

Under a bridge, come to the feast

CHRISTIANS SHOW LOVE for the homeless by preparing meals, washing feet and praying.

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

TULSA, Okla.

Street people lying on the grass and perched inside concrete nooks watch as a long, yellow moving truck backs under a downtown bridge.

Interstate 244 rumbles with traffic overhead as men, women and children from the Park Plaza Church of Christ slide open the truck's back door and pull down a metal ramp.

In less than 30 minutes, the visitors from a more affluent part of

town unload and organize a hefty bundle of equipment and supplies: Frozen hamburger patties and fresh buns. Chairs and round tables for dining. Hygiene products such as lip balm, razors and deodorant. Donated seasonal clothing items. Even a popcorn maker.

The scene repeats itself each Thursday night as Christians from 15 minutes — and a world — away fire up an industrial-sized grill, arrange foot-washing and prayer stations and endeavor to connect with neighbors.

"We are down here in hopes of showing God's love in action," Anisa Jackson, one of the ministry founders, says in an orientation meeting with regular and first-time volunteers.

Night Light Tulsa, as the ministry is called, is about loving individuals, giving hope and touching souls, Jackson explains before the volunteers gather in a circle and pray.

She encourages volunteers to consider spending time washing guests' feet — a way to follow Jesus'

See **BRIDGE**, Page 15



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Mike Nicholas and Sarah Grounds wash the feet of Dak Young and Crystal Haney under an interstate bridge in Tulsa, Okla.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Bledi Valca, a minister in Albania, takes notes as Max Dauner, a missionary in France, presents a lesson at the Advanced Bible Study Series in Germany.

Europe's next generation

AFTER 46 YEARS, Bible study series highlights slow, but changing, nature of mission work.

BY **ERIK TRYGGESTAD** | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

GEMUNDEN WEILROD, Germany — In this forested German village, seated at folding tables, sat hundreds of years of missions experience.

On a break during the annual Advanced Bible Study Series, longtime church workers shared a jar of Nutella — a European hazelnut spread — and stories with a new generation of believers, some raised in Western Europe and two whose forefathers could only dream of attending such an event.

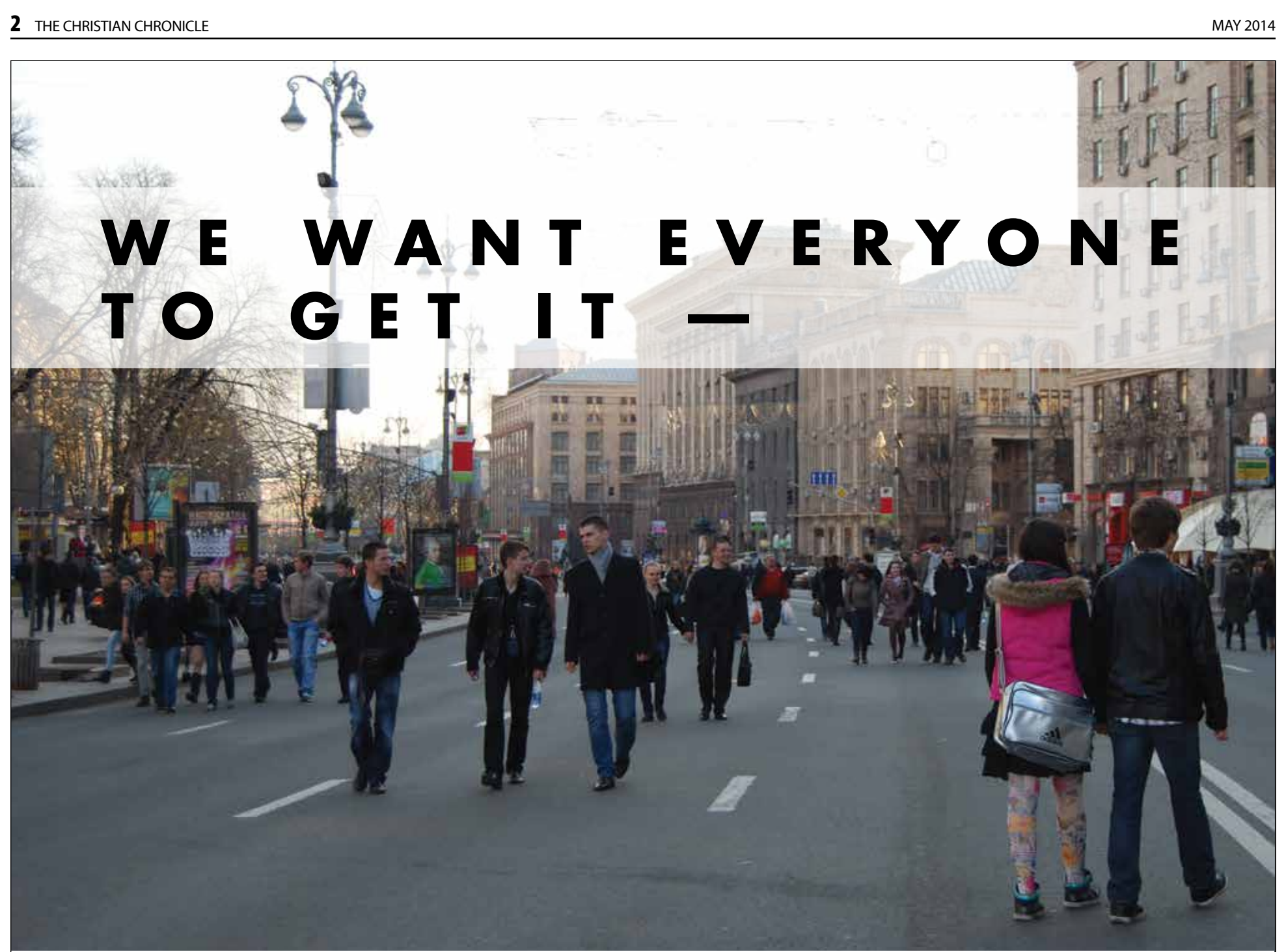
Bledi and Valbona Valca packed their young son into a car and drove 1,700 kilometers (1,056 miles) northwest from their home in Tirana, Albania, to attend the seminar. When missionaries launched the study series in 1968, Albania was a communist nation, largely closed to the Gospel.

"The fellowship was close and warm," said



Bledi and Valbona Valca

See **EUROPE**, Page 14



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Seek the true prize in LTC, Lads to Leaders

Pressure is mounting — and panic is setting in — as the big day approaches. Coaches are stressed out, parents are worn out and the expectations that their child will earn gold are beginning to waver.

No, I'm not talking about the Olympics. That was months ago.

This is the run-up to Leadership Training for Christ — when thousands

of kids from Churches of Christ gather in convention centers to demonstrate their skills in categories from song leading to visual art and match wits in Bible knowledge competitions.

There are venues across the U.S. (see our list on Page 8) and even one in New Zealand. Thousands more participate in similar events sponsored by Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes.

As a parent of two children in LTC for their eighth year, I know that the process is spiritually uplifting ... and exhausting. Now, in the final days, our filters quit working and our raw emotions begin to show.

It's the perfect time to step back, take a deep breath and remind ourselves what this is supposed to be about.

I love LTC. I love the passion that created a program where students dig into Scripture and use a variety of creative outlets to retell the truths of God's

See **LTC**, Page 4

Inside Story



Tonya Patton



LEE E. LEWIS JR.

Medical mission team gives Haitian child her first meal

Rosemita, a 20-hour-old baby born prematurely, receives a syringe of sugar water from Dr. Charles Woodbridge in Source-Metelas, Haiti. Woodbridge joined 23 healthcare workers and volunteers on a mission sponsored by International American Medical Mission. Members of Churches of Christ founded the medical mission, which sends teams to work alongside church members in Haiti and Jamaica. Rosemita had not eaten since birth.

READ ROSEMITA'S STORY on Page 31, and see more Haiti news on Page 11.

On a mission trip to their neighborhood

AT SPRING BREAK, a Texas church urges members to 'Love Where You Live.'

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ALLEN, Texas

Like many congregations, the Greenville Oaks Church of Christ regularly organizes short-term mission trips.

Members join missionaries in serving people in Rwanda. They work with a church plant in western Canada. They share Christ's love in places such as Panama and Granada.

But for spring break, leaders invited the flock to try a different approach.

"Love Where You Are" served as the theme for the 800-member church's week-long, stay-at-home mission experience — focused on making a difference in this northern Dallas suburb of 90,000 souls.

"I had reached the point where I was kind of frustrated with the fact that our people have this (faraway mission) experience, but there was no connection to how they live their life," said Matt Mazza, Greenville Oaks' outreach connection minister.

From young children to senior citizens, over one-third of the congregation — about 300 people — accepted the challenge to participate in "Mission Collin County 2014."

Projects ranged from painting and landscaping at local residents' homes to



Mazza

Hobby Lobby's attorney is church member, ACU grad

WASHINGTON — Lori Windham, a member of the Fairfax Church of Christ in Virginia and a graduate of Abilene Christian University in Texas, serves as counsel for Hobby Lobby in a closely watched religious freedom case heard recently by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"No one should be forced to give up their constitutionally protected civil rights just to open a family business," Windham, senior counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, said in a news release.



Windham

ACU spokesman Grant Rampy said Windham is "a great example of what we talk about when we say that ACU educates students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world."

The legal fight over the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate will determine whether a for-profit corporation has the same conscience rights as its individual owners do.

A decision is expected before the high court's current term ends in June.

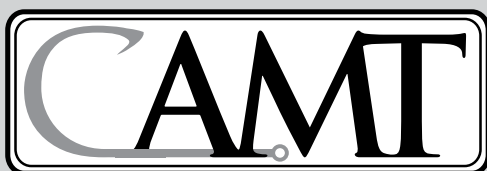


BONNIE NEVILLE

A girl with her face painted enjoys a community lunch organized by the Greenville Oaks church during its stay-at-home mission trip.

See **STAY-AT-HOME**, Page 16

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COURSE INSTRUCTOR: PHIL MCKINNEY II



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 Nurture and Involvement." Dr. McKinney is the husband of Angie; the father of Kaylee, Taylor, and Rylie; the discipleship minister at Fairfax (Va.) Church of Christ; and one of the outstanding instructors for the **Master of Ministry** program.

CLASSES SCHEDULED FOR SUMMER 2014

- Orientation with Bill Richardson
- Christian Communication with Kelly Elander
- People Helping with Joe Brumfield
- Small Group Ministries with Jared Looney

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NEW: Web-exclusive columns



Screwtape and silence. Kimberly Mauck writes on the need for times of quiet reflection — and the devil's disdain for them.



Why I can't stand 'Churches That Work.' Erik Tryggstad shares the frustration of fitting too much good news into too little space.



Root, root, root for the home team. Bobby Ross Jr. reflects on faith, family, friends and seeing the Texas Rangers on Opening Day.

LTC: Amid stress, may we show Christlike love

FROM PAGE 3

Word. I love that the program is based on living, acting, and loving like Christ.

But, as I've delved deeper and deeper into involvement with LTC, I have realized that image isn't always reality. Caught up in the competition, I find myself and fellow parents losing focus on what truly matters. Often, the emotions welling up inside us do not honor God, nor do they show a Christlike love to those around us.

And our kids — the ones we're doing this for — are watching.

A few years ago, I had the incredible opportunity to serve as an LTC coordinator for the Georgetown Church of Christ in Texas. I could not have asked for a more supportive group of elders, youth ministers and parents (not to mention my long-suffering husband). The opportunity handed to me was tremendous, despite the long hours.

My fellow coordinator, Kristy Cain, urged me to stay on my knees in prayer as we coached our church's youths for the event. We met weekly to pray for each of the coaches and participants by name — nearly 100 altogether. We prayed for insight and wisdom to handle the many personalities and challenges that come with orchestrating a large group working toward a common goal.

We prayed that relationships would remain intact after the convention. We prayed that we would appreciate each person involved in a new way. We prayed that God would be honored by our

actions — and our attitudes.

We wanted those looking in to see God at work in each one of us.

Since LTC happens on Easter weekend, we encouraged our coaches to finish their prep work a week early so that they, and their kids, could focus on the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior. We asked them to trust God with all the work they had put into the preparation for LTC and focus on the cross.

LTC is a journey to be enjoyed. It is an opportunity to train our children to face challenges with grace, mercy, humility, trust and submission to God's will. We all have something to learn from the process — personalities that need refining and eyesight that needs to be refocused.

In this final phase of preparation — whether you're headed for LTC or Lads to Leaders — may your focus be clearer than ever before. May you love and appreciate in a new way those that God has placed in your path, and may you find a new and deeper love for him.

That's the real prize you get from these events — and it's better than gold.

TONYA PATTON is Advertising Manager for *The Christian Chronicle*. She and her family will participate in the North Texas Leadership for Christ convention in Dallas with members of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

SEE A LIST OF VENUES for Leadership Training for Christ and Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes on Page 8 and additional comments in "Voices," Page 31.

MAY 2014

GEORGIA

VALDOSTA — About 850 youths and parents from Georgia, Florida, Alabama and other locales were “Unmasked” during the annual Youth Enrichment Seminar (YES) weekend, hosted by the Forrest Park Church of Christ.

“Each speaker encouraged participants to stop participating in worldly sins and start letting Christ shine through in their lives,” said Letson McCoy, youth and family minister for the Thomaston Road Church of Christ in Macon, Ga., who brought a group to the event. “Topics such as dishonesty, materialism, hypocrisy, immorality, prejudice, silence and disguise were discussed.”

In addition, youths were treated to an evening with illusionist Harris the Third. For more information, see www.yes.forrestpark.org.

KANSAS

WICHITA — The predominantly white East Point Church of Christ and the predominantly black Chisholm Trail Church of Christ conducted a joint Sunday night assembly.

About 150 members from each congregation attended the recent worship service hosted by the Chisholm Trail church, where Clifford Easily has preached since 1991.

“It was so good to be able to join together for a chance to sing, pray and talk about God,” said East Point minister Patrick Barber, who preached. “Then we all stuck around for another hour and enjoyed the refreshments they’d prepared for us. It was just such an encouraging evening.”

MAINE

KITTERY — A recent areawide preachers’ luncheon hosted by the Kittery Church of Christ drew 34 people — the best attendance ever for the monthly event, minister Leo J. Woodman said.

Seven Maine congregations and three from New Hampshire were represented, said Woodman, who preaches for the Kittery church.

Preachers, elders and wives heard a presentation on shape notes by Wayne Newland, a member of the Greater Portland Church of Christ.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MANCHESTER — Fourteen students from Harding University in Searcy, Ark., made a spring break mission trip to the



BEN LAZZANO

Mystery service project takes Texas teens to children’s home, camp

Josh Pearson, left, helps cut and organize tree limbs to supply the firewood for the Cherokee Home for Children in Texas. The 14-year-old joined 10 other teens from the Maypearl Church of Christ and eight teens from the Ovilla Church of Christ on a mystery service trip to the Cherokee Home and the Camp of the Hills in Marble Falls, Texas, said Ben Lazcano, youth and family minister for the Maypearl church.

Manchester Church of Christ.

The students painted the front of the church’s auditorium, decorated a Bible classroom and volunteered with a community project serving the homeless, Manchester minister Park Linscomb said.

They also visited shut-ins, sang at a senior housing facility and worked with children at a daycare, Linscomb said.

Students Dalton Brazier and Sarah Hines served as the group’s leaders.

TEXAS

CORPUS CHRISTI — “Scripture Sunday” is a new social media initiative of the Weber Road Church of Christ youth group.

The teens post Bible verses on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, youth minister Christian Torres told the *Christian News of South Texas*.

He’s hopeful that the messages make a positive difference in the lives of those who see them.

“If posting a Scripture every Sunday can accomplish this, then how much more could we do by taking full advantage of these free forms of communication,” Torres said.

KINGWOOD — Kingwood Church of Christ member Sharon Underwood works to brighten the lives of sick children with superhero capes adorned with animals and bright colors.

The Kingwood Senior Village resident enlists the help of friends, family and fellow Christians to sew capes for children in the pediatric care unit at a local hospital, *The Humble Observer* reported.

She calls the group the Super Hero Club.

“The kids love the capes,” Camela Rose with the Kingwood Medical Center pediatric unit told the local newspaper. “The capes are motivation for the kids to get up and walk around after they have surgery; it makes them feel special.”

SPOTLIGHT

Solar power in N.C.

WILKESBORO, N.C. — It was more than a note burning. It was a solar event.

After the Wilkesboro Church of Christ recently celebrated paying off the debt for its \$2 million building, leaders announced a new project: distribution of solar-powered audio players to African nations.



Turner

According to Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas, each device will be programmed with the Bible, Bible study lessons and hymns.

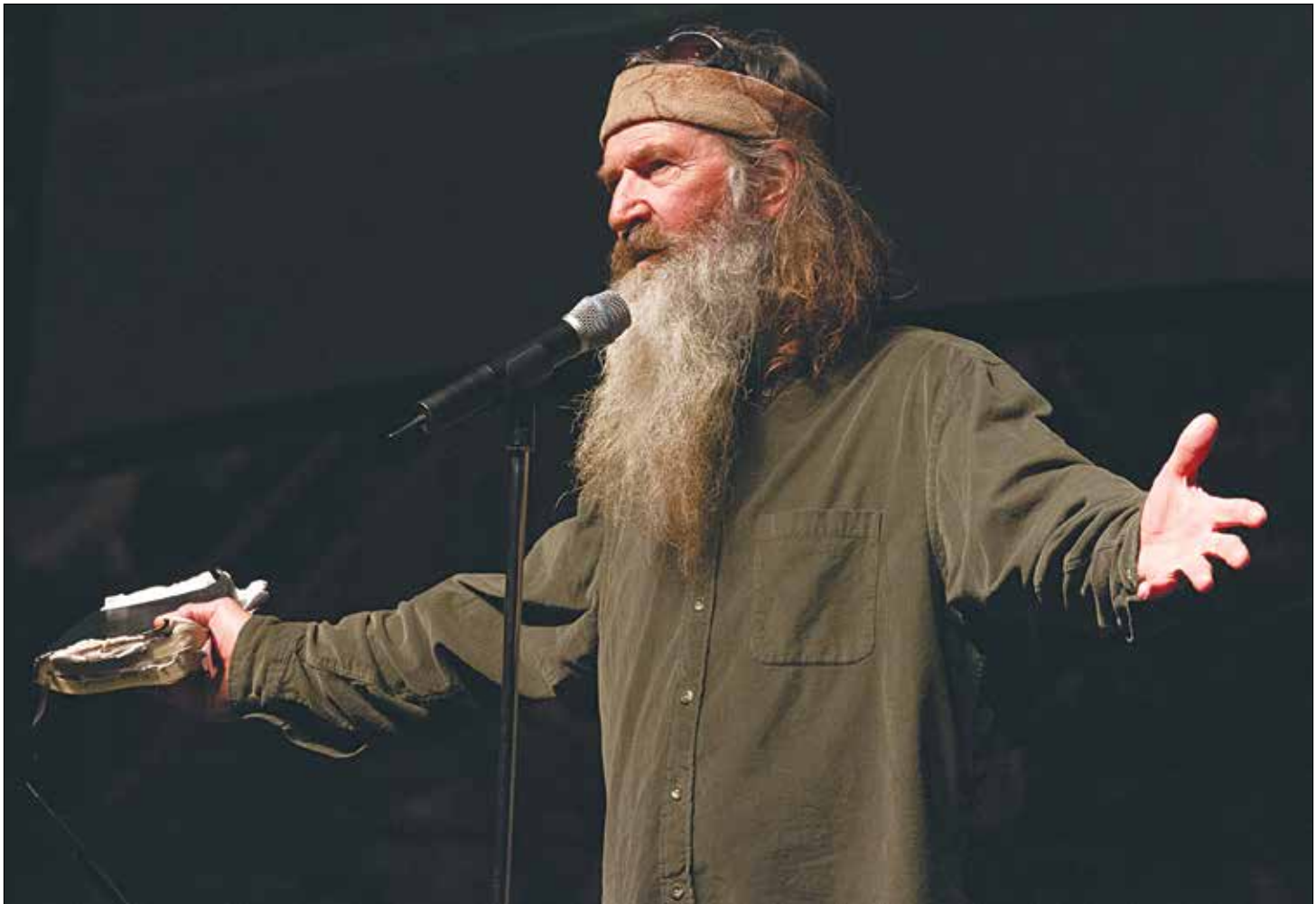
“We’ve been blessed,” evangelist Lowell White said of the church’s ability to reallocate its resources.



The colorfully attired Workshop Kids Praise Chorus — known as the WKPC's — performs under the direction of Brenda Hughes.



"Beardless bro" Alan Robertson and his mother, Kay Robertson, speak before Phil Robertson takes the stage.



Phil Robertson, patriarch of the family that stars in A&E's hit reality series "Duck Dynasty," makes a point during his presentation. Robertson's message mixed concern for the nation's moral direction with a call for the audience to obey Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. "You're never going to get to heaven, Tulsa, based on what you do, ever," Robertson said. "Jesus is your righteousness. Jesus is your holiness. Jesus is your redemption."



Worship team leader Shane Coffman and the Memorial Drive Church of Christ praise team lead singing during the Tulsa Workshop in Oklahoma. Coffman served as the director for the annual gathering, started in 1976 and once known as the "Tulsa International Soul Winning Workshop."

Duck calls and Jesus calls in Tulsa

PHOTOS BY JESSICA KOUNS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Duck Commander Phil Robertson spoke to a crowd of about 5,000 souls at the recent Tulsa Workshop in Oklahoma. Robertson serves as an elder for the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La. Read an expanded story at www.christianchronicle.org.



Acappella's Keith Lancaster, center, sings with his daughters, Kim Lancaster-Brantley, left, and Melissa Lancaster, right.



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- Earth Holds No Treasures
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- I Stand Amazed In The Presence
- An Empty Mansion
- Anywhere Is Home
- The Sinless Summerland
- Footprints Of Jesus
- Faith Is The Victory
- And Many More Songs

3 I COME TO THE GARDEN ALONE

- I Come To The Garden Alone
- Why Keep Jesus Waiting?
- Lift Him Up
- One Step At A Time
- There Is A Habitation
- Are You Dwelling In The Sunlight?
- And Many More Songs

4 I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

- This World Is Not My Home
- Glory To His Name
- I'll Fly Away
- Blessed Jesus Hold My Hand
- It May Be At Morn
- Beyond This Land Of Parting
- And Many More Songs

5 SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

- Here We Are But Straying Pilgrims
- When He Comes In Glory By And By
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- The Great Redeemer
- My Name Is Written There
- By His Wonderful Grace
- And Many More Songs

6 PRECIOUS MEMORIES

- O They Tell Me Of A Home
- Rock Of Ages
- Salvation Has Been Brought Down
- Just A Little Talk With Jesus
- His Yoke Is Easy
- O Happy Day
- And Many More Songs

9 10,000 WITH RAY WALKER

- There Were Ninety And Nine
- Flee As A Bird
- A Mighty Fortress
- Ring It Out
- Angry Words
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- And Many More Songs

10 WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

- At Calvary
- Onward Christian Soldiers
- Soldiers Of Christ Arise
- I Need Thee Every Hour
- I Know Whom I Have Believed
- Jesus Saves
- And Many More Songs

11 RAY WALKER AT WATERVIEW

- Joy To The World
- As The Life Of A Flower
- O Spread The Tidings Round
- Write My Name On The Roll
- Lead Me To Calvary
- Waiting The Boatman's Call
- And Many More Songs



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7 THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

- We Praise Thee O God
- O How I Love Jesus
- Jesus Loves Me
- Victory In Jesus
- Seeking the Lost
- If That Isn't Love
- And Many More Songs

8 THERE IS ROOM IN THE KINGDOM

- O Worship The King
- It May Be Far, It May Be Near
- In The Sweet By And By
- Whiter Than Snow
- How Beautiful Heaven Must Be
- He Gave Me A Song
- And Many More Songs

12 SING ON YE JOYFUL PILGRIMS

- Above The Bright Blue
- Brightly Beams
- There's A Rainbow
- Bring Them In
- I'll Be Somewhere Listening
- The Old Rugged Cross
- And Many More Songs

13 NO TEARS IN HEAVEN

- Swiftly We're Turning
- Angels Are Singing
- Crossing The Bar
- No Tears In Heaven
- We Saw Thee Not
- Lead Me Gently Home Father
- And Many More Songs

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In the Word and on the web, youths prep for conventions

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Bible verses and blogging are encouraged in Paul and Kim Kelsey's home.

The members of the Sylvan Springs Church of Christ in Alabama are preparing for their annual trek to Nashville, Tenn., for the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes convention.

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

a variety of competitive and non-competitive events.

The Kelseys' children, Addison, 11, and Levi, 9, have added a 21st century twist to the 45-year-old ministry.

They maintain personal blogs online, documenting their lives and providing audio snippets of their speeches for this year's convention, based on the theme "Here Am I, Send Me."

"I love Lads to Leaders because I get to lead songs, give speeches, write a blog, and study the Bible," Levi Kelsey said. "This is my fourth year to participate, but my first

year to compete."

It's Addison Kelsey's eighth year as a Leaderette.

"My favorite part is the Friday night singing at the fountain in the Opryland Hotel," she said.

Thousands of youths are expected at six convention venues across the Southeast on Easter weekend. Thousands more will participate in another youth program, Leadership Training for Christ, in 10 cities.

Nicole Favre, 15, will participate in the LTC Western region convention in Santa Clara, Calif.

She's been brushing up on her Old Testament knowledge for

this year's theme, "Called Out" highlighting the life of Moses.

The convention helps Favre "grow closer with the youth group from our church as well as other congregations," she said.

She also enjoys learning more about the Bible through events such as drama and puppet shows, "all in a fun, low-key competitive atmosphere."

In the small town of Wetumpka, Ala., Shyanne



Phillips

Phillips is eager for her chance to participate in Lads to Leaders.

"Coming from a broken home, I never dreamed that, at 16, I would find Mike and Johnna Horn, who have become my legal guardians," she said.

The Horns are 21-year veterans of Lads to Leaders and encouraged Phillips to get involved.

"I never would have believed how much fun this would be," Phillips said. "Though I am shy, I love practicing my speech. I don't know how to express my joy at the love I feel because of my family and Lads to Leaders."

Locations of Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes and Leadership Training for Christ conventions, 2014

* All conventions are April 18-20 unless otherwise noted.

ALABAMA

1. Southeastern LTC, Mobile
Website: seltc2013.wix.com/seltc
Estimated participants 900. Year started: 2001. States represented: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

ARIZONA

2. LTC Southwest Region, Tucson
Website: www.ltcsw.org
Estimated participants: 1,000. Year started: 1993. States represented: Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

ARKANSAS

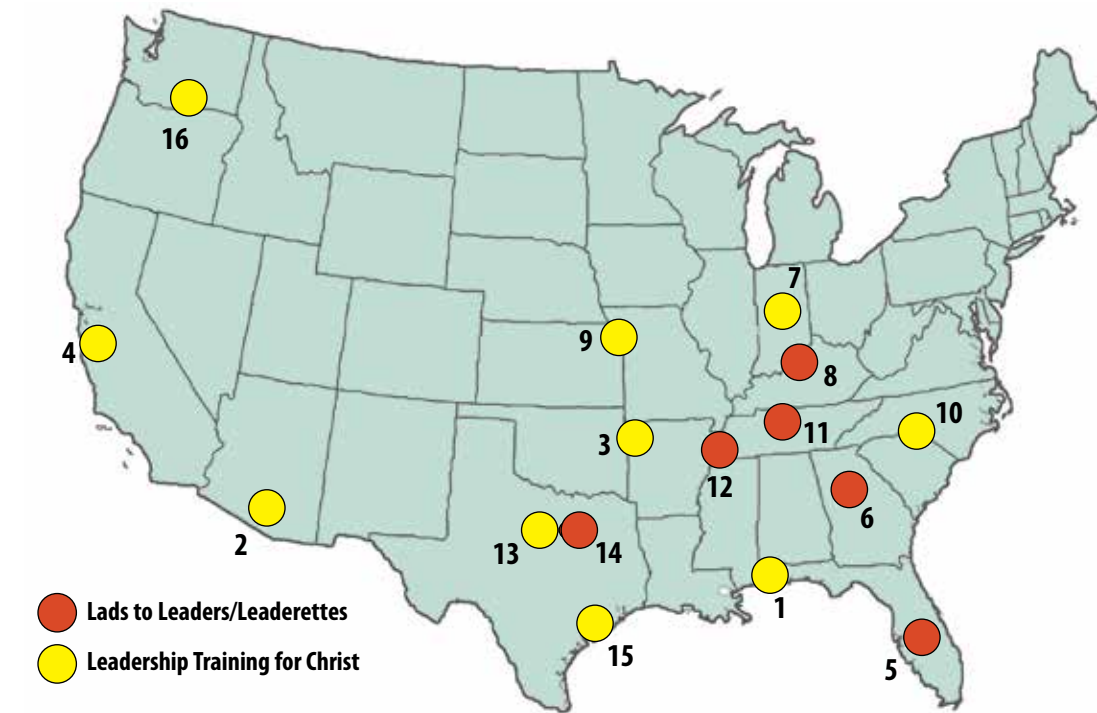
3. LTC: Great Plains Convention, Rogers
Website: gpltc.net
Estimated participants: 2,500. Year started: 1995. States represented: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

CALIFORNIA

4. LTC Western Region, Santa Clara
Website: www.ltcwr.org
Estimated participants: 100. Year started: 1998. States represented: California, Oregon and Nevada.

FLORIDA

5. Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Orlando
Website: www.lads-to-leaders.org
Estimated participants: 2,000. Year started: 2005. States represented: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Virginia.



● Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes
● Leadership Training for Christ

GEORGIA

6. Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Atlanta
Website: www.lads-to-leaders.org
Estimated participants: 2,700. Year started: 2003. States represented: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina.

INDIANA

7. Midwest LTC, Indianapolis
Website: mwltc.net
Estimated participants: 1,200. Year started: 1996. States represented: Illinois, Indiana,

Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

KENTUCKY

8. Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Louisville
Website: www.lads-to-leaders.org
Estimated participants: 1,300. Year started: 2006. States represented: Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.

MISSOURI

9. Heart of America LTC, Kansas City, Mo.

Website: www.hoaltc.org
Estimated participants: 1,200. Year started: 2002. States represented: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

NORTH CAROLINA

10. Eastern Region LTC, Charlotte, N.C.
Website: erltc.org
Estimated participants: 350. Year started: 2004. States represented: Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina.

TENNESSEE

11. Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Nashville
Website: www.lads-to-leaders.org
Estimated participants: 9,900. Year started: 1987. States represented: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.
12. Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Memphis
Website: www.lads-to-leaders.org
Estimated participants: 1,900. Year started: 2009. States represented: Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Georgia.

TEXAS

13. North Texas LTC, Dallas
Website: ntltc.org
Convention participants: 12,000. Year started: 1989. States represented: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.
14. Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Dallas
Website: www.lads-to-leaders.org
Estimated participants: 900. Year started: 2011. States represented: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington.
15. Central Texas LTC, Houston
Website: www.ctltc.net
Estimated participants: 1,500. Year started: 2000. State represented: Texas.

WASHINGTON

16. LTC Northwest Region, Richland
Dates: April 25-27 *
Website: ltcnw.org
Estimated participants: 400. Year started: 2004. States represented: Idaho, Washington and Oregon.



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CAMBODIA

SVAY REING — Standing beside a statue of Buddha, church members shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

About 300 people attended a worship service, conducted by members of Cambodia Christian Ministries, on the grounds of a high school in Cambodia's predominantly Buddhist Svay Reing province. The worship service was part of the ministry's sixth annual medical mission trip, which included workers from Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and the U.S.

The team treated 11,934 patients in four villages. Mark Banks and Mike Meierhofer, of the Walnut Hill Church of Christ in Dallas, taught Bible classes to about 120 students.

Team members baptized 64 people.

GREECE

HERAKLION — Nearly 2,000 years after the apostle Paul instructed Titus to appoint church elders on this Greek island, a small Church of Christ struggles to win souls among the 623,000 people of modern-day Crete.

John Adesoye, an immigrant from Nigeria, established the congregation in Heraklion after studying the Bible through the World English Institute ministry. When Adesoye and his family moved to Bristol, England, recently, the church looked for his successor with help from the Omonia Church of Christ in Greece's capital, Athens.

Reuben Osafo, a native of Ghana and graduate of Sunset International Bible Institute in Athens, agreed to preach for the congregation.

"The Lord is preparing him day by day, as we join prayers regarding his new position and financial support," said Omonia minister Alexander Melirrytos.

KENYA

NAIROBI — Twenty-one vocational ministers — mostly farmers and owners of small businesses — are studying in the year-long Institute of Practical Christian Ministry, which meets on the campus of the Nairobi Church of Christ Eastleigh.

As she watches the dedicated ministers study, Charlotte Hackett says "I am reminded over and over of how much the work of the church depends on tent-making Christians, on volunteers."

Phil Palmer, a representative of World Bible School, recently met with the students and shared the ministry's "God



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY RAUL RAMIREZ

Church in Peru appoints its first elders



Members of a Church of Christ of Wanchaq in the South American city of Cusco, Peru, gather for a group photo after installing their first *ancianos*, or elders. Renan Caballero Hurtado, Gustavo Leon Flores and Raul Ramirez agreed to serve as shepherds for the congregation of about 120 souls. The church, established in 1979, has two evangelists — Fernando Latorre and Saul Caballero, graduates of the Baxter Institute in Honduras.

Bless East Africa" initiative. Working with Kenyan Christians, the ministry hopes to enroll 200,000 new correspondence students in 2014.

THAILAND

PHAYAO — A mission team in this town in northern Thailand, about three hours northeast of Chiang Mai, organized a



SITES.GOOGLE.COM/SITE/CHIANGMAITEAM

Michelle Allen, center, a member of the Chiang Mai team, won the crazy hat contest at the Fun Run in Phayo, Thailand.

Family Fun Run "to raise funds to help host seminars to educate the public about human trafficking and disease prevention," said Robert Reagan, a member of a mission team in Chiang Mai.

About 100 people, including members of the Chiang Mai team, participated and organizers raised more than \$300, Reagan said.

UGANDA

JINJA — A radio program produced by church members in this East African nation is producing phone calls of praise — and requests for new congregations, says evangelist Maanda Wilson.

A listener in a village 60 miles from Jinja recently asked the minister, "When are we going to open up a church in that village?" Wilson added that he receives many similar requests. World Radio Gospel Broadcasts in West Monroe, La., supports the work.

SPOTLIGHT

From the ruins

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Four years after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated this Caribbean nation, the 28th and Delmas Church of Christ worships in a rebuilt facility.

The quake, which claimed more than 230,000 lives, completely destroyed the church's building, killing 36 nursing students and their teacher who were using the building for classes.

"Now this rebuilt church building is the home of a Christian school of 350 students," said Ron Bever, an elder of the Britton Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, which supports the work. "Thirty of these students have been baptized into Christ."

In January, the church launched a preacher training school with 30 students, and a medical team from the U.S. recently treated 1,400 patients at the building.

The church also hosts a TV program.

"The Church of Christ is becoming better-known — not only in Port-au-Prince, but also in most of the Haitian districts," minister Jean Elmera said. "The church is growing tremendously, and we praise God for this."



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

The ruins of the 28th and Delmas building in 2010 after the quake.

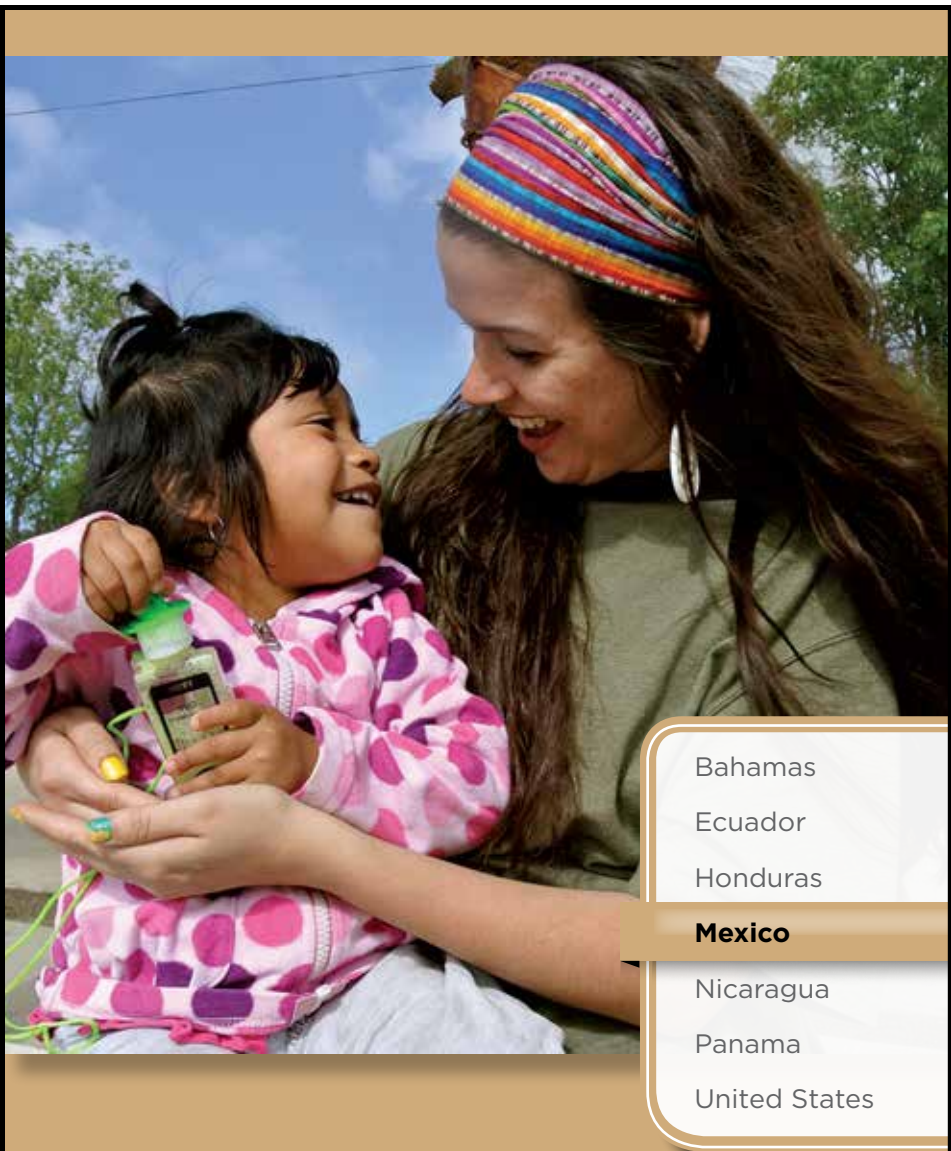


Elmera



PHOTO PROVIDED

The rebuilt meeting place of the 28th and Delmas Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince.



- Bahamas
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Sharing God’s love

Spring break is a much-anticipated time of no class, no tests and no papers. Students at Harding University celebrate this break in a number of ways, including traveling to several U.S. states and foreign countries on mission trips. Many students spend their week going out into the world, showing love to others, and sharing the good news about Jesus. Make a difference with your spring break at Harding University.



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PHOTOS PROVIDED

Michael Fortson plays with three of the 30 abandoned babies at Neema House in Tanzania.

Retired Christians get little rest, but lots of joy, as they care for Africa’s abandoned

BY SUE HAMBY | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Michael and Dorris Fortson find no rest in retirement. But there’s no lack of joy for the Texas couple, both in their 70s, who founded an orphanage in Arusha, Tanzania, to care for about 30 abandoned babies. Recently, the couple agreed to take in five new infants from a local hospital. Two, which the couple named Dawson and Dorothy, were “roadside babies,” found bloody and alone. One, still in the hospital, will be named after Philip Wood, one of the 239 passengers on a Malaysia Airlines flight that disappeared over the Indian Ocean. The Fortsons’ nephew was Wood’s roommate at Oklahoma Christian University, and friends of Wood’s family asked the couple to name a baby in honor of Philip Wood. “So, of course, we are happy to name our next abandoned baby Phillip,” Dorris Fortson said. The baby is in the hospital now, but “when he gets a little bigger he will join the Neema family.” The Fortsons founded Neema House on July 15, 2011, after discovering that only three of 22 orphanages in the area would accept children under age 3 due to associated risks and financial burdens. The country’s government allows only Tanzanian residents to adopt Tanzanian children, according to the U.S. State Department.



Dorris Fortson holds a baby at Neema House.

The name of the orphanage, Neema, means “grace” in Swahili, representing the grace of God that keeps the orphanage running at a hefty price tag of \$13,000 a month, they said. The couple’s home congregation in Temple, Texas, collects funds for Neema House. In 2012, children of the North Street Church of Christ, in Nacogdoches, Texas, sold lemonade after Sunday worship and raised \$700 for the work. At the orphanage, there are days when almost all of the babies are sick, snotty-nosed and suffering from diarrhea, Dorris Fortson said. On those days, she understands why people ask, “For the love of God, how can anyone do this?” “Yes, that is why,” she replies, a smile on her face. “For the love of God.”

WEBSITE: www.tanzaniaorphanhelp.com



LENA VOSER

Mothers’ day out, Swiss style

With a forest and mountains as a backdrop, a group of women and their children enjoy a nature outing near Thun, Switzerland. A member of the Church of Christ in Thun, whose children are grown, started the get-togethers for mothers with young children, minister Ivan Voser said. “The women sometimes get a chance to converse with each other about their faith. I can see this ministry as being capable of reaching out to mothers and their children from outside the church.”

Church members find damaged school – and huge need – in South Sudan

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

During a recent visit to South Sudan, two church members saw firsthand the devastation that resulted from weeks of violence in the East African nation.

Chuck Dennis and Dennis Cady, members of the Faith Village Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, Texas, helped construct a Christian vocational boarding school in the town of Bor, a focal point of the ethnically charged conflict. Cady’s nonprofit, the Starfish Foundation, built the school in Bor, the capital of South Sudan’s Jonglei state, at the request of the state’s governor.

“We are thrilled that our campus has received relatively light damage,” the church members said in a report. “Numerous windows were broken, three steel doors must be replaced and other things need to be repaired, but things could have been so much worse.”

In other parts of Bor, things *are* much worse, they added.

“Virtually every building, residen-

tial and commercial, has been looted,” according to the report. “While people have houses to come back to, they are empty shells.”

At the height of the conflict, at least 8,000 refugees per day crossed the border from South Sudan into the Turkana region of northern Kenya, according to the United Nations.

Christian Relief Fund, a Texas-based nonprofit supported by church members, is providing food aid and drilling water wells throughout the Turkana region, said development director Andrew Brown.

Cady said, “We cannot turn back the clock and undo what has happened in South Sudan ...

“We can respond in such a way that opportunities to teach the Gospel can be created. Scores, maybe hundreds, can be saved because they (will) listen after observing God’s people responding quickly and sufficiently.”

WEBSITES : www.thestarfishfoundation.net and christianrelieffund.org



CHUCK DENNIS

A Christian Literature Center in Bor, South Sudan was looted.



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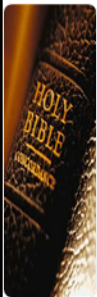
The **Department of Music** seeks an associate director of bands to begin in July 2014. Primary duties include directing the Big Purple Band; conducting the Concert Band each spring; coordinating with the director of bands in the administration, promotion and recruitment of a comprehensive band program; teaching instrumental music education courses (including Marching Band Methods and Secondary Methods); and supervising instrumental student teachers. Studio teaching and other duties may be assigned, depending on the candidate’s qualifications and departmental needs. The successful candidate will hold a master’s degree and must be an accomplished conductor and musician, with demonstrable success teaching at the secondary level (additional college teaching is preferred). Preference will be given to candidates with success in the administration and organization of a marching band program, including the recruitment and retention of quality students, the ability to work effectively with other institutional units (such as athletics and public relations), and a record of establishing and maintaining positive relationships with public school music educators. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/music.

The **Department of Engineering and Physics** invites applications for two tenure-track assistant/associate professor positions for its new and rapidly expanding engineering program. The engineering program started in Fall 2012 and has approximately 85 students in the freshman and sophomore classes. Applicants should have especially strong skills in teaching, scholarship and research. Ideal candidates will have a Ph.D. in engineering or a closely related field, and experience in teaching and research. Candidates with an M.S. degree also will be considered. Previous involvement with ABET accreditation would be helpful. Expected start date is August 2014. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/engineering.

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

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ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Lynn and Jerry Jones warn their audience that it's about to get loud as they engage in a mock argument during the weeklong Bible series.



PAUL BRAZLE

Children participate in a youth activity during the weekend session of the Advanced Bible Study Series at a Christian camp in Germany. The shorter session allows working European Christian families to attend.

EUROPE: Conference highlights slow, steady pace of missions on continent

FROM PAGE 1

Bledi Valca, a minister supported by the Maryville Church of Christ in Tennessee. "One of the greatest encouragements was to see workers who have been on the mission field between 25 to 50-plus years."

Jim and Ruth Krumrei were among them.

The couple came to Europe with their five children in 1963 to spread the Gospel, supported by a Church of Christ in Miami, Okla. Half a century later, they work with a church in Haarlem, Netherlands.

"We intended to stay for five years," Jim Krumrei said with a chuckle, "but we realized we were just getting started."

Now "we're here for the duration," added the missionary, who recently turned 82. "It's easier to go to heaven from here."

A MIX OF NATIONALITIES, AGES

The first Advanced Bible Study Series (originally called Concentration) was "distinctly international," *The Christian Chronicle* reported in 1968.

Attendees came from 10 European nations to the weeklong series, organized by missionary Roy Davison and hosted by the School of the Bible in Verviers, Belgium.

More than half of the speakers were European Christians.

Another missionary, Richard Wolfe, organized the event for 16 years. Paul Brazle, a missionary in Belgium for

28 years, is the current coordinator. Churches of Christ in Germany now host the program at a church-owned campsite near Frankfurt.

Forty-six years after its launch, the series draws missionaries living in Europe and European

church elders and ministers. Organizers have added a shorter, weekend session to allow more European Christians and their families to attend.

This year's conference featured academic topics, including an introduction to the book of Revelation delivered by Jon Galloway, a missionary in East Kilbride, Scotland.

Jerry and Lynn Jones, church members in Missouri, presented material on marriage and counseling from their Marriage Matters ministry.

Presenters represented multiple generations of European missions. Max Dauner, a longtime missionary in Marseilles, France, and one of his sons, Philippe, taught classes on biblical interpretation.

PATIENCE REQUIRED

Between sessions, participants discussed the challenges facing Europe's Churches of Christ in 2014. Most of the congregations are small, and many cities remain unreached. But it's difficult for U.S. missionaries to raise funds to live in Europe — and to meet the increasingly

stringent visa requirements of the European Union.

"The next generation of church leaders *should* come from Europe, as some of our congregations are more than half a century old now," said Philippe Dauner, a dual U.S./French citizen. But France, home to six Churches of Christ, remains a mission field, he said, and French Christians should "concentrate on building



Philippe Dauner

financially independent and generous churches" as they train future generations of Christians to evangelize in a French context.

That takes time — as does evangelism in Europe. Jim Krumrei noted that he and his family lived next door to a man for 30 years before he allowed them to teach him about Jesus.

The neighbor, Theo Van De Gevel, was baptized and an active Christian for 11 years before his death in May 2013.

Paul Rambags, a member

of the Church of Christ in Eindhoven, Netherlands, also is a product of mission work. He was baptized after he studied the Bible with missionaries who worked in the Netherlands and Belgium, including Scott Raab.

"I am eternally grateful for people like Jim Krumrei, Roy Davison and Scott Raab, who came as missionaries to the Netherlands, and for the American churches that support them," he said. "How else would I ever have become a Christian?"



Rambags

Though the cost of supporting European missions is high — and results are slow — Rambags cited Matthew 28, in which Jesus instructs his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

"It says 'all nations,'" he said, "not just the ones with many, 'tangible' results."



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Ruth and Jim Krumrei, with their daughter, Sharie Patty, in Germany.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Night Light Tulsa, a ministry that grew out of a Park Plaza Church of Christ small group, feeds people under a bridge in Tulsa, Okla. "They never want nothing in return," says one guest.

BRIDGE: 'It's so many miracles,' says man blessed by ministry

FROM PAGE 1
example and help protect against disease.
As the sun sets in the shadow of Tulsa's skyline, a line of about 200 people — many of whom sleep outside or at nearby shelters — forms on this dead-end stretch of pavement behind the county jail.
"They never want nothing in return except for your good company," says Jonathan DuPont, 27, devouring a burger and chips as he describes how financial problems left him homeless for about six months.



DuPont

'THE DOORS JUST OPENED'

Night Light Tulsa grew out of a small group of Park Plaza members who get together regularly for Bible study and fellowship.
A similar effort in Portland, Ore. — known as Night Strike — inspired members to take

action in their own community.
Benjamin Grounds, son of Jason and Sarah Grounds, accelerated the endeavor when he asked to celebrate his eighth birthday June 7 by feeding the homeless.
"I just felt bad for them," Benjamin says above the buzz of a generator under the bridge.
"I kept thinking, 'How am I going to do a birthday party by feeding the homeless?'" recalls Sarah Grounds, taking a break from washing feet. "A very wise woman said to me, 'Don't burn out his fire. Let it burn, and encourage it.' So we did."
The next week, the Groundses' small group made sack lunches and distributed them downtown.
After that, a core group formed to develop Night Light Tulsa.
"Of course, we figured we would be serving peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and maybe washing a couple of feet down here," Sarah Grounds says. "The doors just opened. It's just been an outpouring of love and support ever since."

Chris Worsham, a Park Plaza member and veteran law enforcement officer, identified the bridge near Brady and Maybelle streets as a prime location.
It's at the end of a dead-end street, so the weekly feast does not disrupt traffic.
Tulsa animal control officials found out about the ministry and began dispatching an officer to the bridge — not to round up the guests' dogs and cats but to distribute bags of pet food.
"If there were more things like this, it'd be a better world," animal control officer Pete Theriot says of Night Light Tulsa.



Grounds

'I KNEW YOU WOULD COME'

The sweet smell of smoke from the grill permeates the night air as a sweat-drenched Kevin Nieman flips burgers — 300 in all on this night.
It's a warm evening, but that

was not the case a few months earlier when a major ice storm caused organizers to contemplate staying home.
"We really debated going or not," says Nieman, the Park Plaza church's counseling minister. "Several of us went with four-wheel-drive trucks with pizza and warming kits, hoping not to see anybody under the bridge."
"Two homeless guys were waiting for us in single-digit weather," he recalls. "One of the guys came up and shook our hand and said, 'I knew you would come.' That experience confirmed for us that we need to be here every Thursday night."
Down on his luck, Vietnam veteran Steve Lovelace says he made a makeshift home out of tree limbs and sod last year.
When Night Light Tulsa began feeding people under the bridge, the former POW says he showed up to eat and felt genuinely welcomed.
"Usually, it's hurry up and feed them, and it's a degrading thing," Lovelace, 61, says of how homeless people are

treated. "It's almost like bringing people — or cattle — to market."
But with this ministry, it's different, he says.
So different, in fact, that after he straightened out his veteran's payments and got into an apartment, he started attending the Park Plaza church, studied the Bible and was baptized.
Now, he volunteers with the church's furniture ministry and recently joined a Park Plaza mission trip to help an inner-city Church of Christ in New Orleans.
On this night, he's manning the Night Light Tulsa clothing station — helping pick out and distribute garments to street people struggling in a way he understands.
"It's so many miracles," he says of how his life has changed. "The Lord has blessed me."



Lovelace

STAY-AT-HOME: Texas church spends spring break serving neighbors

FROM PAGE 3

organizing free meals at a neighborhood elementary school to sorting donated clothes and groceries at a community outreach center.

Member Karen Stevens, who has traveled with the church to Regina, Saskatchewan, said volunteering at home opened her eyes to specific needs.

"We are such a blessed community. We have so much of everything," said Stevens, stocking canned goods at the outreach center. "But there are so many people who don't."

On a mission trip to Panama, member Valinda Bruce fed poor residents in a fishing village.

Here in Allen, she served corn

dogs and macaroni-and-cheese to hungry children — many from Spanish-speaking immigrant homes.

"This dedicated week of helping people is just a good reminder that we can do things all the time to show God's love," Bruce said.

One place that church members showed that love: a local laundromat. "Loads of Love," it's called.

It involves a whole lot of quarters — and conversation.

"We just pay for people's laundry and hear some real interesting stories," Bruce said.

The goal: love neighbors and show Jesus.

"This is just the first step of what we hope will be a growing and ongoing effort," Mazza said.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE NEVILLE AND BOBBY ROSS JR.

Elaine Orr, a member of the Greenville Oaks Church of Christ in Allen, Texas, enjoys a laugh while painting.



Acacia Browne, center, helps paint a house, along with her sister, Priscilla Browne, left, and Anna Buraczyk, right.



Hillary Hoover, right, is one of the youth ministers for the Greenville Oaks church. She's playing a game with children — some from the congregation and others from the neighborhood — during a community lunch.



Church member Dana Dill visits with a woman at a laundromat. Through the "Loads of Love" project, members donate quarters to help their neighbors.

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

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A grown-up campus ministry

THE LONG ISLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST is a congregation of college converts — and their parents — striving to reach souls in New York.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y.

The sin of your past?
Fuhgeddaboutit.
The Long Island Church of Christ has forgiveness — and New York catchphrases — to spare.

The 250-member congregation meets in a rented chapel on the campus of the New York Institute of Technology, 45 miles east of Times Square.

It's a tight-knit family of faith that believes in second chances.

Third and fourth chances, too.

On a cold, damp Friday night, nearly 100 native New Yorkers, Puerto Ricans, transplants and immigrants gather in the chapel to hug, sing and hear a message from one of their members, Tyrone Shaw. His text, flashed on the screen behind him, is Proverbs 3:5: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."*

Shaw talks about the struggles all Christians face as they try to put those simple words into practice. He thanks the church for helping him maintain his own trust in God's plan.

As he looks around the auditorium, he sees more than casual acquaintances, he says. He sees brothers and sisters who share his joys, hurts and sorrows.

"I even see a prodigal son who's come back home," he adds, casting a nod and a grin toward the front row.

The nod is for his friend, Jay, who recently returned to the church after a long absence. But Shaw



Shaw



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

David Luhrs, center, and men involved in the Long Island Church of Christ's Sunday worship swap jokes and prepare to pray before the 2 p.m. service.

could be describing at least four other people in the room, including Bobby Maharaj.

"I wasn't rooted in the Word," says Maharaj, who was baptized in 1985 but fell away from the church for 17 years before he returned.

"I was expecting finger-pointing," he says. "I didn't get any of that." He paraphrases the reaction of the church: "Wow, brother! OK, you want to try (to stay faithful to God)?

Let's do this together."

"It's genuine love," he says.

People here don't mind their own business, says Charlie Gomez, the congregation's Spanish minister. Nor should they.

"I think a lot of people have that Cain syndrome," Gomez says, alluding to the Old Testament



Maharaj

figure who asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The answer to that question is yes, says Pedro Gelabert, another of the church's ministers. "It affects the entire body when one part suffers," he says.

Most of the church's work takes place outside of the building. In small groups, Christians mentor and keep each other accountable.

"When I came to the church, I didn't know anything about

transparency," says Gelabert, who grew up in Puerto Rico and considered himself an atheist before his conversion as a college student in New York. "I was a very private person. I didn't know how to express myself. But in Christ, man, that really changed me."

Anonymity can be easy in a city of 8.3 million souls, and new Christians aren't always comfortable with fellow believers

CONTINUED

Long Island Church of Christ



WWW.LICOC.ORG

LOCATION: Central Islip, a hamlet in Suffolk County, near the center of Long Island, about 47 miles east of downtown New York City. The church rents a chapel on the campus of New York Institute of Technology. **MEMBERSHIP:** About 250. **SERVICES:** Sundays: Spanish-language service at 10:30 a.m., Bible class for families at 12:15 p.m., English-language worship at 2 p.m. Wednesday night Bible study and biweekly devotionals. **SERVANT LEADERS:** Evangelist Pedro Gelabert, Minister of Finance Arthur Shlesinger, Spanish evangelist Charlie Gomez, family minister Rob Young, campus minister Ladi Davies **ONLINE:** www.licoc.org. The church offers a series of Bible studies through its website, which states, “We are a group of people who believe that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord. We are convinced that life can’t be lived without his love, his forgiveness and his presence in our lives. Our purpose as a church can be summed up in two simple, but profound words: Show Jesus.”



Mireille Toughey, with daughters Tabitha and Priscilla and mother-in-law Loretta, sing hymns during a biweekly, Friday night devotional.

CONTINUED
opening their Bibles and counseling them about their relationships at work, their marriages. “It’s not about being comfortable,” Gelabert says.

Maharaj says he appreciates the wisdom, drenched in Scripture, offered by his fellow Christians. From the pulpit and from living rooms, church members hear encouragement “week after week, day after day, about just staying focused, being in the Word.”

Dina Gomez, Maharaj’s biological and spiritual sister, agrees. “When you’re not in the right, they’re ready to lovingly correct you,” she says. “For some people it can be a little hard, but ... if I’m on the wide road, please smack me back on the narrow road. And I’ll appreciate that love.”



Dina Gomez

ON-CAMPUS ROOTS

The biweekly, Friday night service — complete with spirited versions of “We Trust in the Name of the Lord our God” and “This World is Not My Home” — has the feel of a college devotional from the 1990s, with good reason.

Most of the conversion testimonials here seem to begin with “I was a student at Stony Brook.” The State University of New York at Stony Brook, a public school on Long Island, was fertile soil for the church, launched in 1979 by Kent Field.

Field, a native of nearby Plainview, N.Y., studied preaching at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas, after his baptism. Many of his classmates planted churches in far-flung reaches of the globe.

Field, however, went back home and started meeting with a handful of believers in a rented Veterans of Foreign Wars facility. Churches of Christ in Texas and Oklahoma

supported the young church.

Bob Carr says he’s “forever grateful” for Field’s choice.

Baptized in 1981, Carr was one of the first college students converted by the church. He later served as its minister, stepping down recently after 22 years of service.

The church’s first members taught the new converts to evangelize. They knocked doors on campuses including Stony Brook, inviting students to study the Bible. Charlie Gomez, like his fellow minister, Gelabert, was an atheist when he first encountered the church members in 1992.

He slammed the door in their faces the first time they invited him to church.

“The first, the second and the third, too,” he recalls. “I was pretty hostile. I was typically angry.”

But his friend, Rebecca Young, was searching. She heard Gomez slam the door during one of those visits and dashed from

his apartment, catching the Christians in the hallway and accepting their invitation.

She studied the Bible with women from the church, but had a hard time committing to its words. Her grandmother had died after a painful battle with cancer, and “the only peace and



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

After completing a “Fantastic Families” Sunday school course, Rob and Rebecca Young and their children show off their diploma.



Jeffrey Jones leads members of the Long Island Church of Christ in “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” during the congregation’s Sunday afternoon worship.



Michael Chan interprets hymns into sign language for hearing-impaired church members as Pedro Gelabert, far left, prepares to deliver a sermon on Hebrews 12:14 — “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy.”

comfort I had ... was that she was resting in heaven,” she says. “But learning the Gospel made me challenge whether she obeyed the Gospel or not.”

The women studying with Young told her that only God could judge a person’s soul and that, regardless of her grandmother’s final destination, “she wants you to obey the Gospel and spread it to your family,” Young remembers.

She did exactly that, though it was a tough sell for her parents — Steve and Laura Aponte, who thought their daughter had joined a cult. Steve Aponte, a native of Staten Island, remembers writing a list of 25 questions (“How come you think your church is better than other churches?” and the like) and reading them, one-by-one, to Carr. The minister sat silently and smiled.

“I could feel the back of my neck turning red,” Steve Aponte remembers. “I said, ‘Are you gonna answer me or are you

gonna just sit there smilin?’”

Carr said he had no intention of answering.

He’d let the Bible do that. The Apontes agreed to study the Scriptures and, months later, were baptized, along with their daughter’s three sibilings.

Charlie Gomez, meanwhile, endured a health scare and began studying with the church members. “I realized how foolish I really was,” he says.

One day, “the person who was studying with me ... threw some shorts at me. He said, ‘Are you ready?’

“I did it. I was baptized that day.” Charlie Gomez eventually married a young woman who was on the receiving end of one of his door slams. He studied the Bible with other Stony Brook students, including Young’s future husband,



Aponte

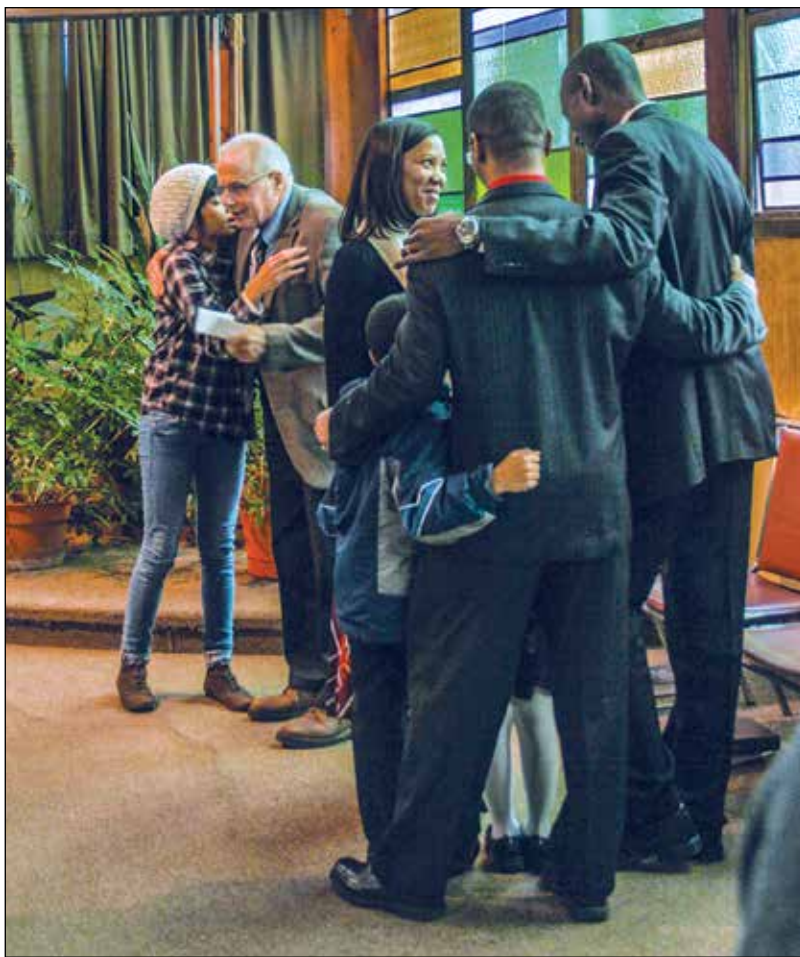
Rob Young, who was baptized in 1995 and now serves as the church’s family minister.

RABID INVITERS, NO STEREOTYPES

For a while, the members of the Long Island Church of Christ who were oldest in the faith were the youngest in age, as college converts brought their parents into the church.

Now, two generations are raising a third in the church, which has been self-supporting since the early 1990s. Five “servant leaders,” including the church’s three full-time ministers, oversee the congregation. In the future, the church hopes to appoint its first elders, Carr says.

Meanwhile, church members continue to invite students to church. Ladi Davies, a native of Nigeria who attended Stony Brook, was converted after studying the Bible with Rob Young and now serves as campus minister. He’s exploring ways to



After the Sunday sermon, Arthur Shlesinger, minister of finance, left, and Rob Young, family minister, far right, pray with church members.

reach the increasing number of international students on campus — especially from East Asia.

After college, the church’s members continue to be rabid inviters, ready to engage in faith-filled conversations with servers at T.G.I. Friday’s and cashiers at Costco.

A congregation of home-grown ministers, many church members here had little contact with other Churches of Christ before Hurricane Sandy slammed into New Jersey and the Rockaways — a peninsula on the south side of Long Island — in late 2012.

Steve Aponte, a retired worker for the City of New York, helped coordinate the church’s relief efforts, working alongside members of the Far Rockaway Church of Christ and congrega-

tions across the nation that offered aid. Aponte also works with High Socks for Hope, a relief foundation launched by New York Yankees pitcher David Robertson.

Church members distributed Bibles along with the aid. Many of the women Dina Gomez met didn’t even have tables in their homes for Bible studies.

Some were willing to study but unwilling to commit to the Gospel, she says. Nonetheless, a few baptisms have resulted from the efforts.

“A year later, I still have contacts with some of the girls,” she says, and she tries to “continually nurture them in God’s love.”

Carr encourages his fellow Christians to keep inviting. He’s heard it before — New Yorkers are hard to reach with the Gospel — but “you can’t stereotype a soul by state or country,” he says.

“God’s word doesn’t fail,” he adds. “After all, if Jesus would’ve given up on us, *fuhgeddaboudit*.”



Carr



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PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Faulkner University is conducting a national search for its next President, following the announcement by Dr. Billy D. Hilyer that he plans to retire on May 31, 2015.

Dr. Hilyer has served with distinction as the university's President, overseeing a period of significant growth and success, while holding Faulkner true to its original mission as a distinctively Christian university that seeks to educate the whole person, including the mind, heart and soul.

Faulkner University seeks as its president a leader with the values, knowledge, and skills to build upon the University's heritage of Christian scholarship, spiritual formation and service. The new President must be a person of strong personal faith in Christ, evidenced by their character and integrity, and be an active, faithful member of the churches of Christ with a longtime history of involvement.



The Board of Trustees has named a Presidential Search Committee that will seek broad input from the public, identify and interview candidates, and make recommendations to the Board.

Interested parties should submit their resume and any additional relevant information on or before **August 1, 2014** to Dale Kirkland, Faulkner Search Committee Chair, at FaulknerPresidentialSearch@gmail.com.



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Help Wanted: Roof Repair

The **Page Church of Christ** in
Page, Arizona, is a small congregation of
5-10 members seeking help in funding
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Total cost of the project is \$15,300.

Anyone willing to help, please contact:

Randy Hiner
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In Mexico, souls 'are starving to know God'

JIM AND JUDY TAYLOR see great need – and great greed – as they use their golden years to assist Mexican churches.

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Faith in God and love of adventure motivated Jim and Judy Taylor to share the Gospel in Mexico.

Jim Taylor's adventures began at a young age. He served the U.S. Air Force in Okinawa, Japan and China. He studied math at the University of Colorado and worked for a government contractor that produced control systems for the Apollo moon missions.

Though his future wife was an elder's daughter, Jim Taylor didn't grow up in a Christian home. After his baptism, he sought opportunities to study the Bible and enrolled at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas. In 1973, the couple moved to Poncha Springs, Colo., where Jim Taylor helped plant a church. He used his own hands to help construct the church's meeting place and served as its minister for 24 years.

Eighteen years ago they moved to the lively tourist city of Mazatlan, Mexico, on the Pacific coast intending to relax. Soon they found opportunities to help the local congregation.

They work with *Iglesias de Cristo* (Churches of Christ) in Colonia Olimpica and Villa Union. The Poncha Springs church provides funds to help with the benevolent needs of the small Mexican churches. They spend their summers in another Spanish-sounding town, Buena Vista (although it happens to be in Colorado).

The Taylors meagerly support themselves with social security and income from their U.S. rental property. Their children are Brent in Missouri and Becky in Colorado.

Describe your ministry in Mexico.

Our ministry is largely one of buying and distributing food to hungry brethren.

The church in Poncha Springs helps support the church in Mazatlan by buying food and other necessities for the brethren who are very poor. Poncha also supports a preacher who serves both Mazatlan and Villa Union. About every two months we buy large quanti-



CONCHITA VALDEZ de BALDERRAMA

Judy and Jim Taylor stand outside the meeting place of the Villa Union Church of Christ

ties of beans, rice, oil, milk, canned tuna, tomato puree and other items. These things are bagged and distributed to 35 families in our congregation.

I have taught Bible classes. I once asked the students, "Who would you die for?" The total response was no one. Then, "Who would you lay down your child's life for?" God did that for us.

That is a point they remember.

Are you also working to help the poor Mexicans improve their lives so that they can feed themselves?

We have no way to help the poor improve their lives. I don't see any possible way. There are very few jobs, and the ones that exist are temporary and pay very little. Most the people we help are elderly and totally rely on what they get.

What is the most difficult part of your ministry?

The poor morality of some church leaders. We have seen it a lot — people who try to acquire the church property for themselves or try to get financial support from the States. Churches that fight each other is another disappointment and challenge. When we encounter that, we move to another location.

What advice do you give churches that support work in Mexico?

I suggest strongly that supporting churches know what is going on in their mission points. It is nearly an impossible challenge.

I would suggest that when the eldership sends someone to visit their mission church, they send at least one person who speaks the language well. Do not tell the church when you are coming. Just show up some Sunday morning, unannounced. Otherwise, I assure you that you'll get the "greatest show on earth." It is called a "campaign," and they are scheduled when the elders come.

I am sure the churches that support these men have no real idea what is going on in those churches. We were at a church when the supporting elders were coming to visit. The preacher "hired" an entire Pentecostal church to visit the Sunday morning the elders were

coming. The building was full and the elders were greatly impressed.

No church in the U.S. should build a building in Mexico unless the property is in the name of the church. In cases where the church has purchased a building or built one, it has been put in the name of the preacher, and later sold or lost.

What about the drug-related violence we hear about in Mexico? Has that affected your ministry?

Judy and I live every day by faith. We are treated with the greatest of respect and courtesy.

The violence here is all between the cartels. They are fighting over drug territory. For an innocent bystander to get in the way is highly improbable.

Mazatlan has lost many businesses since cruise ships no longer come here. Many of our friends, whom we love dearly, are out of business. But the violence here for the past year has been non-existent, so the cruise ships are starting to return.

What relationship do you see between U.S. and Mexican churches?

We have traveled coast to coast and border to border — several times by bus. Mexican churches would benefit from the experience of U.S. churches. We wish there could be a lot more joint work and fellowship with churches in the States, but we see very little of that.

There are so many people in Mexico who are starving to know God, to worship him and be taught his Word.

Some of our brethren, very poor, travel great distances and at great expense to attend church service. There are towns 100 miles west of us here in Mazatlan, across the Sea of Cortez, on the Baja, that have people who desperately need a preacher.

'I suggest strongly that supporting churches know what is going on in their mission points. ... Do not tell the church when you are coming. ... Otherwise, I assure you that you'll get "the greatest show on earth."

Jim Taylor



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Jerry Taylor—"If These Walls Could Speak"

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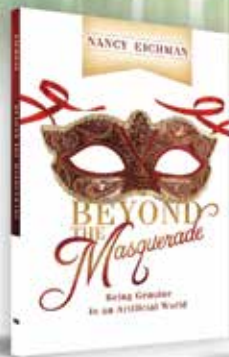
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CAMPUS MINISTRY

ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A new campus ministry is being established at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

During spring break, students from the WolfLife Campus Ministry at Arkansas State University and the Church of Christ Student Center at Arkansas Tech University met on the Little Rock campus to pray for the new ministry.

The Central Church of Christ in Little Rock leads the effort, said Chris Buxton, director of the WolfLife Campus Ministry.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

MISSION PROVIDENCE

DURBAN, South Africa — After five years of service, Mission Providence — which rescues abandoned babies — plans to close Aug. 1.

A lack of funding prompted the decision, executive director Stephen Sheasby said.

“These past five years have been a tremendous journey, from setting up feeding/care points in Swaziland ... to establishing our Blessed Beginnings baby rescue home in Durban,” Sheasby wrote on the ministry’s website. “Your support has helped us touch the lives of countless children and their families, especially the 12 babies we’ve had at the home.”

The ministry seeks funds to continue operating while wrapping up operations. For more information, see www.missionprovidence.org.

HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABILENE, Texas — Students participating in study abroad programs gain some memorable experiences.

Just ask Abilene Christian University students Lindsay Urban, Anna Beasley and Elise Brimberry.

Recently, on a public street in the Uruguayan oceanside capital of Montevideo, they ran into the unconventional president of their host country.

Jose “Pepe” Mujica has been the elected leader of his South American nation since 2010. He leads a casual, offbeat lifestyle, refusing to reside



JEFF MONTGOMERY

In Greece, Harding students praise God in ancient tomb

Students studying at Harding University’s international campus in Athens, Greece, sing Christian hymns in King Agamemnon’s tomb. While living in the cradle of democracy, students encounter important archaeological sites and experience the open-air “museum” of Athens, university officials say. Tours to Corinth, Delphi, Sounion, Olympus, Turkey, Israel and Egypt — provided it is safe to travel there — are included in the program,

in the lavish house provided for the country’s leader. He drives a 1987 Volkswagen Beetle and gives most of his \$12,000-a-month salary to charity.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ACU

Lindsay Urban, Anna Beasley and Elise Brimberry with Uruguayan President Jose Mujica.

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — The Association of Theological Schools has accepted the

Freed-Hardeman Graduate School of Theology’s petition for candidacy for accredited status.

“We will begin immediately to complete our initial self-study in anticipation of a successful request for accreditation within the next two years,” said Mark Blackwelder, the FHU program’s director.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian University is launching an online RN to BSN degree completion program.

Oklahoma Christian will offer two classes every eight weeks, allowing students to complete the entire program and earn their bachelor’s degrees in nursing in 16 months.

The online courses will make the program available to nurses who live and work in rural areas and in jobs where a traditional four-year degree would be impossible, officials said.

SPOTLIGHT

OC grad aboard flight

OKLAHOMA CITY — An Oklahoma Christian University graduate aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines jet was “a man of God, a man of honor and integrity,” his family said.

Philip Wood, a 1985 Oklahoma Christian graduate, was the only American adult aboard the flight, which is believed to have crashed into the Indian Ocean.

“Phil loved Christ, his family and everyone,” his brother James Wood wrote on Oklahoma Christian’s Facebook page. “Our hearts hurt, but we know so many around the world are hurting just as much by this terrible tragedy.”



Wood



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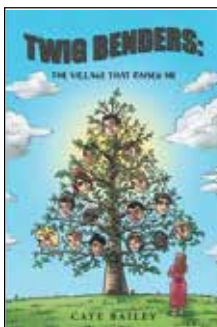


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Academic rank for these open positions will be negotiable based on education and experience according to University policy, which requires all full-time faculty to be active members of the church of Christ and all faculty (visiting, adjunct, etc.) to be committed to Christ-infused curriculum, co-curriculum, and community. A doctoral degree or ABD is preferred for all faculty ranks, with advanced ranks available for those with demonstrated excellence in teaching, publication, or professional leadership. Positions are full-time, ten-month posts. Applications will be accepted until filled, with review beginning immediately.

Additional details are available at www.oc.edu/hr. Inquiries and applications should be directed to Karen Sorensen, Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136.

Oklahoma Christian University is a Christian higher learning community transforming lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service. We are located in a city recently named to many top-ten lists for vibrant culture, a growing economy, and beautiful amenities. OC is known for legacies of excellence in many fields of study, including accounting, where our CPA pass rate often has been the best in the state; three decades of engineering now in three ABET-accredited fields with exceptional industry relationships; and 100% medical school placement rates for our renowned biology programs. OC faculty offer many fields of distinctive undergraduate and graduate learning environments in the arts, humanities, sciences, biblical studies, and much more! The university's Honors Program has the highest per capita National Merit Scholars among sister schools and a leading percentage among CCCU campuses. Recent graduate acceptances include Stanford University, Harvard University (Law), Florida State University, the University of Texas, and the University of California-Los Angeles. Our suburban setting offers easy access to internships in industry, healthcare, professional sports, and many other fields of endeavor. Our 200-acre campus is surrounded by beautiful walking trails and located near world-class corporations, a medical research center, and unique arts and entertainment.

www.oc.edu/hr

San Diego Padres' VP devoted to his faith

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ARLINGTON, Texas

On his frequent trips to the San Diego Padres' international baseball academy in the Dominican Republic, Chad MacDonald usually takes along an extra suitcase.

It's not because MacDonald, the Padres' vice president and assistant general manager of player personnel, has trouble packing lightly.

"He fills it with shoes and flip-flops and things because the kids down there are playing baseball barefooted in the sticks and rocks," said Doug Peters, senior minister for the 600-member North Davis Church of Christ, the North Texas congregation where MacDonald is active when he's not on the road.

MacDonald, 44, got his start as a batboy for his hometown Texas Rangers — who play not far from the North Davis church building — in the 1980s.

Now in his third season with the Padres and 22nd overall on a major-league payroll, the dedicated Christian characterizes his benevolence in Latin America as "no big deal."

"That's easy to do," he told *The Christian Chronicle*. "I love my job, but I try to live out my faith, too. So when you see people in need, you're there to help. I think that's somewhere in the Bible."

Two shoulder surgeries derailed MacDonald's once-promising career as a pitcher.

While playing at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, he began dating his future wife, Julie, a student at



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CHAD MACDONALD

Chad MacDonald, a member of the North Davis Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas, poses in the San Diego Padres' dugout. MacDonald is the Padres' vice president and assistant general manager of player personnel.

Abilene Christian University.

An Arlington native like her husband, Julie MacDonald grew up in the North Davis church

— the daughter and granddaughter of church elders — and served as the congregation's first children's minister.

Chad MacDonald's office is in San Diego, but the family lives in Arlington.

Sons Caden, 13, and Cort, 10, both play youth baseball. Their father makes it to as many games as possible, but he misses more than he'd like.

"Our roots are here," he said. "I can get on a plane and get anywhere from Dallas."

A DREAM JOB

MacDonald began his front-office career with the Rangers in 1993, later serving as a scout for the Cleveland Indians and the Los Angeles Angels.

He spent five seasons as the Arizona Diamondbacks' assistant scouting director and director of international scouting and a season as the New York Mets' director of scouting. He previously worked with Padres general manager Josh Byrnes in Cleveland and Arizona.

"It's a dream job, other than waking up early and going to the airport and missing time with family," MacDonald said. "But it's baseball. It's a group of people trying to pull in one direction to get the big-league team to win. That's exciting."

His lofty goal: bring a first-ever World Series title to San Diego.

The Padres finished 76-86 the last two seasons, but MacDonald has high hopes.

"Our pitching's really good. We've got some frontline guys. We've got depth," he said. "I think our bullpen will be good. And we hope to score some runs."

He predicts a bounceback year for third baseman Chase Headley, who hit 31 home runs and led the National League with 115 RBIs in 2012. Headley dipped to 13 home runs and 50 RBIs last season.

MacDonald is hopeful, too, that outfielder Carlos Quentin, who began the season with his seventh career stint on the disabled list, can rebound from a left knee injury. If Quentin can stay healthy, he "has a chance to be really productive," the assistant GM said.

"People recognize our farm system as one of the top five in baseball, so we have some prospects coming up, too," MacDonald said. "It's an exciting time to be a Padre."

A HEART FOR PEOPLE

MacDonald has made dozens of scouting trips to the Dominican Republic.

People in the Caribbean nation are passionate about baseball and life, he said, but they sleep in homes with dirt floors.

"So when you do something for them down there, it's appreciated, and it's meaningful," he said. "I think it's impactful, too."

MacDonald has a job to do, but he isn't afraid to treat prospects as real people with real needs, said Sheryl Peters, the minister's wife.

"I think he's part-time psychologist and counselor," she said.

MacDonald's concern extends to those close to home, whether they can play baseball or not, Doug Peters said.

"Chad's got a real heart for people in the community," said the preacher, who visited MacDonald at spring training in Arizona. "He's always working with kids and doing things in our family life center with kids."

Julie MacDonald said of her husband: "Anybody who's been drafted by Chad knows he cares a lot about them. He's in their homes and finding out about them."

Chad MacDonald stresses that it's his job to evaluate players' baseball skills, talent and potential.

Will that guy ever be able to hit a curveball?

What does the way that young man wears his uniform say about him? Is that batter afraid of the ball?

"But it's also my job to help them along as people" MacDonald added. "I won't really shove my faith down their throats. But hopefully, they do see that I care about them as people and baseball players. It's a delicate balance."



Caden MacDonald, 13, and his brother, Cort, 10, show their support for their father's team, the San Diego Padres.



Julie MacDonald

Milestones

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

Anniversary

Charles and Nadine Brown



Charles and Nadine (Carr) Brown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Friday April 4, 2014. The couple married on April 4, 1954, in Harper, Kan., with Minister Smith Kite officiating. In 1963 the couple moved to Grand Prairie, Texas, where they currently reside.

The Browns attend Edgefield church of Christ. They remain committed Christian examples to their family and friends by constantly showing God's love and grace. They have served in many capacities in their church family and currently minister to those sick or shut in.

The Browns have 4 children: Becky, Stanley, Steven and Ann; 8 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Church Anniversary

Westchester Church of Christ White Plains, N.Y.



Early in 2004 our elder, Richard Boyd, was concerned about the Spanish population in White Plains, N.Y. He expressed to me that he was afraid God would judge us because we did not provide some kind of ministry for them. He then asked me to

consider starting an outreach ministry. I felt uncomfortable doing it because I did not feel ready. Perhaps I was not ready, but God was. On a lovely Sunday afternoon after our morning worship services were completed, a taxi cab drove onto our property. From it emerged a beautiful lady name Gerry. She approached me and asked if there was a Spanish church of Christ in White Plains. There was not, but I promised her if she returned next Sunday we would have something for her. That day I realized that it was not just Richard asking me, but it was God telling me that He wanted a Spanish ministry started. With encouragement and support from the English-speaking members, the work began. We are now celebrating our tenth anniversary. God has blessed us with growth. We presently have 44 members. God did something wonderful in my life and in our congregation's life on that day in April. As we look back, many souls have been saved, and the Spanish and English congregations have grown. It is our prayer that the work will continue to grow and God's name will be made known to the people of our area. --- Sam Cotte, Spanish minister, Westchester church of Christ

Honored

Melanie Semore 2014 NCSA Educator of the Year



MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Harding Academy's Head of Upper School, Melanie Semore, was named Educator of the Year by the National Christian School Association (NCSA) at the annual NCSA Convention on Friday, March 7. Mrs. Semore first came to Harding Academy in the Fall of 1978 as an English teacher. After years of teaching English and overseeing a number of year-book publications, she completed an MS in Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Memphis in 1995 and also

became Harding's Academic Dean and Director of Secondary Education in that same year. She has served in this role over the last 18 years, with her title changing to Head of Upper School in 2012.

As an administrator she has overseen a number of changes at Harding Academy over the years, such as expanding the academic offerings, revising the grading scale, and spearheading the academic portion of the recent 1:1 iPad roll-out. However, some might say her most important influence at the Academy has been spiritual. Every day she writes a prayer and shares it with her teachers (and many of her friends). "Mrs. Semore's strong faith and tender heart have set the tone for a welcoming upper-school experience that prospective families notice right away," says school president, Trent Williamson. "We consider an administrator like Melanie Semore a blessing. Much of what Harding is today is a result of her 35 years of service."

Memorials

Ernest Walter Andreas

Ernest Walter Andreas was born April 17, 1923 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, and passed to his reward March 5, 2014, from Edmond, Okla., after a 14-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Ernest married Louise Jacobs on November 10, 1948, in Radville, Saskatchewan, and they spent the next 30 years side by side serving the church in western Canada and Western Christian College until Louise died in a car accident in August, 1978. They had two children: Bob in 1951 and Leila in 1952.

On Dec. 22, 1979, he married Joyce Kirkpatrick in Edmond, Okla., and they happily worked together with the church in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and Yorkton, Saskatchewan, while assisting with campaigns and supporting mission activities in Poland and other European locations. Welcoming Joyce's three boys, their family



Continued on next page

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Wes Cunningham to the Board of Directors of Hope for Life/Herald of Truth. He attends the Cardinal Drive Church of Christ in Rolling Meadows, Ill. **Rick Elam** of Pottstown, Pa., as the chairman of the board for Herald of Truth, and **Yancy House** of Abilene, Texas, as vice-chair.



Cunningham

HONORED: Mike Flowers for organizing the Oklahoma team of Trail Life USA. He attends the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. **Patrick Odum** for 20 years of service as minister for the Northwest Church of Christ in Chicago. **Dr. Cathleen Shultz** for 37 years of service to the nursing program at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.



Elam



Shultz

NEW MINISTER: Aaron Redelsperger, Church of Christ in Weed, Calif.

ANNIVERSARIES: 73rd: Dubert and Irene Smith, Carlsbad, N.M. 68th: Melvin and Edna Morrow, Carlsbad, N.M. 64th: David and Pauline Jimerson, Centerville, Tenn. 62nd: Raymond and Billie Faye Richardson, Borger, Texas. 57th: Bob and Gay Smith, Borger, Texas; Larry and Hulda Neve, Mesquite, Texas. 53rd: Bill and Joan Knox, Amarillo, Texas. 50th: Jerry and Sue Tebo, Flint, Mich.

BIRTHDAYS: 94th: Martha Roberts, Muskogee, Okla.; Virginia Arnold, Centerville, Tenn. 92nd: Oudima L. Simpson, Waterford, Mich. 84th: Polly Chessor Lancaster, Centerville, Tenn. 81st: Helen Hudgins, Centerville, Tenn. 80th: Ova Lee Sawyer, Centerville, Tenn.

PASSAGES: Cecil Dotson, 100, Mar. 5, Waverly, W.Va. Marilyn Y. Garrett, 78, Mar. 3, Borger, Texas. Donald L. Halstead, 81, Sept. 17, Rogers, Ark. Michael L. Halstead, 59, Jan. 30, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Joe A. Johnson, 94, Sept. 24, Jonesboro, Ark. Wanda H. Johnson, 95, Mar. 3, Jonesboro, Ark. Margaret Noling, 96, Mar. 14, Shadyside, Ohio. Freeman Rickie, Jr., 60, Mar. 15, Chattanooga, Tenn.

April 1-30 Eastern European Mission dinners. Various events at various locations. Call (800) 486-1818 or see www.eem.org/join-us-for-dinner

April 12-17 70th Annual Churches of Christ National Lectureship. Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Contact Hillcrest church at (404) 289-4573, West End church at (678) 444-4170 or www.cocnl.com.

April 13-16 Crowley's Ridge College Lectureship. "Genesis ... Where it all began." Crowley's Ridge College, Paragould, Ark. Contact (870) 236-6901 or www.crc.edu.

April 22-24 India Missions Conference. Heritage Christian University, Florence, Ala. Hosted by HCU and World Evangelism. Contact (800) 367-3565 or www.hcu.edu.

April 24-27 25th annual Oklahoma City Lectures. "Why the churches of Christ are not growing at the same rate as in earlier years." Barnes Church of Christ, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact (405) 736-1001 or www.okcsbs.com.

April 25-27 Xperience Youth Rally. Church of Christ, Poteau, Okla. Contact (918) 647-4873 or pbfletch@msn.com or www.poteaucoc.org.

May 1-3 Come Fill Your Cup Retreat. "2 Thessalonians." Eternal Purpose Retreat Center, Sedalia, Colo. Contact www.comefillyourcup.com.

May 2-4 2014 New England Lectureship. Hilton Inn, Taunton, Mass. Contact churchofchristinmilton@gmail.com, (617) 274-2409, or www.newenglandlectureship.org.

May 3-4 Into All the World Mission Conference. Hendersonville, Tenn., Church of Christ. Contact (615) 824-6622, missions@hendcoc.com or www.intoalltheworld.me.

May 8 Fourth Annual Spring Apologetics Lectures. "Genesis 1 and Lessons from Space." Grande Pointe Conference Center, Vienna, W.Va. Contact (877) 350-9222 or www.warrenapologeticscenter.org.

May 19-21 33rd Annual Sermon Seminar. Austin Graduate School of Theology, Austin, Texas. Contact (512) 476-2772 or www.sermonseminar.com.

May 25 90th Anniversary, Cedar Crest Church of Christ, Dallas, Texas. Contact (214) 943-1340 or www.cedarcrestcoc.com.

May 31 Teacher Workshop. Bonner Springs, Kan., Church of Christ. Contact www.bonnerrspringscoc.org or (913) 422-5529.

Milestones *continued*

Memorials

Andreas (continued)

eventually grew to five children, 13 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren, a group he referred to as his "treasure."

As major influences of his life, Ernest cited four individuals and one category of individuals: his father, whom he described as 'deliberate and careful in all his undertakings' and a man devoted to reading the scriptures and praying with all household members at the breakfast table before any food was taken; his mother, whom he described as a teacher and diligent student seeking the truth in religious matters and eager to do everything to instill those values in her children; his first wife, Louise, who assumed great burdens on the home front and always encouraged him to devote his energies to 'the school' and church work; his second wife, Joyce, whom he credits with having been a great 'influence and encouragement' to him while being a true co-worker in local church work and on campaigns; and by reason of opportunities presented as he travelled extensively on behalf of school and church, the best, most helpful and devoted Christians from elders to preachers to college presidents to men and women of every walk of life who provided encouragement in faith and practice of Christianity.

Alfred Herman Johnson

Alfred Herman Johnson of Broken Arrow, Okla., 84, passed peacefully on Feb. 14, 2014. He was born Dec. 23, 1929, to George and Evelyn (Preston) Johnson in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Herman was a devoted minister who preached for congregations in Ropesville, Brownfield and Midland, Texas, and Tulsa, Okla. He was also a home builder by trade. Herman worked in his home communi-



ties with the juvenile system for troubled youth. He loved his family and enjoyed woodworking, antique clocks, hockey, trains, gardening, working in the yard and most of all pestering his grandchildren that he loved so much. Herman is preceded in death by his parents, brother Russell Johnson and his sister Beatrice Cosby, all of Canada. Herman is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 59 years Nancy Johnson; his brother David Johnson of Barrie, Ontario, Canada; his brother-in-law Ted Lavender (Norma) of Chattanooga, Tenn.; his children Caren Mims (Scott) of Midland, Texas, and Brant Johnson (Susan) of Collinsville, Okla.; grandchildren Leah Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Brent Mims and Carri Mims.

Memorials may be made to Hope Harbor Children's Home, PO Box 1047, Claremore, OK 74018-1047, or Search TV Program, PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083-9901.

Bob L. Mayberry

Bob L. Mayberry, 78, of Artesia, N.M., passed from this life on Feb. 8, 2014, following a six-month illness. Bob was an elder at the Hermosa Church of Christ where he led the congregation with wisdom, dignity, and a love for the Lord for over 35 years. Although he did not live to see



the congregation move into the new building that is currently under construction, his legacy and influence on the Church will continue for many, many years.

Bob was born July 5, 1935, in Hillsboro, Texas, served in the U.S.

Marine Corps, was a long-time area farmer, and was baptized, along with his wife, at Hermosa Drive Church of Christ in 1960.

Bob is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jo Ann, three adult children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ethiopian Water Well Fund at Hermosa

Church of Christ, 1302 Hermosa Drive, Artesia, NM 88210.

Lewis Elray Wilson

Elray Wilson passed away Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, on his ranch in Kerrville, Texas. He was surrounded by his family and devoted wife of 62 years, Genia Joann Bowers Wilson (Jody). Elray was born in Beaumont, Texas, August 21, 1930, to Marvin and Dula Wilson and attended South Park High School. He and Jody married in Beaumont on March 23, 1951.



Elray served from 1951-1953 in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, stationed in Portland, Ore. A passionate supporter of Christian education, Elray and Jody established an endowed scholarship to support

students of Harding University in Searcy, Ark. Each semester multiple students benefit from their generous gift. A lifelong member of the Church of Christ, Elray served in leadership positions in every church where he was associated, serving 16 years as a deacon and a cumulative 34 years as an elder. A dedicated student of the Bible, he taught Sunday School classes for over 50 years. Elray's greatest joy was helping spread the Gospel. Active in support of missions with both his time and resources, he made multiple trips to start churches and mission work in Australia, Africa, Ireland and Guatemala. Surviving loved ones include his loving wife Jody of Kerrville; daughter, Judy Walker (Doug) of Keller, Texas; sons, Steve Wilson (Shana) of Beaumont, Texas, and Tim Wilson of Kerrville, Texas; sister, Wanda Ryals of Waco, Texas; brother, Marvin Wilson, Jr. of Lumberton, Texas; granddaughters, Lindsey Thomas (Jason), Ashley Blake (Jordan), Whitney Walker, Nicole Wilson and Corynn Wilson; and great granddaughter, Addison Blake.

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

EDITORIAL

The church of, the church for

The churches of Christ salute you.

A video shown during this year's Tulsa Workshop in Oklahoma reminds us of the power and importance of those words of Paul, recorded in Romans 16:16.

Brute Wolf, a member of the Park Plaza Church of Christ in Tulsa, produced the video, incorporating footage of church signs across the area, dropping out the word "Christ." He asks how others see us — as the Church of Sound Theology? The Church of Cakes and Casseroles? The Church of the Cool Web Site?

What Christ wants others to see, he counters, is the Church for the Poor, for the Abused, for the Prisoners, for the Lonely.

The Church for Anyone. "We are the church for the labeled," he says. "These buildings hold a family of misfits where everyone's welcome."

We pray that these words describe us. We appreciate the visual reminder of the type of believers we're called to be — rooted in truth, showing love and mercy to the helpless and hurting. We must be the people from whom the love and compassion of God flows — not people who enjoy the gift of God only for themselves. We repent of the sins that cause others to see us as unwelcoming and cold. We repent of the petty arguments that have divided us.

Christ should be in our heart and in our soul, just as he's in our name. We recognize the responsibility — and the mercy — that comes with being "of Christ."

There simply is no greater name to be for — or of.

SEE THE VIDEO at www.christianchronicle.org.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD



BROOKLYN MUSEUM ARCHIVES, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A man holds a plumb line from a pole outside St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, Italy, in 1901.

God gives us his Word as a spiritual plumb line

"Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand. The LORD said to me, 'What do you see, Amos?' And I said, 'A plumb line.' Then the Lord said, 'Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.'"

— Amos 7:7-8

Have you ever used a plumb line? It is basically a string with a weight attached at the end. Builders used a plumb line to show a true vertical. Some things are so far off plumb that the variance is visible even to the untrained eye. The Tower of Pisa is an astonishing 12 feet, 10 inches away from being perfectly vertical.

In a spiritual sense, we may become blind to our own leaning away from God's standard if we do not compare ourselves to that standard.

God showed Amos a figurative plumb line to illustrate how far away the people of Israel had moved from him.

Traveling through South Dakota one summer, I saw a large billboard with these words

written in red: "Prepare to meet thy God ... Amos 4:12." Amos' warning is still being used in the 21st century. Though it seems like a slogan meant to scare people, the phrase is meant to give wicked people another chance. God is "not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

A spiritual plumb line is not to be used to compare ourselves to other people. Jesus told of a Pharisee who used a tax collector as his plumb line, thanking God that he was so much better by comparison. But the tax collector compared himself to God's standard and realized his need for mercy. Jesus said, "I

tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)

Thank you, God, for your Word — our plumb line — and for your mercy.

LAUREL S. SEWELL is a member of the Henderson Church of Christ in Tennessee.

In the Word



Laurel S. Sewell

The Christian Chronicle

Our mission: To inform, inspire and unite

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Saving tiny Rosemita: A mission to Haiti reveals that sugar water and prayer are good medicine

Are you going to take a picture of a baby we haven't even helped yet?" Dr. Charles Woodridge asked me that question as I was making my photographic rounds through the tents where our medical mission team was serving patients in Haiti. "Yes," I replied. "That is what I'm here for. My job is to capture the process of us providing help." With a look of grave concern, the doctor said, in a quiet-but-direct manner, "What you need to be doing is praying."

I put down the camera, gathered everyone who was close and sought the face of God on behalf of the tiny girl, Rosemita.

Twenty-four of us had traveled from the U.S. to Port-au-Prince as part of the International American Medical Mission. Leonardo Gilbert, minister for the Sheldon Heights Church of Christ in Chicago, founded the ministry to serve the people of Haiti and Jamaica.

Teams of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, ministers and others leave the comforts of home, paying their own way to do the work of the Lord in the Caribbean. We work in concert with local Churches of Christ and base ourselves in orphanages where the need is greatest.

During the mission we treated 870 patients and transported 10 of them to local hospitals, paying the expenses for the procedures they needed. We worshiped alongside Haitian Christians and studied the Bible with willing patients. Four souls were baptized.

Of all the people I encountered during the five-day trip, Rosemita gave me the most meaningful moment I experienced while in this destitute country. She came to us in trouble — a mere 20 hours after her premature birth. She refused to nurse and was showing signs of heat exhaustion. Her heart was beating too fast. Her blood sugar was too low.

So we prayed with everything we had. The doctor asked brother Gilbert to do whatever it took to get an ambulance, a ride or even a donkey to get the little one to the hospital. He called for a glucose drip, formula or anything that could safely be given to the baby to feed her. Of course, no such luxuries were available in the village of Source-Metelas. Even water had to be retrieved by bucket from a questionable source half a mile away, over rocky, desert-like terrain. So our pharmacy team dissolved sugar in some bottled water and put the mixture into a syringe — Rosemita's first meal. Dr. Woodridge gently squeezed the syringe's contents into the baby's mouth. Her suckle reflex kicked in.

Finally, she was eating. Her parents cried tears of joy — and word of the good news spread throughout the camp. But, in order to have the best chance at life, she needed more care than we could give her. She needed a hospital.

At the end of the day, as we began to lose light and shut down operations, the ambulance finally arrived. Through a phalanx of handclaps and cheers, Rosemita's parents climbed into the ambulance with their daughter — and with more hope than when they arrived.

We do not know the end of the story for Rosemita. Our prayer is that she grows into a wonderful, healthy young lady who lives a long and prosperous life.

The truth is, however, that we rarely know how things turn out with the people we serve. All we can do is what God has called, equipped and gifted us to do.

LEE E. LEWIS JR. is pulpit minister for the O'Fallon Church of Christ in Missouri. Learn more about the International American Medical Mission at www.iammonline.net.

Views



Lee E. Lewis Jr.



LEE E. LEWIS JR.

Members of the International American Medical Mission team in Haiti.

VOICES

Are you headed to a Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes or Leadership Training for Christ convention this year? Share your thoughts about these programs.

Asked by Erik Tryggstad, editor.



Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes is amazing. I love how much they build up the children's confidence without overwhelming them. I am also impressed that our church does projects from the program, such as Good Samaritan, year-round. Our whole church has come together and grown because of it.

Barbara Sparks | Conroe, Texas



This is my son's first year for Leadership Training for Christ and we are so excited. I loved LTC when I was a kid, and I can't wait to share this experience with him. Such an amazing experience!

Skye Custer | Chickasha, Okla.



Lads to Leaders is a great experience for people of all ages. I am 16 and have been doing Lads to Leaders since I was 7. It's a great way to grow as a person and as a Christian. I get to do things I know I would never do if it wasn't for L2L. I'm really grateful to be able to participate in it, and I hope other people do, too.

Keri Ratcliff | Adamsville, Ala.



What I like best about Lads to Leaders is that it prepares future leaders of the church. It is not about the competition but about preparation. Because of Lads to Leaders, my 7-year-old son does things in front of our congregation that I'm too scared to do.

Richard McGill | Sikeston, Mo.

TO OUR READERS

New faces at the *Chronicle*

The staff of *The Christian Chronicle* is pleased to introduce two women who are assisting us in our efforts to inform, inspire and unite Churches of Christ.

Kelcy Nash serves as our new advertising assistant, working alongside advertising manager Tonya Patton. Nash is a native of Wichita, Kan., where she attends the Northside Church of Christ. She is a junior at Oklahoma Christian University studying business management.



Nash

Nash has a passion for lifestyle photography and hopes to open her own business in that field after graduation.

Sarah Jane Kyle is assisting our news staff in the task of copy editing, coordinating with our network of correspondents as we prepare stories for publication.



Kyle

Kyle is a graduate of Harding University in Searcy, Ark., and reports on non-profits for the *Coloradoan* in Fort Collins, Colo. Read her Inside Story column about faith and secular media at www.christianchronicle.org.

Responses sought for church surveys

Is your church growing, maintaining or declining? Is it effectively engaging young Christians? Are you optimistic about the future of your congregation? What is the biggest opportunity for Churches of Christ in 2014?

Those are a few of the questions posed by four short surveys for members of Churches of Christ. Your responses will help *The Christian Chronicle* identify trends for possible news coverage and feature stories in the coming months.

Take one (or all) of the surveys online at www.christianchronicle.org.



WE ARE from varied backgrounds: a former postal worker, military personnel, reggae singer, commercial airline pilot, UPS driver, police officer, restaurant owner, nurse, construction manager, licensed massage therapist, electrician, teacher's aid, retail manager, etc.

WE ARE from eight different countries.

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1 - Be Thou My Vision



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Music: Joyce's Old Irish Folk Music, Arr: Martin Shaw

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Spiritual slowdowns for a fast-food culture

In the United States, we are obsessed with time.

Everything must be done quickly. We are the inventors of fast food. We drive in the fast lane, and we fret over which grocery checkout line is fastest.

Yet could it be that our hurriedness is actually a spiritual danger? Is our frantic and frenetic pace preventing us from connecting with God or checking off the things on his to-do list for us (Ephesians 2:10)?

Two recent books highlight the problem of “hurry sickness” and discuss ways Christians can slow down their lives and reconnect with God’s rest.

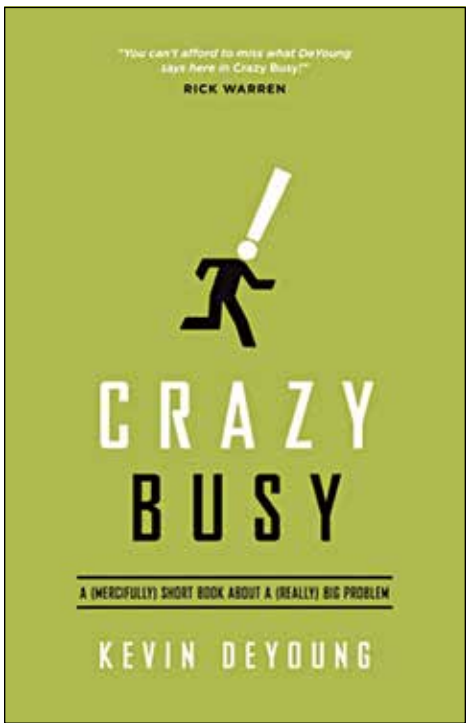
Kevin DeYoung, blogger and minister, tackles the everyday busyness that plagues the life of the average church member. In his book, **“Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book About a Really Big Problem,”** DeYoung discusses the numerous activities that fill our lives, including packed work schedules, children’s sports and lessons and time spent engaging with technology. Ultimately, he argues, busyness is a manifestation of our pride.

“Pride is the villain of a thousand faces,” and it often is manifested through our desire to please others, receive pats on the back, prove ourselves or gain prestige, DeYoung writes. Instead, he argues, we must ask ourselves a simple question about our activities: “Am I trying to do good or to make myself look good?”

DeYoung wants us to model our lives after Jesus. Yes, Jesus was incredibly busy. Mark has Jesus moving “immediately” from place to place — almost running to do ministry. But Jesus created priorities in his ministry.

“Jesus knew the difference between urgent and important. He understood that all the good things he could do were not necessarily the things he ought to do,” DeYoung writes, arguing that Christians need both a Mary and Martha work ethic. We should work as diligently as Martha while also focusing on learning from and relating to Jesus as Mary did. It isn’t wrong to be busy. It simply is wrong to let busyness overwhelm what is most important — our relationship with God.

The only thing lacking in this book is a deeper discussion on how to draw



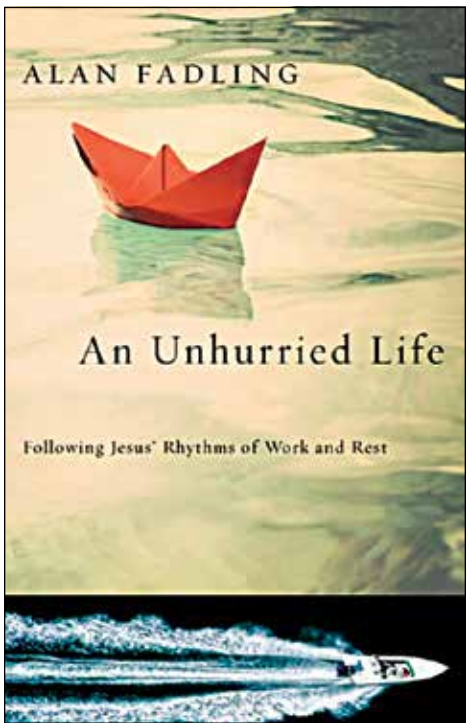
★★★★☆
Kevin DeYoung. **Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem.** Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2013. 128 pages. \$11.99.

closer to God besides just spending time in prayer and reading. A deeper reflection on spiritual disciplines would have been helpful.

In **“An Unhurried life: Following Jesus’ Rhythms of Work and Rest,”** Alan Fadling approaches the problem of busyness in relation to ministry and ministers. Fadling works as a spiritual formation and leadership training coach for ministers. As he examined his own life and the lives of those with whom he works, he noticed that busyness plagues ministers and robs them of their joy for ministry.

Fadling makes his confession on the first page in the book: “I’m a recovering speed addict — and I don’t mean the drug ... In fact, there is little incentive out there to slow down. And the pace in the church doesn’t seem all that different from the pace in the world around us.”

Fadling argues that learning to slow down is a practice that takes time. We must become “unhurried apprentices” at the feet of Jesus. He points to Isaiah



★★★★★
Alan Fadling. **An Unhurried life: Following Jesus’ Rhythms of Work and Rest.** Downer’s Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2013. 198 pages. \$15.

61:3 to highlight this need: *“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”*

As followers of Christ, we are called to remain rooted in God, growing in grace and mercy and extending it to

others. Yet, Fadling contends, growing into an oak takes time to develop. An acorn doesn’t become an oak tree overnight. Fadling challenges us: “Do we take the same long view of growing in Christ and helping others to do the same?”

According to Fadling, the practice of slowing and aligning with God is really about growing, and it isn’t easy to do. It demands that we reevaluate our definitions of success and spiritual growth.

Maybe, Fadling contends, spiritual growth is less about knowing more and instead is about letting God prune our lives and our ministries so that, over time, we bear more fruit.

Each chapter finishes with a section of “Unhurried Time,” a set of questions and reflections that the reader should dwell upon in order to put the ideas into practice. These questions would serve as a wonderful guide for a small group or a mentoring relationship.

Both of these books challenge a pervasive problem in our culture and challenge us, as Christians, to follow the example of Jesus: to extend ourselves in ministry to others, but also to take time to connect with God and with friends and family through unhurried rest.

DANIEL MCGRAW is community minister for the West University Church of Christ in Houston. His life is about to get busier because he and his wife, Megan, are expecting their first child in April.



Daniel McGraw

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

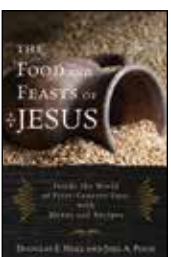
CHRISTIAN LIVING
Pete Wilson. **Let Hope In: 4 Choices That Will Change Your Life Forever.** Nashville, Tenn.: W Publishing Group. 240 pages. \$15.99.



Many people let their past impact their present in ways that hurts them and the people around them, writes Wilson, a Nashville-area preacher.

Using the examples of Joseph and David — and many anonymous stories from his counseling sessions with hurting Christians — he shows readers how to transform pain, regret and shame into hope.

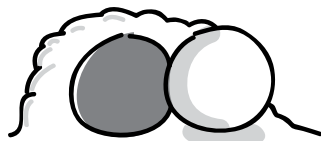
COOKING
Douglas E. Neel and Joel A. Pugh. **The Food and Feasts of Jesus: The Original Mediterranean Diet, with Menus and Recipes.** Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013. 259 pages. \$19.95.



Understanding food in first-century Palestine helps readers better understand the context of Jesus’ teaching, the authors write.

They include simple, modernized recipes so that a home cook can prepare a daily meal, a light outdoor lunch or one of several special feasts.

Share Jesus. It's simple.



New book stresses worldview-shifting importance of baptism, Lord's Supper

'Sacrament" is not a word used often in our churches. We tend to associate it with mystery and sacredness, instead of basic Christian acts — baptism and communion.

John Mark Hicks, professor of theology at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., has written three books about the sacraments, and his latest, **"Enter the Water, Come to the Table: Baptism and the Lord's Supper in the Bible's Story of New Creation,"** lifts away some of the theological mystery of his previous books, inviting all to participate in a worldview shift that will be reflected in our life and worship.

Hicks' previous books, **"Come to the Table,"** **"Down to the River to Pray"** (with Greg Taylor), and **"A Gathered People"** (with Bobby Valentine and Johnny Melton), were important, deep and meaningful, but not entirely accessible to non-theologians. This latest book is, in part, an introduction to the theme of this year's Pepperdine Bible Lectures, but it also serves to present the core material in his earlier books to a wider audience.

Hicks defines sacrament as "a human witness to the grace of God as well as a human pledge of allegiance to the story of God in Jesus." In addition to the Lord's Supper and baptism, Hicks also believes that the gathering of the Lord's people is a sacrament.

In Hicks' usage, sacraments are moments of encounter with God, Christ, the Spirit, each other, the faithful who have gone before us and with our future reality. They are a spiritual reality that breaks into our present time and place and, by this in-breaking, they change and challenge us.

To Hicks, the Lord's Supper (or, more commonly in his writings, "the Table")

is not an isolated event, but a continuation of the table ministry of Jesus, which itself was a continuation of the meals Israel ate in the desert, the tabernacle and the temple.

Hicks reveals this pattern of God coming into our presence as we eat with each other throughout the first five books of the Old Testament, slowly building his case with Scripture in a way that most readers will find both fascinating and easy to follow. By the time he arrives at the Table we celebrate each week, we have seen Jesus supplying bread to thousands of the common people — the fallen, rejected and lonely — as well as those who are trying to live righteous lives. Hicks is going for nothing less than a transformational view of the Table.

In his earlier book on baptism, Hicks wrote that baptism was far more important than we had ever imagined it was.

In this book, he explains why. Here, it is part of the Exodus story, the crossing of a border, the joining the march of faith. He challenges us to make baptism a more central part of our community life, developing readings, prayers and celebrations to mark it.

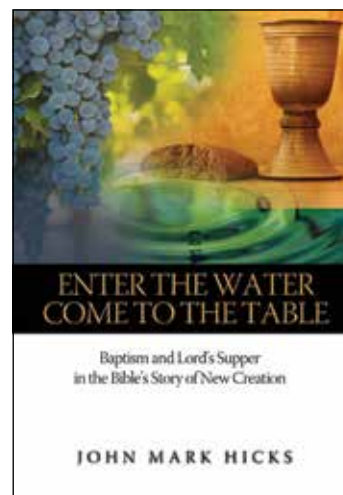
Supremely helpful are the examples he then gives of how to build a service that recognizes the spiritual reality of the Table and baptism, giving guidance on ways to bring the sense of the sacred back to our gatherings. This section alone is worth the price of the book.

As our church looks for its place in the larger believing community, Hicks calls us to be the place where the sacraments are offered and the sacred lived out.

In Print



Patrick Mead



★★★★★

John Mark Hicks. **Enter the Water, Come to the Table: Baptism and Lord's Supper in the Bible's Story of New Creation.** Abilene, Texas: ACU Press, 2014. 192 pages. \$14.99.

PATRICK MEAD is preaching minister for the Fourth Avenue Church of Christ in Franklin, Tenn. He earned doctorates in psychology and biology and also teaches courses in those fields.

Biblical accuracy in high definition: The celebrated ‘Jesus Film’ returns

No Jesus movie can please everyone. The most recent, “Son of God,” received mixed reviews from Christian audiences. Critics pointed to the film’s casual — even too-handsome — portrayal of Jesus, the inclusion of Mary Magdalene with the apostles and the apparent downplay of man’s need for a Savior.

Now comes the **35th anniversary edition of “The Jesus Film.”** Shot on location in Palestine, using actual biblical sites and a largely Israeli cast, the 1979 movie is a nearly verse-by-verse retelling of the Gospel of Luke, with almost every word of Christ’s dialogue taken from the Bible. The film has been translated into 1,200 languages, producers say, and shown by missionaries in remote villages — on bedsheets hung from the wings of propeller planes.

Thirty-five years after its release by Inspirational Films, the unembellished story of Christ remains powerful. We see the boy Jesus ask his parents in perfect innocence, “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” We watch as the man Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River by his awestruck cousin, John. We see Jesus and the apostles in Zaccheus’ house, laughing at the tax collector’s newfound generosity.

And, of course, we witness Jesus’ terrible suffering and triumphant return. Luke’s gospel, though thorough, is not known for its drama or pacing, and the film sometimes reflects this.

British actor Brian Deacon portrays Christ as dignified, humble, affectionate and approachable. This must be why Jesus films continue to be made. We all love to try to picture what the God-man might have been like in appearance, facial expression and manner, to imagine what it would have been like to be in his presence. (Why filmmakers feel the need to make Jesus’ hair an outward evidence of his perfection, I



INSPIRATIONAL FILMS INC.

A remastered, high-definition version of “The Jesus Film,” available on Blu-ray and DVD, debuts in April. The film’s producers also plan theatrical screenings. For more information, see jesusfilmhd.com.

don’t know, but this is true both in this film and “Son of God.”)

One special feature of this new edition, available on Blu-ray, DVD and digital format, is a documentary that shows screenings of the film in Asian and African countries, its audience rapt and emotional. The idea of so many people seeing and understanding Jesus’ life’s story is powerful.

However, the inclusion of a “sinner’s prayer” at the end of the film — in which the kindly narrator invites viewers to say a silent prayer to follow Jesus — detracts from its accuracy and power.

The remastered, high-definition edition is quite beautiful, especially the opening montage that summarizes the creation and fall of man, the old covenant, and the prophecies concerning a coming Savior.

Overall, “The Jesus Film” is moving, not because of perfect acting or writing, but simply because it comes closer to the inspired Word of God than the many depictions of Christ that have followed.

KIMBERLY MAUCK is Reviews Editor for *The Christian Chronicle*. She and her family worship with the Northwest Church of Christ in Durant, Okla.

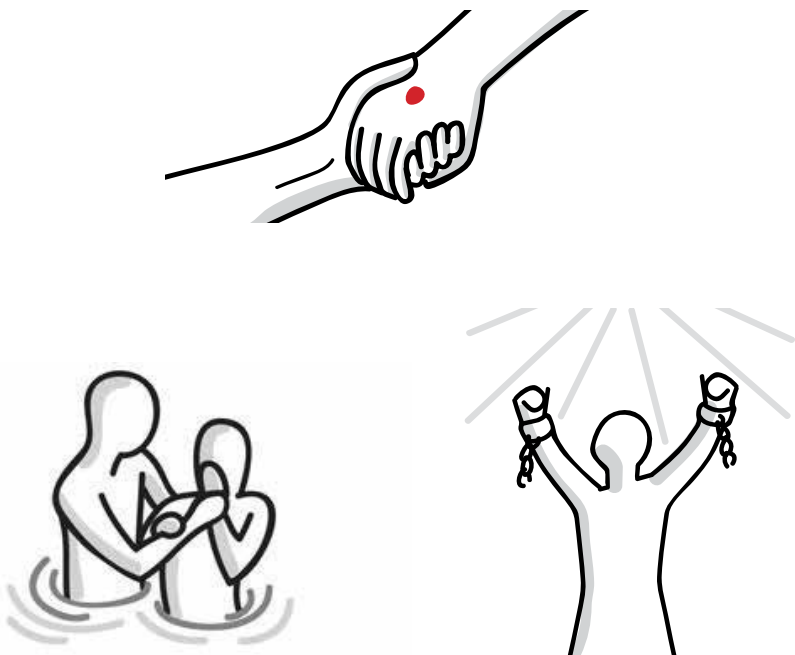
On Film



Kimberly Mauck

THE REAL JESUS? Since the Renaissance, artists have portrayed Jesus as long-haired and handsome, writes Doug Poling, retired CBS News correspondent. Now Richard Neave, a forensic anthropologist in England, paints a very different picture of Christ, based on Palestinian men of the time (at right). But “the real Jesus is not found in any man-made image — on canvas or on film,” Poling writes. “He is found only in the Gospels.”

Read Poling’s Inside Story at www.christianchronicle.org.



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Ed Robinson
Dan Chambers
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Chris McCurley
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Bill Watkins

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rrfeholylandtour.blogspot.com



CAMP BLUE HAVEN MISSION FUND

The Camp Blue Haven Mission Fund was established in 2008. Campers and Staff present and past are eligible to apply for funds to help with mission trips foreign and domestic. Since 08 this fund has given \$59,330 for 93 trips helping 63 young people visit 25 countries!

There has been a \$30,000 matching fund pledge, so every dollar we raise up to \$30,000, this donor will match!

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REBECCA SCHAD

Brandon Armstrong hugs his cousin Rachel Weldy after baptizing her at Michigan Christian Youth Camp in Attica. Rising costs and increased competition challenge Bible camps nationwide, but camp leaders say the focus remains the same: leading souls to Christ.

The blessings of Bible camp

Crafts, canoeing, nature hikes and life-changing decisions to follow Christ. Christian camps provide unique opportunities for youths to make friends and study God's Word. These intense times of spiritual training and fellowship often result in baptism and blessings for years to come. Following is a short list of camps associated with Churches of Christ. The National Association of Christian Camps lists additional camps in its directory, online at www.naccamps.org. If you don't see your camp here, contact advertising assistant Kelcy Nash at kelcy.nash@christianchronicle.org.

ARIZONA

Copper Basin Bible Camp
www.copperbasinbiblecamp.org

ARKANSAS

Camp Tahkodah
www.harding.edu/tahkodah

Camp Wyldewood
www.campwyldewood.org

Corin Read Christian Camp
www.corinread.org

CALIFORNIA

Tahoe Family Encampment
www.tahoefamilyencampment.com

GEORGIA

Camp Wetoga
www.campwetoga.com/northgeorgia

MICHIGAN

Michigan Christian Youth Camp
www.mcyc.org

NEW MEXICO

Camp Blue Haven
www.campbluehaven.com

Red River Family Encampment
www.rrfe.org

OKLAHOMA

Lariat Creek Christian Camp
www.lariatcreek.org

Quartz Mountain Christian Camp
www.qmcc.org

OREGON

Camp Yamhill
www.campyamhill.org

WASHINGTON

Delano Bay Christian Camp
www.delanobay.org

SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

Clearview Christian Camp
www.clearviewchristiancamp.ca

Copper Basin Bible Camp

2014 Theme:

Christ-Like, Like Christ



Summer Camp Programs
for all ages start June 5th
www.copperbasinbiblecamp.org

Summer is quickly
approaching!

Have you made your
summer camp plans yet?
If not, take a look around.
There are many
wonderful opportunities
for you to consider.

Don't see your camp here?
Contact tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org for
advertising information.

Do you need a camp
director, kitchen manager,
counselors or campers?
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word out.



home of North Georgia Bible Camp
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nestled in the peaceful foothills of the
Blue Ridge Mountains, on 27 acres
surrounded by the Chattahoochee
National Forest.

First Rate Christian Camping!

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- Loads of Fun
- Fellowship with old friends
- Inspiring devotionals
- Relationship building activities

2014 CAMP SESSIONS

Session 1 - June 8 – 13
Session 2 - June 15 – 20
Session 3 - June 22 – 27 (ages 8 - 12)
Session 4 - June 29 – July 4

Visit our website for more info
and to register:

www.campwetoga.com

Campers Wanted for 2014 Summer Camps!

- 11th-12th Grades
June 21-28
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July 5-12
- 7th-8th Grades
July 27-Aug. 2
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- 1st-3rd Grades
June 29-July 2

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of Christ in the
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www.delanobay.org



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Phone: (253) 884-2966
Email: delanobaycc@gmail.com

Luke 15:11-32 - The Parable of the Lost Son

"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate."

What do you have to celebrate?!? We'd love to hear all about it.

Email your stories to:

WelcomeHomeStories@gmail.com

Also, follow us on Twitter (@_WelcomeHome_) and Like our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Welcome-Home/310357255751451)

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The Holy Spirit & Worship
The Holy Spirit & The Sinful Nature

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"Holiness & The Holy Spirit"**

Angel Fire Community Center

July 24-27, 2014

Speakers

Forcee Grove, Joel Dalrymple
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The Fruits & Indwelling of The Spirit
The Holy Spirit, Fellowship & Unity
The Holy Spirit & Heart & Mind Cleansing
The Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts

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Angel Fire: Motels, Hotels, Homes
& Condos, camp sites and an RV
parks - Contact Stan Samuels,
North Country Property
Management

Website: aboutnorthcountry.com

Phone: (575) 377-6651

**Monte Verde RV Park &
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Phone: (575) 377-3404

Eagle Nest Camp Grounds is
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Website: johnnsmith.com Email: john@johnnsmith.com

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Retirement from teaching prompts reflection on a 58-year journey of joy

The Pew Research Center reports that 10,000 baby boomers will retire every day for the next nine years.

No surprise that retirement is one of the major concerns among all Americans. The year I turned 65, I dutifully made the trip to my local Social Security office to meet with a very kind and helpful woman who talked me through the benefits I would receive.

I had no intention of retiring at the time, and, for most of the past 16 years I have joked that I wanted to die lecturing on modern poetry or teaching an adult Bible class on Job.

I have only recently begun to consider what it would be like to retire. I have loved being a college English teacher since that hot August day in 1956 when I completed my first day of teaching composition to three sections (75 freshmen) and Old English poetry to 18 sophomores.

My back ached, my legs were stiff, and my head was pounding.

But I had never been so happy. I loved interacting, thinking with, listening to, and prodding students to think — students who were only slighter younger than I was.

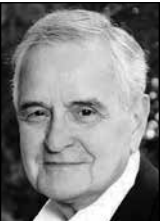
I was infinitely blessed when the president of the institution now known as Oklahoma Christian University invited me to return to the junior college that had so enriched my life to teach English. Throughout my college and graduate studies I was unsure that I wanted to teach. Reading and writing has been my passion all my life, but teaching literature and composition was a different thing. One day with bright, inquisitive students with Christian views made me sure I was doing what God wanted me to do.

Fifty-eight years later, my stomach still gets tight, my mouth dry and my nerves rattled before I go to meet a new class for the first time. Students — whether brilliant, ordinary or dull — are still the greatest opportunity of my existence. When the light of understanding comes on for a student struggling to understand a great idea or a simple poem, life is sweet for me.

Through the years, some of my closest relationships have developed with people younger than me — at first young enough to be my siblings, then

young enough to be my children, and now young enough to be my grandchildren. I have thrilled to see thinkers, leaders, godly people develop from their educational experiences. Every morning as I prepare for class, my

Insight



Bailey McBride

mind races over material, text, ideas and concepts I will get to share with students.

I always have assumed God would take me before retirement time came. Since I turned 70, I have been giving up responsibilities — editorship of *The Christian Chronicle*, leadership at

church, directing OC's Honors Program, full time teaching.

Now I am retiring. Even though I have good health, no aches or pains, an adequate mind and a love of teaching, it is time.

For the past 10 years I have been trying to grow closer to God and to become more pliant so that he could mold me into his image. I feel the need to have more time to reflect and meditate on a world that is totally different from the world which shaped my early life.

My family worries that retirement will be a difficult adjustment after so many years of having nearly every hour of the day committed. Friends who have recently retired have counseled me not to make too many commitments so that I don't experience the relief I should enjoy.

Reading and writing will still be central. As *Chronicle* readers know, we never have enough time to know the Bible, the Word of God. Now I can undertake a serious study of Isaiah, Jeremiah and other Old Testament books I want to understand. I have volunteered for two projects, and I have at least 500 books I want to read. I will write two days a week on projects I committed to long ago.

Although I'm retiring, this isn't goodbye. I'm thankful for the opportunity to continue to share my insights here. This column keeps me searching my soul and testing my faith.

From those pursuits, may we never retire.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.

The Kandiyohi Church of Christ
in central Minnesota is seeking a **part-time minister.**

We are a small, acapella, established church looking for a preacher to help with continued growth.

Send resumes to:
**PO Box 267
Kandiyohi, MN 56251**

Weatherford Church of Christ is seeking a **pulpit minister** to serve our congregation.

We are located in Weatherford, Oklahoma, a growing community of about 10,000. Our congregation of 300 members serves a cross-generational group of people who are service minded.

We seek a minister to join the six elders, a College Minister and Youth and Family minister in encouraging our members to grow in their relationship to God and each other, growing youth (high school, college, and young families) in discipleship and reaching out to our community with service and teaching.

The successful candidate will have the preparation to effectively communicate the Word of God and work effectively as a part of a ministry team. He will be expected to provide evidence of successful ministry to congregations of God's people.

Compensation will be based on qualifications and is regionally competitive. The successful candidate will undergo a complete background check.

Applicants may email resume and two letters of recommendation to:
lowrydvm@yore.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 many young families who will be a major focus of our mutual efforts. We have three elders. See online classified for more details.

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

Pulpit Minister Needed

North Central Oklahoma congregation is searching for an experienced pulpit minister with a passion for evangelism to help bring the Gospel to a community of around 30,000. The congregation has three elders, 16 deacons, and a retiring pulpit minister.

Applicants should have 5 years of pulpit experience, a degree in Bible or preaching, and be committed to Christ-likeness, holiness, and Biblical authority. We prefer a family man who is an engaging speaker and enjoys personal work and visitation.

Qualified applicants are requested to send a resume, along with a CD/DVD with sermons, to:

**The Elders
Hartford Avenue Church of Christ
1905 Joe Street
Ponca City, OK 74601
Office phone: 580-765-3610**

Minister Search

The Fiske Boulevard Church of Christ, located at 805 South Fiske Blvd., Rockledge, Florida, has begun a search for a pulpit minister to begin in summer 2014.

The Church began in 1953 in Cocoa, Florida, and moved to its present location in 1973. Our 60th Anniversary was recently celebrated in November 2013.

Membership is currently about 100 with 10 ministries led by various brethren to provide for the welfare of the Church and Community outreach. We seek a minister that is sound in the doctrine of Christ, married, with great teaching, organizational, counseling and human relations skills to minister to this congregation.

If interested, please send your resume with a recent sermon on DVD/CD to the following mailing or e-mail address:

**ATTN: SEARCH COMMITTEE
FISKE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST
P.O. BOX 560052
ROCKLEDGE, FLORIDA 32956-0052
Email Address: fiskecoc@att.net**

Youth & Family Minister

Maxwell Ave. Church of Christ in Ardmore, Okla., is searching for a Youth & Family Minister to serve the needs of our 25+ member youth group.

We are moving into our new building this fall and hope to have him in place by that time.

We desire a young man who is energetic, spiritual, degreed and has an attractive background of church service. We are eager to find a good match to join us in serving our community.

Check out our website at **merrickdrivechurch.org** and if interested, **fax your resume to 580-223-9668 or email it to ribenedick@hotmail.com.**

Minister Wanted

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

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

ypsicofc@gmail.com

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

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For more information:
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Ready, set, lead

Youths
prepare,
practice
for LTC,
Lads.

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Long Island, big faith

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From bat boy to GM

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