National Federation of Independent Business and earned recognition for years as a top producer. Dean returned to teaching sixth-grade science in Gainesville, Texas, before retirement.

Dean served as a deacon of the Boles Home Church of Christ and as an elder of the College Hill Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas; the Huntington Park Church of Christ in Shreveport, La.; and the Singing Oaks Church of Christ in Denton, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, three children, and nine grandchildren. Dean left his earthly cloak to be with his Lord July 6, 2014, surrounded at home by his family. Memorial gifts may be made to Oklahoma Christian University or to Boles Home for Children.

Carl White Walker

Carl White Walker, 81, of Quitman, Ga., died Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at South Georgia Medical Center after a long illness. He was born May 9, 1932, in Murfreesboro, Tenn., to the late John Walker and the late Susie Mae Spence Walker. Mr. Walker retired as President of Georgia Christian School after serving there 20 years. He was the minister and an elder of the Quitman Church of Christ since 1973 and an Air Force veteran. He made nearly 20 mission trips to the Philippines after age 70. Mr. Walker is survived by his wife, Martha Copeland Walker of Quitman; a son, Don (Jamie) Walker of Trenton, Ga.; two daughters, Ginny (Kenny) Holton of Dasher, Ga.; and Karen Sloan of Quitman; also Ervin Sloan of Quitman; 10 grandchildren: Laurie Walker (Matt) Morris of Montgomery, Ala.; Louise Walker (Dustin) Jones of Montgomery; Leigh Walker (Nathan) Woodring of Montgomery; Nathan (Molly) Holton of Decatur, Ga.; Landon Holton of Tallahassee, Fla.; Jordan (Tiffany) Holton of Smyrna, Tenn.; Jessica Holton of Dasher; Walker (Elizabeth) Sloan of Jingzhou,

China; Kristen Sloan of Montgomery; and Samantha Sloan of Montgomery; three great-grandchildren: Ellie Jones of Montgomery; Ethan Jones of Montgomery; and Sophia Holton of Smyrna, Tenn. He has one sister, Mary Ruth Dyer of Tonto Basin, Ariz. He was preceded in death by two brothers, William Walker and Thomas Walker, and one sister, Frances Kay.

Kyle Andrew Nash

Kyle Andrew Nash, of Wichita, Kan., left this world on June 19, 2014, just before his 27th birthday. He was born June 28, 1987. His funeral was June 23 at Northside Church of Christ in Wichita.

His mother, Frances, wrote this letter that was read at the service: "My deep regret is that for many of us, the struggles Kyle dealt with the last several years had overshadowed the delightful, quick-witted, charming, protective, caring soul that many of us knew and loved so much."



"We will choose to remember that little boy and young man. Kyle left us much too soon. But we rejoice, for Kyle has truly been released from the shackles of this life. He's been set free and is safely cradled in the arms of Jesus."

"So, of course, we weep for the loss of our beloved Kyle, but we also rejoice with each other, for Kyle is home. Kyle is HOME."

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his parents, Kevin and Frances Nash, and three sisters — Kelly, Kelcy and Kacy.

Memorial Gift

The *Chronicle* appreciates and acknowledges a thoughtful gift donated in memory of C.P. "Chuck" McFarland, a longtime shepherd of the Oakcrest Church of Christ, Oklahoma City.

July 30-August 3 Gospel Meeting. Oklahoma Christian Academy, Edmond, Okla. www.ocacademy.org/gospelmeeting

Aug. 1-2 31st Annual American Indian Missions Seminar. Church of Christ in Gallup, N.M. (505) 722-2937 www.gallupchurchofchrist.com.

Aug. 1-3 100th Anniversary. Church of Christ, Tabernacle, N.J. (609) 268-0576, www.weplantandwater.org

Aug. 2 Back to School Bash. Columbia, Tenn. (615)-427-0982

Aug. 3-6 150th Anniversary Celebration. Bethel Church of Christ, Dunlap, Tenn. (423) 554-4431

Aug. 6-10 Pepperdine Family Camp. Malibu, Calif. (310) 506-6602

Aug. 8-9 National Meeting of Hispanic Preachers and Leaders. Northside Church of Christ, Benton, Ark. www.Xllreunionnacionaldepredicadores.com.

Aug. 8-10 Sold Out Youth Rally. "Against the Flow." Surprise, Ariz. www.soldoutyouthrally.com

Aug. 9-10 70th Anniversary. Highland View Church of Christ, Oak Ridge, Tenn. (865) 483-7471, www.highlandviewchurch.org

Aug. 16-17 20th Annual Back-to-School Bash. Garden City, Kan. www.gcchurchofchrist.com

Aug. 22-28 Polishing the Pulpit. Sevierville Events Center, Tennessee. (877) 338-3397, www.polishingthepulpit.com

Aug. 23 Solution for Adult Caregivers Expo. Douglasville, Ga. www.douglasvillechurchofchrist.com

Aug. 23-24 50th Anniversary. Church of Christ in Marquette, Mich. (906) 250-2968, yooperman@charter.net

Aug. 28-31 Acappella Worship Leaders & Choral Music Conference. "I am Worship." Rose City Community Church of Christ, North Little Rock, Ark. (501) 945-2277, awlcmmc@att.net

Sept. 18-21 M2Y (Ministering 2 Youth) Conference. Orlando, Fla. www.m2yconference.com

Sept. 28-Oct. 1 Harding University Bible Lectureship. Searcy, Ark. (501) 279-5123, www.harding.edu/lectureship

FULL CALENDAR, www.christianchronicle.org

Entries should be submitted to milestones@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5070.

Rates and guidelines are available upon request (credit card preferred).

EDITORIAL

A church of resident aliens

This is not the Promised Land. This is Egypt. As we launch a new series, “One Nación Under God,” we pray for wisdom and input from you, faithful readers. We want to explore the varied faces of Hispanic ministry in the U.S. — in a way that honors God.

As our deadline approached, the border crisis made headlines and flared tempers. It’s a heated, potentially divisive issue for Anglo and Latino Christians.

Where do we draw the line between compassion and respect for the laws of the land? How can we bridge the cultural divide in the midst of such contentious issues?

Dan Rodriguez, a minister and professor of Hispanic studies, gave us a starting place for understanding



One Nación Under God
Reaching Hispanics in the U.S.

when he spoke at a multilingual Sunday service in Nashville, Tenn. Latin Americans who come to the

U.S. don’t seek the Promised Land, he said. Their situation is similar to that of the sons of Jacob in Genesis 42 — who leave the land of Canaan during a famine, hoping to find food in Egypt.

There they find the brother they sold into slavery, Joseph, and a new place to live.

But they long for the land they left behind.

Many Latin American immigrants feel the same way, Rodriguez said. To know Christian unity, we must realize — all of us — that this world is not our home.

Rather than defining ourselves by our nationality (American Christian, Hispanic Christian), we should strive to be good resident aliens as we wait, together, for our Father to call us home.

“I’m proud to be an American,” Rodriguez said. “I have an American passport. But after I die, it is not going to help me.”

As we pursue Christian unity in our increasingly diverse nation, may we all remember where our true citizenship lies.



STEVE TALIAFERRO.BLOGSPOT.COM

Children in Croatia learn about Christ at the 2014 Champs camp, a Bible-based youth retreat.

‘The seeds he planted are not dying’

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

— John 12:24

The preacher for my church, Mladen Jovanovic, passed away suddenly Sept. 13, 2013.

His death caught all of us unguarded. All of us who knew him never suspected something like this might happen.

But it did.

Being associate minister for the church, heaviness fell on my shoulders. After Mladen’s death, I realized how much we all relied on him in ministry and church life.

Just days before Mladen’s death, I was making plans for ministry. All these plans were based on the assumption that he was going to be near, providing support with counsel and wisdom. I remember him saying,

“You don’t know how much longer you will have me around.”

And once, when he was driving me in his car, he told me I have to take more responsibilities in church ministry. I joked that it is comfortable to be in his shadow.

Then he said, “But, the sun is shining more and more.”

Today, I can see that the seeds he planted are not dying in vain. A new generation in our church is taking over ministry and continues to grow.

I, and so many others in our church, were so blessed by his love and ministry. He shared his love for the Lord with everyone he met.

Now we have to grow in Christ — not relying on men.

In the Word



Mislav Ilic

MISLAV ILIC is minister for the Kuslanova Street Church of Christ in Zagreb, Croatia. He has a degree in engineering and has studied theology at the Bible Institute in Zagreb. He and his wife, Snjezana, have two children.



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Mission trips and bathroom breaks: Homeschool grad recalls the pluses

Why homeschool? It's a question Cindy Colley gets a lot. The author and motivational speaker — whose husband, Glenn, is a minister and elder of the West Huntsville Church of Christ in Alabama — taught both of their children at home.

Here, their daughter, Hannah Giselsbach, notes some advantages she experienced as a homeschooled youth. These also are the reasons why Giselsbach plans to homeschool her own son, due in September.

- **Flexibility.** Dad was a preacher, so if he was ever traveling to preach at a seminar, we could pack up our textbooks and go with him. This meant staying in hotels and all kinds of sight-seeing. Luckily, I'm not one to get carsick, so 10 hours in a car meant getting two or three days of schoolwork done, opening up time for myself to just enjoy doing whatever the trip had in store for us.

- **Foreign missions.** I've been blessed to be able to do mission work in New Zealand, Jamaica, Columbia, Argentina and Ukraine. Each of those trips happened while other kids my age were in school.

That's the beauty of home schooling. As long as it gets done, you can complete the work at any time, not necessarily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every weekday.

- **Academic strength.** One of the first things I thought when I got to college was that the work was rather simple compared to the work I was accustomed to in high school.

Homeschooling meant we could study at my pace while ever challenging me to stretch myself. I never had to wait for anyone else to catch up before I could move on to bigger and better things.

And I never had to feel stupid if I was a tad behind.

- **Pajamas.** You knew it was coming. I could wear them all day long if I wanted to.

- **Shelter.** It's that word we're so afraid of, and I'm not sure why. I will be the first to tell you, I was sheltered.

Does that mean completely unprepared for the "real world?" Nope.

As a homeschooler, it was easier to maintain a pure heart and mind by being able to, for the most part, choose the people with whom I shared my time and conversation.

- **Everything is school.**

In home school, you really do get credit for *everything* — from quizzing each other to study for Bible bowl, to going to a petting zoo, to swimming in Granddaddy's pool, to babysitting, to learning to drive with Dad, to cooking

dinner for the family.

Yes, we did algebra and trigonometry — and I asked the question, "When am I *ever* going to use this?" But much of the time in our school, the question was unnecessary because we already knew the answer.

- **Family.** To this day, I don't know an immediate family closer than my own. We know each other better than anyone else on the planet and, despite that, love each other unconditionally.

My parents are two of my very best friends. I'm not sure it would have turned out that way had it not been for homeschooling.

- **Individuality.** In homeschool, I was never just a number among many. I never felt lost in a crowd. I was free to be whatever and whoever I wanted to be. You should have seen some of my feather shirts, sparkly ribbon hair bows, and platform shoes. No shame.)

Oh, and I was free to use the bathroom without asking permission.

There's not a single part of me that wishes my parents hadn't make the decision they did on that fateful day when they considered homeschooling us. I am what I am today because of that choice.

Warts and all, I'm OK with that.

HANNAH GISELSBACH and her family recently moved to Montgomery, Ala., where her husband, Ben, will preach and work for Lads to Leaders. This Views piece is excerpted from the book "Cindy Colley on Homeschooling: 77 Things You Need to Know," available at www.thecolleyhouse.org.

Views



Hannah Giselsbach

Resources for faith-based homeschooling

It's back-to-school time. Across the U.S., children soon will pack their bags and leave their homes for the classroom. For an increasing number of Americans, however, home is the classroom. Nearly 1.8 million children in the U.S. are homeschooled, according to the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. That's about 3.4 percent of the school-age population — and more than double the number in the center's 1999 report. About 91 percent of parents surveyed by the center said that "concern about the environment of other schools" factored into their decision to home-school. Other factors included:

- A desire to provide moral instruction (77 percent).
- A dissatisfaction with academic instruction at other schools (74 percent).
- A desire to provide religious instruction (64 percent).
- A desire to provide a nontraditional approach to their child's education (44 percent).

We want to hear your home-schooling stories. Why did you choose

to homeschool your children? What results have you seen? Were you homeschooled? If so, what were your experiences? Whether you're a teacher or a student, how has homeschooling impacted your faith?

Send your stories to us at letters@christianchronicle.org

Following is a list of companies and ministries that serve homeschools and responded to *The Christian Chronicle's* request for resources.

If you don't see your company, ministry or nonprofit listed here, contact advertising assistant Kelcy Nash at kelcy.nash@christianchronicle.org.

Apologetics Press
Resources related to reason, revelation, discovery, Bible contradiction and topics that challenge faith.
www.apologeticspress.org

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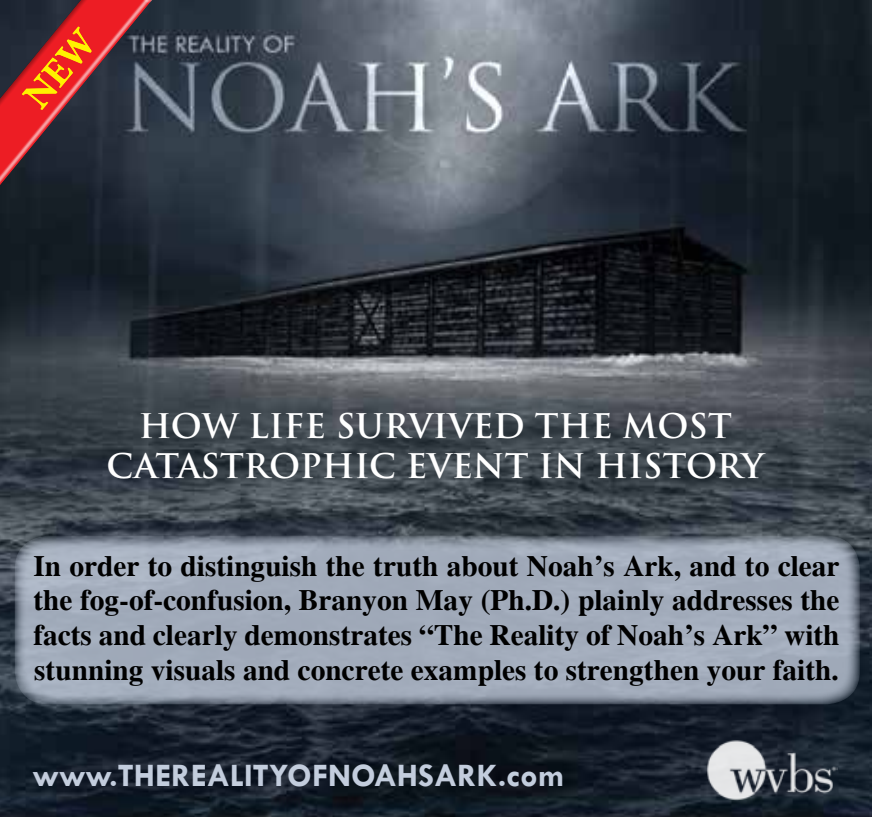

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AMBER BRAMLETT

Sage and Kirkley Bramlett use their kitchen in Anchorage, Alaska, as a science lab, learning about the effects of different kinds of acids. Their parents, Aric and Amber Bramlett, homeschool the girls and their brothers, Isaac and Noah.

Willard's final work is a joyous, inspirational mess

Dallas Willard was perhaps the single most important Protestant voice of the past quarter-century in the area of spiritual formation. His death last year brought to mind his enormous influence on today's ministers: His magisterial "The Spirit of the Disciplines" (1988) is still the best book on the theology of spiritual transformation. "Renovation of the Heart" and "The Divine Conspiracy," from a decade later, are brilliant and deep meditations on discipleship in the school of Christ-likeness.

An earlier book on discernment, "In Search of Guidance" (1984, reissued in 2012 as "Hearing God") and a later one on spiritual knowledge, "Knowing Christ Today" (2008) form a five five-book corpus that secures Willard's place as a seminal Christian thinker.

His last book, "Living in Christ's Presence: Final Words on Heaven and the Kingdom of God," published posthumously, serves as a kind of valedictory. All of the ideas presented here can be found in Willard's other works. The book basically is the transcriptions of a conference from 2013 where Willard and California minister and author John Ortberg gave presentations. Each of the seven chapters consists of the lectures

(four by Willard, three by Ortberg), a question-and-answer session with Ortberg asking questions of Willard, and a discussion guide, which is intended to be used with the actual videos of the presentations (which I have not reviewed).

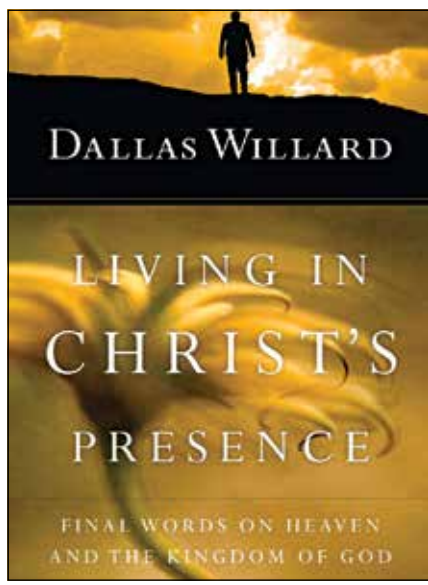
So, what of this book? Let's get this out of the way early. The book is a mess that is in desperate need of deeper editing. In simply transcribing the speeches, some sentences just do not make sense, even after several readings. There is no tight flow of ideas that you would expect out of well-written essays, but then these are not essays — they are speeches and question-and-answer sessions.

I have little doubt that some readers who have read Willard's others books will be howling in frustration at times trying to follow this one.

And yet ... What if I told you I really like the book? Indeed, as I looked past the flawed presentation and listened carefully, I could hear this old Christian sage in his distinct voice, saying all the things that have been most important to him as he nears death. So, what are those things he had to say, as we lean in to listen to his final words? First, it is possible to have knowledge of Christ. That's right — not just faith, but knowledge. For



In Print
Randy Harris



★★★★☆
Dallas Willard. **Living in Christ's Presence.** Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2014. 191 pages. \$20.

Willard, this is not so much classical apologetics as much as it is the knowledge that comes from actually following Jesus. We learn the truth by doing what Jesus teaches us.

Second, Christian formation is not behavior modification, but the transformation of all of our parts (mind, body, will, emotions and desires) by God's gracious actions. Only God can remake our deepest desires.

Part of this remaking requires us to ask ourselves the question "What is bothering you?" and then answer

it honestly. Only when we identify our deepest brokenness can we identify which spiritual disciplines might make the space for God's re-creative power, Willard says.

This work of spiritual formation must be done in community, Willard says. The whole Trinitarian doctrine of God is about self-giving to the other. Divisions in the body of Christ are an affront to Trinitarian life as is selfishness of every kind, according to Willard.

This leads to one of the central contentions of Willard's life work — that right theology is always secondary to discipleship.

There are things with which I might want to take issue in Willard's ideas: the relationship between knowledge and faith and to what degree knowledge is possible.

However, I am still moved by Willard's passionate plea to come to know God by actually following Jesus.

When I finished the book, I experienced a joy as deep and wide as the love of God in Christ. How many books can you say that about?

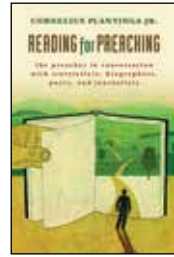
Thanks, Dallas Willard, for a life well lived.

RANDY HARRIS is Spiritual Director of the College of Biblical Studies at Abilene Christian University in Texas and teaches in the department of Bible, Missions and Ministry. He is a senior fellow at the Institute of Christian Spirituality at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., and certified as a Spiritual Director by the Shalem Institute.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

FOR MINISTERS

Cornelius Plantinga Jr. **Reading for Preaching: The Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets, and Journalists.** Nashville, Tenn.: B&H Publishing Group, 2013. 136 pages. \$14.



Using examples from "Les Miserables" to "The Kite Runner," Plantinga, president emeritus of Calvin Theological Seminary, encourages preachers to seek wisdom beyond Bible commentaries.

ON SUFFERING

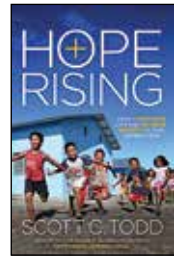
Jennifer Rothschild. **God is Just Not Fair: Finding Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2014. 240 pages. \$15.99.



Divided into the six big questions she says everyone asks God when life is tough, Rothschild shares her journey through depression, along with Scripture and advice such as "Trust God more than your feelings." The popular author and speaker has been blind since her teen years.

GLOBAL ISSUES

Scott Todd. **Hope Rising: How Christians Can End Extreme Poverty in This Generation.** Nashville, Tenn.: Nelson Books, 2014. 224 pages. \$15.99.



Todd, of Compassion International, contends that the connectedness of modern society makes ending preventable deaths (such as those caused by hunger) a possibility. Poverty is becoming less prevalent worldwide, he writes, and Christians must join the movement to end it entirely.

FICTION

Tosca Lee. **The Legend of Sheba: Rise of a Queen.** Nashville, Tenn.: Howard Books, 2014. 336 pages. \$23.99.



Lee, an author of biblical fiction whose previous books imagined the lives of Eve and Judas Iscariot, explores the perspective of the queen of Sheba. Known for her meticulous historical research, Lee brings ancient Arabia to life in a first-person narrative that has elements of romance and political intrigue.

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A love for her husband, Africa and the Lord:
The faith-filled journey of Dottie Beckloff

When I attended Central Christian College in Bartlesville, Okla., in 1952, I first met John and Dottie Beckloff. John was finishing his second year of college on a G.I. Bill. Dottie was working to supplement their income. They met when John was working on a ranch in South Dakota after he had come from the military. Then Dottie Moreland, she lived on the adjoining ranch. They fell in love and married before leaving for college. At Central Christian, they met Chuck Moore, Keith Robinson, Don Shackelford and Earl Edwards. All of them decided to transfer to Lipscomb College in Nashville, Tenn., where Dottie graduated in 1954 and John in 1956. During those years, they talked about going to Italy to do mission work. John completed a master's at Peabody College in Nashville before teaching in east Tennessee while they raised support to go to Italy.

Then they spoke with Roger Church, a longtime supporter of African Christian Schools. Because of John's leadership ability and his education background, Dottie says, Roger insisted that, instead of Italy, they go to Nigeria to strengthen ministry schools established there in the late 1940s.

This wasn't in the young couple's plans. Nonetheless, they stepped out in faith and moved to Nigeria in 1961. There they served — with a few returns to the U.S. for family reasons — until John died in Nigeria in 2001.

I asked one of their sons, Dean, to take up the story. He began by recognizing how much his dad relied on Dottie. "He called on her for everything," Dean said of their years before leaving for Nigeria. "And, of course, she would get after it. ... They gardened and canned and had folks over constantly, and she was his secretary, typing what he needed. She bore four children and took

care of them — and on and on. "One of the biggest 'calls' he gave her was to go to Africa. That one took some real swallowing. Of course, she went, not certain what she'd find there, but trusting."

In Africa, Dottie learned about mosquito nets, the medications needed to ward off malaria and "the medicines needed when we contracted it," Dean said. "In many ways her own upbringing prepared her for this brave new world she found in Africa.

"No electricity? That's how she'd grown up! And when the African rains would thunder down on us in the middle of the night, she would run around the house closing the shutters (we had no glass windows) to keep her family from a soaking.

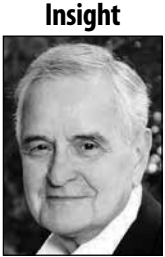
"She had been trained as a teacher and taught in a one-room school-house in South Dakota. Teaching her children was something she'd been prepared for. "People were in need in Africa. Medical facilities in the 1960s were few and far between. I remember the lineup of folks daily to get medical treatment. Mom would 'doctor' them — applying disinfectants and antibiotic ointments

and bandaging up the wounds that would come.

"And through all that adventure, she endured, grew, struggled, flourished, and stayed devoted to her 'John' and to her children.

"She laughed much, fought hard through the difficult times, cried, and stayed true to her family." Look for a continuation of Dottie's story, including her involvement with *The Christian Chronicle*, next month.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.



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John and Dottie Beckloff and their children as they departed for Nigeria in the 1960s.



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