

MATT DOBSON

Home from Afghanistan, father surprises daughter at Harding

Alley Robison, a senior at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., reacts to a surprise visit by her father, U.S. Air Force Col. Elmo Robison. Alley was walking to the podium to make an announcement during a recent chapel assembly when her father, who had been deployed in Afghanistan, caught her attention. "I turned around and I was just speechless and so thankful that he's back and safe," Alley told KATV. Harding President Bruce McLarty said, "It was one of those special days in chapel that causes everyone to feel that they are part of the same family. On that day, it was Alley's family, and you knew that everyone shared their joy." The Robisons attend the Denbigh Church of Christ in Newport News, Va.

Live on the Internet: Sunday worship

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

No longer must Christians working in the Alaska North Slope oil fields miss Sunday services at the Anchorage Church of Christ, even though it's hundreds of miles away.

In central Pennsylvania, residents of the Golden Living retirement center don't need to leave the premises — or their wheelchairs — to witness the sermon at the Camp Hill Church of Christ.

In Russia, 20-year-old Elizabeth Kamonde, a student from the southern Africa nation of Namibia,

can't find a church home, so she sings along with a congregation around the globe — the Northside Church of Christ in Benton, Ark.

In an age of digital Bible apps, electronic tithing and sermon notes posted immediately to Twitter, Churches of Christ increasingly broadcast their Sunday assemblies on the Internet.

Live-streaming, it's called.

"The streaming is quite consistent, so we worship in sync," Kamonde said, "and that is an amazing experience."

The Anchorage church invested in

See **LIVE-STREAMING**, Page 12



DAVE SMITH

The Camp Hill Church of Christ in central Pennsylvania has embraced technology to reach more people with the Gospel.

Mandela legacy in South Africa: All worship freely

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Bullets came flying at Alan Martin as he stepped off a Cape Town, South Africa, bus after a Wednesday night Bible study.

Martin, now dean of the College of Biblical Studies at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, grew up in a segregated church and faced violence and oppression during the apartheid era.

Apartheid — an Afrikaans word meaning "the state of being apart" — was a government policy of segregation and racial and economic discrimination against non-whites.

"When I became a teenager, I became aware of apartheid. I just saw the discrimination, and I saw the unfairness," Martin said as he reflected on anti-apartheid champion Nelson Mandela, whose Dec. 5 death at age 95 drew tears and condolences worldwide.

Like admirers around the globe, the roughly 30,000 members of Churches of Christ in South Africa celebrated the legacy of Mandela, who served as the nation's first black president from 1994 to 1999.

In today's South Africa, Christians of all races — including blacks, whites and "coloreds," as those of mixed races are known — can worship together freely. That's just one legacy of the life of Mandela, who had Methodist roots and wrote in a 1975 letter, "Never forget that a saint is a sinner who keeps trying."

Mandela's efforts "had a profound effect on the church because we can now worship together under the same roof, regardless of skin color or language," said Stephen Sheasby, a Church of Christ member and executive director of Mission Providence, which rescues abandoned babies in Durban, South Africa. "We are truly free in Christ together."

See **MANDELA**, Page 13



Mandela



Martin



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Real journalism reflects absolute truth of Christ

Firstly, it's pronounced "TRIG-es-tad." I know that's been bugging some of you for years.

Secondly, I believe that Christian journalism, when done right, is the fulfillment of what God intended journalism to be. All of the goals

we aspire to as reporters and editors — accuracy, objectivity, fairness, balance — should be hallmarks of our Christian faith.

Inside Story



Erik Tryggestad

My odd last name, actually, is a farming village in Norway. My great-grandfather, Ole Tryggestad, lived there until 1910, when he came to the U.S. in search of a warmer climate.

He chose South Dakota.

I made it considerably farther south — to Savannah, Ga. — before moving to Oklahoma 12 years ago, where it's been my honor to serve readers of *The Christian Chronicle*.

I worked for two daily newspapers in Georgia as a reporter and editor before I moved here, and all of my coworkers thought I was getting out of the business of "real journalism." So did I.

I was wrong.

In the past dozen years, I've come to realize that Christian journalism isn't a subset of news media. We're not a niche publication or a special-interest group.

Journalism, in its purest form, is a search for truth, and Christian journalists

See JOURNALISM, Page 4



WES MCKINZIE

If you can't beat 'em ... OC students cheer for OU

Sherri Coale, coach of the University of Oklahoma's women's basketball team, stands with students from Oklahoma Christian University who shed their Eagles gear to root for the Sooners. Coale was impressed by what she heard from OC's fans as her Sooners played the Lady Eagles in a recent exhibition game in Norman, Okla. The Sooners bounced back from a 41-38 halftime deficit and beat the Lady Eagles 88-76, but the boisterous Eagles fans overpowered the OU fans — and the OU band.

Coale, a former point guard for the Lady Eagles and a member of the Westside Church of Christ in Norman, recruited OC students to cheer for the Sooners against No. 2-ranked Duke. The 17th-ranked Sooners lost the game 94-85, but Coale said she was proud of her team's effort — and the noise level.

Jim Brinkerhoff, longtime campus minister at Auburn, dies at 56

AUBURN, Ala. — Jim Brinkerhoff, campus minister for the Auburn Church of Christ in Alabama for 29 years, died Dec. 5 after suffering a heart attack. He was 56.

Brinkerhoff was "the epitome of a campus minister in every sense of the word," said Milton Jones, a former leader of Campus for Christ, a national campus ministry group associated with Churches of Christ. "He shared Jesus with everyone he could ... God used him to build a huge campus ministry at Auburn that has touched thousands of students and influenced people all over the world."

Brinkerhoff, who grew up in Churches of Christ, fell away from his faith after he enrolled at Auburn University, he said in a 2003 interview with *The Christian*

Chronicle. After three years, he had "a deep desire to find God" and returned to church. Auburn's then-campus minister Paul Cates embraced Brinkerhoff and, eventually, encouraged him to pursue campus ministry.



Brinkerhoff

Chronicle. "Each time, though, I thought to myself, 'Where else could I go that carries with it the possibilities of the world vision that is inherent within campus ministries?'"

How then should we interact?

OPINIONS, PRACTICES vary on cooperation among Churches of Christ and other faith groups that claim Christianity.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

A Church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas, made local headlines recently for participating in a joint worship service with three churches outside its fellowship.

Allan Stanglin, preaching minister for the Central Church of Christ in Amarillo, said it was powerful to see the four churches — Central, First Presbyterian, First Baptist and Polk Street United Methodist — put aside their doctrinal differences and worship together in the meeting place of the Baptist church, the *Amarillo Globe-News* reported.

"I have, for the last 10 or 12 years, dreamed that my kids could experience something like that," Stanglin, who delivered the message at the service, told *The Christian Chronicle*.

Though each group believes differently, the event allowed worshipers to "tear down the walls" and "celebrate what we have in common," he said.

Months earlier, the churches formed a coalition, 4 Amarillo, which has provided school supplies to students in need and engaged in other community works.

Nearly 840 miles east, a Church of Christ in Paducah, Ky., also got media attention when a billboard appeared on the city's south side with the church's address and four questions aimed at Baptists.

"Did John the Baptist authorize building the Baptist church?" one question asked, citing scriptures from Matthew underneath.

A member of the church paid for the sign out of his own funds, WPSD reported. The TV station also interviewed a Church of Christ minister who said he agreed with the message but not the method.

How should Churches of Christ — which claim the Bible as their only authority — interact with denominations and faith groups

See INTERACT, Page 9



Third in a series



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JOURNALISM: Faith calls us to seek absolute truth

FROM PAGE 3

labor in the service of the absolute truth of Jesus Christ. Since what we believe is the truth, it can withstand any amount of scrutiny.

Newspapers have been in my blood for a long time. I was born in Falls Church, Va., just outside Washington, and the Watergate hearings were on the TV in my mom's hospital room. Woodward and Bernstein became my heroes, alongside Luke Skywalker. I used to dream of writing for *The Washington Post* — and becoming a Jedi.

I published my first newspaper in fourth grade — *The GoBot News*, for all of us who collected little, die-cast metal robots that turned into cars, helicopters and motorcycles. Our first breaking story was about a rival toy line that had just emerged — the Transformers. I even brought in a legal expert, Ryan Hensley, to report on copyright law. (His dad was a lawyer — or watched a lot of “Perry Mason” reruns. I forget.)

I still love writing. Since joining the *Chronicle* staff in 2001, I have visited Churches of Christ in 50 countries, reporting international news. I am humbled by the faith I encounter in our brothers and sisters around the globe.

I delight in sharing their stories — especially those in far-flung, nearly forgotten cities with names such as Ouagadougou, Ordzhonikidze, Paramakatoi and Ishinomaki. (A love of hard-to-pronounce places is in my genetic code, after all.)

One of my all-time favorite discussions was with a young woman named Galina who attended a small Church of Christ in Tallinn, Estonia, just south of Finland.

“Surely you write about Catholics and Methodists,” she asked me, “not just Churches of Christ, right?”

I told her our mission — to inform, inspire and unite Churches of Christ. She was amazed to learn that there are enough of us, worldwide, to warrant our own newspaper.

As I have worked alongside dedicated Christian writers and editors, I have watched the daily newspaper industry that I love shrink and shrivel.

Across the nation, papers are hemorrhaging dedicated journalists who labored not to bring glory to their own names but to tell the stories that others weren't telling.

What has replaced them, unfortunately, is unsubstantiated Internet gossip, bad political punditry and down-right drivel — news that incites rather than informs. In part, it's a result of our postmodern society. When we reject absolute truth, our goal changes from the pursuit of objectivity to the boisterous proclamation of our own “truths,” as loudly and as frequently as possible.

God expects us to do better.

As editor of *The Christian Chronicle*, I hope to build on the foundation that Olan Hicks laid nearly 71 years ago, continued today by our dedicated staff and supported by our faith-filled board of trustees.

I want this publication to report the news of the Lord's church with fairness and accuracy — based on our dedication to Jesus and his teachings. We are part of a family of faith that seeks to restore New Testament Christianity. I want us to investigate and share the stories of restoration at our doorsteps and in the farthest reaches of the earth.

I do not want us to ignore challenges facing the church, nor do I want us to be muckraking rumormongers. We will not shy away from topics that frighten us. We will, instead, endeavor to cover them in a way that represents numerous viewpoints and promotes thoughtful discussion.

We will not succeed always, and we ask for your forgiveness when we fall short of the mark.

We encourage and covet your feedback as we endeavor to practice real journalism — the way God intended it.

CONTACT erik@christianchronicle.org.

ALABAMA

AUBURN — A recent Auburn Church of Christ sermon topic caught the attention of *Yahoo! Sports*.

This was the sign outside the church before the Iron Bowl football game between then-No. 1 Alabama and No. 4 Auburn: "Sunday's Sermon: Humility, We'll Either Have It Or Need It."

As it turned out, Auburn fans needed a big dose of humility after one of the most dramatic, last-second wins in college football history.

HARTSELLE — The Westview Church of Christ, a 5-year-old church plant with about 50 members, emphasizes community outreach.

"Building Faith, Building Family and Building Community" is the motto of the congregation, which hosts events such as a back-to-school supplies store, a community cookout, a fall festival, a community Christmas party and community gospel concerts.

The Huntsville-area congregation "was started as an urban church plant focused on providing a holistic ministry to a lower-income community," said Michael Brown, one of the church planters. "We are Kingdom-oriented — looking to meet the spiritual, material and social needs of our community."

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES — Elder Forest Whitaker led a Figueroa Church of Christ team that recently roasted 59 turkeys, baked 16 hams and prepared dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, yams, macaroni and cheese, salad, green beans, rolls, beverages and an assortment of desserts for 700 people.

For 16 years, the congregation has organized a community feast that benefits the homeless and area residents.

GEORGIA

AUGUSTA — Six Churches of Christ came together to feed almost 3,000 people in an event dubbed "Feed the Hungry."

The congregations worked in harmony to provide hot meals, said Tina McCormick, secretary for the South Augusta Church of Christ.

"It was one of the more beautiful examples of cooperation I think we have ever been a part of," McCormick said, noting that organizers intend to repeat the undertaking. "The goal is for God to be glorified, people to be blessed and souls to be saved."



DINA CLYDE

At Ohio church, an 'orphan's feast' benefits children

At its "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Friends Day, the Northeast Church of Christ in Cincinnati showcased three organizations that work for children's welfare: Hope for Haiti's Children, Mid-Western Children's Home and Focus on Youth. After the presentations, everyone was invited to stay for an "orphan's feast" — a simple spaghetti plate — in lieu of eating out. Members were invited to donate any money they might have spent on a restaurant meal to the organizations.

NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH — Thirteen couples attended the Brooks Avenue Church of Christ's first-ever weekend retreat for parents of children with special needs.

Brad Thompson, a minister and counselor for the Southwest Church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas, and his wife, Karen, spoke. The Thompsons also run The Hali Project, a nonprofit that helps families with special needs.

"The couples' children were watched while the parents attended," said Barry Woodhouse, deacon for the Brooks Avenue special-needs ministry. "It was a tremendous success and something the Thompsons want to do again in this format."

OKLAHOMA

MUSKOGEE — Fluffy piles of teddy bear stuffing and material patterns cover a

table in a bright room at the Chandler Road Church of Christ.

Inside, you'll find four women laughing warmly and stuffing teddy bears that will be given to children to hold onto when they feel scared in the hospital, the *Muskogee Phoenix* reported.

"It's a ministry we do for children when they are at their lowest," Rhonda Frasier told the newspaper. Each bear given out to local hospitals by the "Bear Ministry" has been sewn, painted, stuffed and labeled "Made With Love."

TEXAS

GRANBURY — 2013 was a difficult year for this North Texas community.

In May, a tornado killed six people and destroyed more than 100 homes. The next month, a sheriff's deputy died and a police officer was injured in a shooting.

SPOTLIGHT**\$100,000 winner**

FLORENCE, Ala. — Brooks Bergman, a senior at Mars Hills Bible School, won the Dr Pepper Tuition Giveaway challenge during halftime of the SEC championship football game and took home \$100,000.

Before getting the opportunity to throw as many footballs as he could through a 2-foot hole from 5 feet away, Bergman submitted a video about his life, including his bout with leukemia as a child.

"I was just honest in talking about why I want to pursue medicine as a career," he told *The Times Daily*.

His stepfather, Brad Adcock, preaches for the Stony Point Church of Christ, and his mother, Kristi, teaches at Mars Hill.

Bergman, 18, plans to attend Harding University in Searcy, Ark.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Brooks Bergman won a \$100,000 prize.

To support and encourage those who serve on the front lines during such times of tragedy, the Granbury Church of Christ's Wednesday morning ladies' Bible class hosted a special luncheon honoring the community's first responders.

About 60 personnel from seven emergency agencies attended.

PASADENA — The Crockett Road Church of Christ made the holiday season a little brighter for a platoon stationed in Afghanistan.

The congregation helped members John and Ann Mottern provide care packages for their son, Jason Mottern, and his fellow soldiers.

"We felt it was in some small way an opportunity to show our appreciation for those men and women serving on foreign fields," minister Dan Manuel told the *Palestine Herald-Press*.

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Minister Search

**Kings Crossing Church of Christ,
Corpus Christi, Texas**, is starting a search for a
Pulpit Minister to begin Aug. 2014.

The church began in 1955 as the Windsor Park Church and
relocated to its present location on the city's fast-growing
south side under a new name in 2006.

Membership is 400+; we have 6 elders; 6 deacons with three
ministers (Youth, Education, and Prison Ministry). Our current
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If interested, please send a resume with a recent sermon DVD
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LOVENTRICE FARROW

Los Angeles-area ministry builds up, encourages women

Organizers of the United Christian Women of the Churches of Christ, known as UCW, celebrate the group's 25th anniversary during its recent annual seminar in Los Angeles. "Unity: Jesus' Prayer, Our Purpose" served as the theme for the seminar, just as it did 25 years ago.

UCW's purpose is to glorify God, to build up and encourage one another, to strengthen the unity of the sisterhood as Christ prayed and to equip and encourage all sisters to participate more effectively in the work of their local congregations. UCW operates under the oversight of the Southside, Normandie, Crenshaw and Hawthorne congregations in the Los Angeles area.

Longtime director of White's Ferry Road School of Preaching dies at 80

WEST MONROE, La. — Carl Allison, who helped establish the now-defunct White's Ferry Road School of Preaching and served as its director for 22 years, died Dec. 3. He was 80.

Allison was a longtime elder and staff member of the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ. Mike Kellett, White's Ferry Road preacher and elder, remembered Allison as his "mentor, teacher, fellow elder and partner in the ministry."

"I've never known a better man," Kellett said. "He is my hero in the faith and will be missed dearly."

While Allison devoted himself to ministry, he loved sports. A native Oklahoman, he played baseball and football for the University of Oklahoma and spent a season as head football coach at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

Allison was "a rare four-year starter and a captain on OU's undefeated 1954 football team," noted Berry Tramel, sports columnist for *The Oklahoman*.

In famed Sooners coach Bud Wilkinson's final 1954 letter to alumni, he wrote, "I never hope to coach a finer football player (than Allison). Carl started every game we have played the last four years. He was never late to practice, never hurt, never sick. ... In reliability and character he stands at the very top of our squad."

The White's Ferry Road church has gained national attention as the home congregation of the Robertson family of the "Duck Dynasty" fame. Phil Robertson and his son, Alan, both served with Allison as church elders.

Allison's survivors include Barbara, his wife of 61 years. Memorials may be made to White's Ferry Road World Radio Gospel Broadcasting and White's Ferry Road Relief Ministries.



Allison

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SPOTLIGHT

Saying 'I do' a second time

CAMPINA, Brazil — Missionary Allen Dutton Jr. performed a record-breaking 22 marriage ceremonies in one evening.

Then it was his turn to say "I do."

The missionary conducted a weekend marriage enrichment seminar for members of the Guanabara and Campo Grande Churches of Christ that meet in Campinas, a city of nearly 1 million souls, northwest of Sao Paulo.

"On Saturday morning I taught two classes on communication and how it can create problems in marriage — and how to solve communication problems," Dutton said.

Then the couples renewed their wedding vows during a ceremony, complete with professional photos and video.

"It was easy to see in the faces of both bride and groom that the commitment to remain married was stronger than ever," Dutton said. "We had couples who had been married for 13 days up to 30 years. We ended the night with a beautiful banquet and even had pictures of each couple with a wedding cake."

During the ceremony, a Brazilian evangelist who works with Dutton presided over the missionary's renewal of vows with his wife, Robin.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Allen Dutton Jr. helps a Brazilian couple renew their marriage vows.



DAVID MAY

Growing crops for growing children in Haiti

In Port-au-Prince, Haiti, children at Son Light Children's home show off the bounty from their garden. Roberta Edwards, a church member from North Carolina, began caring for children in the impoverished Caribbean nation in 1995. The Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tenn., supports the work, which includes a home for 30 children and a nutrition center that feeds about 120 neighborhood children twice per day, five days each week.

David and Charlene May, members of the Eagan Church of Christ in Minnesota, work with the ministry and oversee a guest house for short-term workers and mission interns. For more information, see www.outofthepews.blogspot.com.

"To see people come forward with tears streaming down their faces in repentance is very moving," Collins said.

TANZANIA

CHIMALA — The Church of Christ that meets at Chimala Mission, Hospital and Schools reached a long-awaited milestone recently when it appointed its first elders.

Tanzanian Christians Boaz Kasiba and Venace Mwanjelile were named elders, and the church also appointed three deacons, said Bill Stinson, U.S. coordinator for the mission.

"This is something that we have been working toward for the last six years," said Stinson, who presented lessons on the role of elders during a recent visit to the church. About 400 people worshiped on Sunday, he said, and nearly that many participated in the Bible classes. "The congregation and

elders were very excited to hear the lessons," he said, "and they seemed to be on fire to go out and fulfill the Great Commission."

THAILAND

MAE HONG SON PROVINCE — In March 2013, a fire devastated the Ban Mae Surin refugee camp, near the country's border with Myanmar. The camp, launched in 1992, houses thousands of refugees who fled ethnic conflict in Myanmar. The fire claimed 37 lives and destroyed 200 homes.

Robert Reagan, a member of a church-planting team in Chiang Mai, Thailand, traveled to the camp to assess needs.

The refugees didn't ask for food or clothing, but for help for their school, which meets in a bamboo classroom with a dirt floor. Reagan now teaches English classes one week per

month in the camp.

"I thought I was going to teach, serve and be a blessing in Jesus' name," Reagan said, "but God has used these people to bless my life more than I ever imagined."

UKRAINE

MARIUPOL — Dino Roussos, minister for the Omonia Church of Christ in Athens, Greece, was reunited with Christians baptized in Athens during a recent visit to this city in southeastern Ukraine.

"This church is growing, and brother Sasha Pilesky is doing an amazing work preaching the Gospel of Christ," said Roussos, who preached for the congregation during his visit.

The Greek minister also taught classes at the Ukrainian Bible Institute, a church-supported ministry training school in Donetsk, Ukraine.

HONDURAS

TEGUCIGALPA — About 40 members of Churches of Christ across the U.S. gathered in a trash dump in this Central American capital. The Christians hosted a "Jesus Banquet," feeding nearly 1,000 people, many of whom scratch out a living collecting recyclable material at the dump. Honduras Hope, overseen by missionaries Marc and Terri Tindall, coordinates ministry at the dump.



TREY MORGAN

Sanita, age 6, enjoys a beverage at the annual Jesus Banquet.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

AROBA — A team of Christians from Australia traveled to this remote village in the South Pacific to preach, teach and heal.

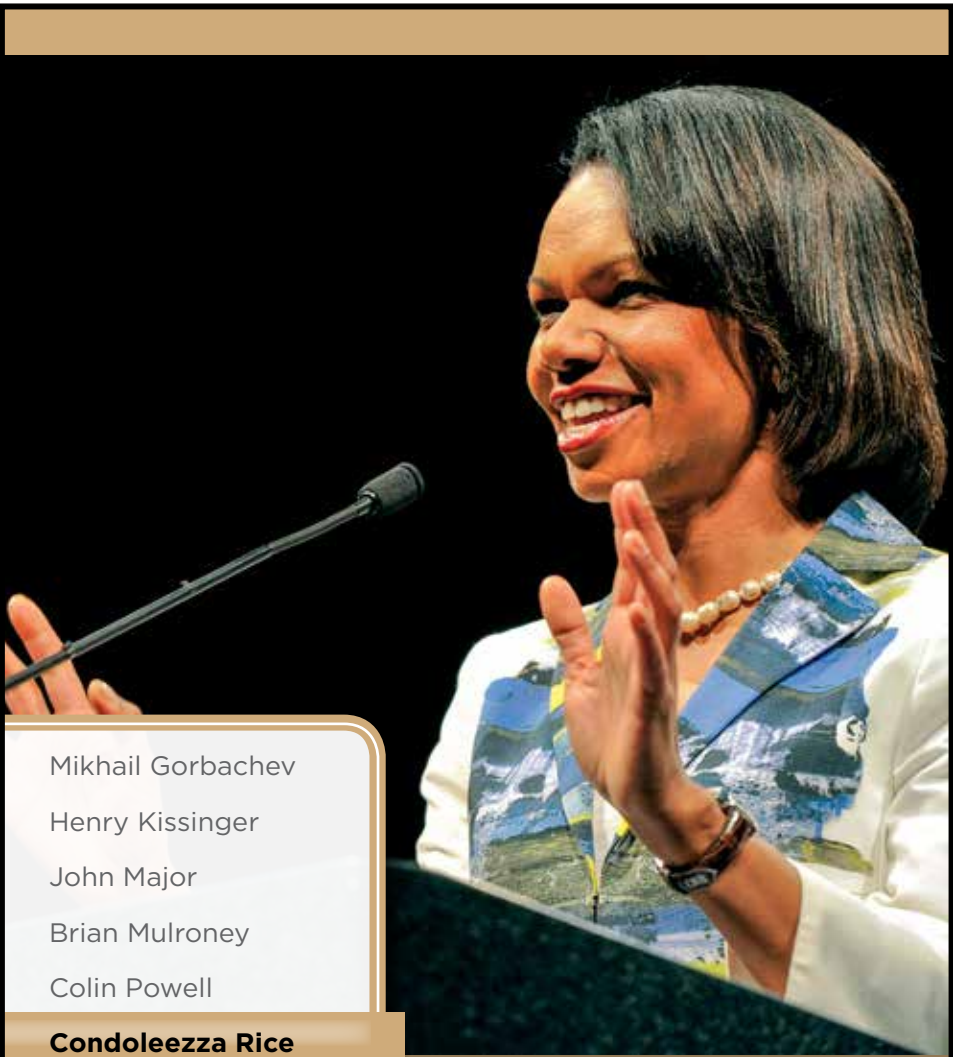
Tom and Rens Bunt, missionaries from Australia, lived in the village and helped plant a church there, said team coordinator Steve Collins, a member of Warwick Church of Christ in the Australian state of Queensland.

The team conducted Bible classes and health clinics for the villagers and witnessed several baptisms. Many villagers confessed sins and repented after team members presented a lesson on the parable of the prodigal son.



INTERSECTIONS MAGAZINE/WWW.KLESIS.COM.AU

Australian Christians speak with villagers in Papua New Guinea.



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As genocide looms in Central Africa, missionary seeks prayers

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As world leaders praise Nelson Mandela's legacy of reconciliation in South Africa, a nation 2,500 miles to the north is experiencing what a United Nations official called "the seeds of genocide."

The Central African Republic, a landlocked nation of 4.5 million souls, has endured corruption and violence since independence in 1960. In recent weeks, more than 600 people have died in sectarian attacks. John Ging, a U.N. official, told CNN that "we see the seeds of a genocide here" unless the world intervenes.

As he witnesses the violence firsthand, Worlanyo Bor is appealing to a higher power than the world.

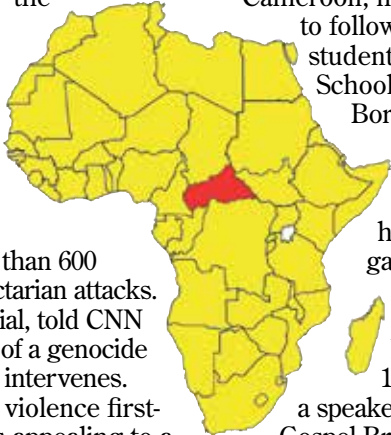
"We need your prayers in this troubled time," said Bor, a missionary from Ghana who works with Churches of Christ in the C.A.R.'s capital, Bangui.

"It is so sad and pathetic to see women and children — especially handicapped people — running to seek refuge around the Catholic monastery campus and other local church premises," Bor said.

Thousands of refugees have crowded into makeshift camps and church buildings with few sources of drinkable water.

In March 2013, a group of rebels called the *Seleka*, or "Alliance," drove the country's president from power. The rebels — most of whom claim Islam as their faith — carried out attacks against groups that identify themselves as Christians, *The Atlantic* reports. The Christians formed militias and retaliated.

The African Union and France have sent troops to the troubled nation and



the U.S. is providing support.

Churches of Christ were planted in the Central African Republic in the late 1990s. Evangelists including Hilton Terry, Doyle Kee and Jean-Claude Ethe, a minister in neighboring Cameroon, made visits to the country to follow up with French-speaking students in the World Bible

School correspondence program.

Bor and his wife, Edith, moved to Bangui to work with the new Christians and plant churches. The region is home to at least four congregations, Kee said. The Mastin

Lake Road Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala., has supported the work for 15 years. Worlanyo Bor is

a speaker for World Radio Global Gospel Broadcasts, supported by the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La.

"We know of no other fully supported missionaries of the Lord's church in C.A.R. to this day," said Howard South, a member of the Mastin Lake Road church. "We pray that other areas of the country will eventually be evangelized."

The Alabama congregation has fewer than 100 members, South said, yet it provides partial support to eight other missionaries in addition to the Bors.

"They are a dedicated family," South said, "and worthy of any help we can find for them and the membership in this present crisis."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact the Mastin Lake Road Church of Christ at (256) 852-2956.



Bor

Christians help Nicaraguans see the light

JINOTEGA, Nicaragua — A medical mission team traveled to this Central American nation to improve people's vision and win their souls. Dr. Russ Burcham of Denver and his wife, Vicki, led a team of Christians from Mississippi, Virginia and Tennessee. The group worked with a Nicaraguan hospital's eye surgery unit

and examined more than 500 people, providing glasses and performing 52 surgical procedures. Luis Prada led an evangelism team of four Nicaraguan preachers during the campaign.

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LIVE-STREAMING: Online services reach computer users in isolated areas

FROM PAGE 1

a high-definition camera to provide a “real-time connection” to homebound and ill members, elder Darrell Watson said.

“Additionally, many Church of Christ members are scattered across the state of Alaska — nearly two-fifths the size of the United States — and they are isolated from other Christians in the state,” Watson said. “They can watch the live-streaming or replay broadcasts of Bible classes and worship services.”

Like the Anchorage church, the Central Church of Christ in Winnipeg, Manitoba, made services available online for its shut-in and out-of-town members.

However, in a nation with 35 million people but only 150 Churches of Christ, the online assemblies have drawn interest across the Canadian prairies, minister Wayne Turner said.

“Isolated church members who live in more remote places — in Manitoba and Saskatchewan — log on to worship with us,” Turner said.

In Pennsylvania, about 10 to 15 nursing home residents watch the Camp Hill church service on a 50-inch television connected to a computer.

The congregation’s retired preacher, Randy Pritchett, serves the Lord’s Supper to the residents and leads old hymns before turning up the sound on the TV.

“Occasionally, Randy has to deliver the sermon when the Internet gremlins have not been fed,” said Dave Smith, the Camp Hill church’s deacon of communications. “Fortunately, he has years of experience.”

PHYSICAL VS. VIRTUAL CHURCH

A 2011 study, “Virtually Religious: Technology and Internet Use in American Congregations,” found that religious congregations’ use of websites and email more than doubled in the previous decade.

Newer forms of technology such as Facebook, blogs, tex-



JACOB SEE

Member Beau Wood helps with the technical side of live-streaming assemblies of the Anchorage Church of Christ in Alaska. The Internet broadcasts serve shut-in members as well as out-of-town Christians.

ting and streaming were less prevalent but “nevertheless beginning to transform the ways religious groups interact and enhance their sense of community,” the study determined.

“All faith groups in this day and age should be hybrid congregations,” wrote researcher Scott Thumma, who prepared the study for the Hartford Institute for Religion Research in Connecticut. “In other words, their ministry needs to be part physical and part virtual.”

“Nearly every congregation has members who interact with these technologies in their daily lives,” Thumma added. “Religious leaders who recognize this and employ these technologies to connect with and minister to their congregational members have a distinct advantage.”

At the time of the study, about 3 percent of all churches offered live-streaming, with

larger congregations more likely to do so, Thumma told *The Christian Chronicle*.

“I don’t have any more current national data, and I don’t think any research center does either,” he said.

“But the trend is definitely increasing, and a larger number of smaller churches are doing it.”

Away at boarding school in Virginia, Sarah Keyton’s teenage granddaughter uses her computer to access the Bouldercrest Church of Christ in Atlanta, where her grandfather, Edward Keyton, serves as senior evangelist.

“She likes it because she is able to worship with us, and she feels a connection with us,” Sarah Keyton said. “This way, she gets to hear her grandfather

preach every Sunday.

“The full service is live-streamed, so she is able to participate fully and can also go online to give,” the grandmother added. “We gave her a supply of portable communion.”

‘WATCH US FROM HOME’

For Hammond Burke, making the Gospel available via personal computers has been a dream since before YouTube and Vimeo were created or broadband connections replaced dialup Internet.

Some church leaders worry that the availability of online assemblies will prompt members to stay home, said Burke, executive director of the Church of Christ Broadcast Network, a Texas-based company that helps congregations build technology/media ministries.

For that reason, some churches record services — instead of showing them live

— and post the videos online for later viewing, he said.

“My personal philosophy is, if you’re skipping church and watching it online, you’re not very convicted, and the church needs to deal with you in a different way,” said Burke, a member of the Central Pointe Church of Christ in Dallas.

The Newburgh Church of Christ in Indiana has live-streamed services for years, never worrying about members opting for online worship over actual attendance, elder Tracy Hayford said.

“Our emphasis on family and fellowship has helped us not to worry about that,” Hayford said.

“The only real concern we’ve ever had was people not wanting the response to an invitation or other ‘private’ things streamed,” he added. “We stop the streaming as soon as the invitation song is started.”

While live-streaming serves shut-ins, out-of-town members and isolated Christians, Burke points to an even bigger potential benefit: sharing Jesus with lost people.

For a 21st century seeker, the opportunity to acquaint oneself with a church virtually before ever entering a physical building is a giant plus, he said.

“It takes away a lot of the anxiety and mystery about what goes on in church for those who’ve never been,” Burke said.

The Anchorage church has embraced that idea, producing informational business cards for members to pass out to friends and neighbors.

The message on the cards: “Watch us from home — then come meet us.”



Burke



Keyton

TO FIND LINKS to church services, go to www.christianchronicle.org and search for “live-streaming.”

MANDELA: Anti-apartheid leader's quest for equality, justice draws praise

FROM PAGE 1

A one-time militant activist, Mandela spent 27 years in prison for opposing South Africa's white-minority regime, then became a global symbol of forgiveness and racial reconciliation.

"As black South Africans, many of us had expected him to pay revenge and correct the wrongs that we had suffered, but he came out preaching forgiveness and unity," said Nduduzo Collen Ngaleka, a graduate theology student at Oklahoma Christian. "He not only preached it, but his ability to demonstrate it before us impacted every South African."

DODGING BULLETS AFTER CHURCH

Martin remembers taking to the streets to demonstrate peacefully in the 1970s.

"The only time we started to be really oppositional, burning tires and all kinds of stuff, was when the police attacked," Martin said. "They sprayed us with those massive fire-engine water guns and shot at us with rubber bullets."

During later rioting, the government declared a state of emergency and ordered people off the streets. Martin ignored the warning and went to church.

After the service, authorities spotted Martin exiting a city bus and fired — with real bullets.

He ran and hid, eventually making it home safely in the dark.

At that time, the government portrayed the imprisoned Mandela as a communist and a terrorist.

"Nelson Mandela was a complex man and a complex leader," said Neal Coates, chairman of the Department of Political Science at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

"He made positive statements about democracy and human rights throughout his life," Coates said. "At other times, he acted on and believed in ideologies which go against



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Young people of all races study the Bible together during the Southern Africa Bible College lectureship in 2009.

democratic principles and the market system. For those reasons, Mandela's legacy will inspire many to revere him, while others will be critical."

In his early years, Mandela followed the nonviolent path of Mahatma Gandhi, said Tom Stipanowich, professor of law at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.

In the first half of the 20th century, Gandhi led India to independence and inspired movements for nonviolence, civil rights and freedom around the world.

But after South Africa's Sharpeville massacre of 1960 — in which police opened fire and killed 69 demonstrators — Mandela decided to fight violence with violence.

"Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress were caught, convicted of terrorism and imprisoned," Stipanowich said. "It was later, upon his emergence from prison, that Mandela rose above the political realm to become the voice of moral leadership for all of South Africa.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Mandela brought his country back from the brink of civil war and made possible the transition to a government of the governed," the professor added.

In the process, Mandela won over many skeptics of all colors, Martin said.

"He became a hero to just about everybody," said Martin, who helped establish the Cape Town School of Preaching and plant new Churches of Christ in his home county before immigrating permanently to the United States.

"I'm unsure of Mandela's church background, but one thing I'm sure about is that he practiced something that we all can learn from," the Bible college dean added, "and that is, forgiving your neighbor and making a difference in the world by embracing God's magnificent principle of forgiveness and reconciliation."

MANDELA 'WAS TRUE TO HIS WORD'

Before giving up a high-profile government post to focus on the Great Commission, Fred Bergh worked closely with Mandela.

Bergh, now director of Southern Africa Bible College in Benoni, east of Johannesburg, served as an ambassador to the United Nations during Mandela's presidency.

"Mandela became an icon in the world because of his truthful fight for what was fair and just for all people," Bergh, who helped craft a new South African constitution under Mandela, told *The Christian Chronicle*.

"As a serving diplomat, you are often in the company of people holding high office who make superficial and insincere promises, most of which are short-term solutions to the problems that beset man," said Bergh, a preacher and elder for the Ashlea Gardens Church of Christ in South Africa's capital of Pretoria.

But Mandela was different, said Bergh, who previously worked as a lawyer in the apartheid-era government of F.W. de Klerk, South Africa's last white president. Mandela and

de Klerk shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for the country's democratic transition.

Mandela spent his life fighting white racism, Bergh said.

"When he became president, he stated that he would continue his quest for justice by fighting any and all racism as well as for the rights and dignity of children," the former diplomat added. "He was true to his word on all counts and performed his tasks with incredible passion."

RACIAL HARMONY IN 'RAINBOW NATION'

In 2009, the *Chronicle* reported on new signs of racial harmony among churches in the country that Mandela touted as a "Rainbow Nation."

At that year's Southern Africa Bible College lectureship, 500 Christians sang first in English, then in Venda, one of 11 official languages in Africa's wealthiest and most developed country.

A few nights earlier, the same diverse crowd praised God in Zulu, another official language.

Tarryn Jane Roy, 26, a member of the Springs Church of Christ, east of Johannesburg, said she's too young to recall apartheid.

"I have many friends of different races and cultures," Roy said. "I couldn't help but tell all my friends (after Mandela's death) how blessed I

am to live in a day that we can have an open friendship.

"What makes South Africa such an amazing country is that we've embraced what initially tore us apart," she added. "We've learned to share cultures, to share meals — braai vleis, bunny chows, chesa nyama — and to combine our languages.

"I love my country. I love all its people and its diversity. And I can thank Mandela and those who fought with him for that."



Bergh



Roy



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Believe. Belong. Be Blue.



PHOTOS BY KEITH LANCASTER

Christians from around the world gather in the Bavarian city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany — famous for its medieval old town — for the Euro-American Christian Family Retreat.

Euro-American Family Retreat turns 50

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Compared to the great meetings taking place across Europe — including the talks in nearby Geneva on Iran's nuclear program — the 50th Euro-American Christian Family Retreat didn't seem all that important, said Bill McDonough.

Nonetheless, "this little, insignificant meeting that we're having here can have a world impact," he said.

"It already does."

McDonough, a former missionary to Germany, spoke to 226 Church of Christ members from 21 nations during the retreat, held in the medieval city of

Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany.

Al Stevens, a U.S. church member and military chaplain, organized the first event as a get-together for American military families living in Europe.

In the years that followed, it evolved into a shared celebration for missionaries serving in Europe — some supported by U.S. churches and some vocational — and European Christians.

Phil Jackson, director for European missions for Missions Resource Network, coordinates the retreat.

Throughout the event, "what I kept hearing repeated was this: 'Because of the fellowship, singing, worship and encouragement, we don't want to

leave,'" said Keith Lancaster, a cappella "musicianary" and song leader for the retreat. "People spoke of becoming hoarse from singing so loud."

McDonough, who now serves churches in Southeast Asia, urged the participants to maintain their faith and resolve despite laboring in "post-Christian" Europe, where evangelism is difficult and baptisms are few.

"You're needed here," he told the attendees. "I hope you go away thinking, 'What a blessing these people were to me.'"

THE NEXT EURO-AMERICAN RETREAT is Nov. 22-26, 2014. See eurofamilyretreat.org.



Bill McDonough, former missionary to Germany, catches up with friends at the Euro-American Christian Family Retreat.

Doing LIFE: Inmates find love, appreciation

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY'S *Initiative for Education offers associate degrees to women in a Tennessee prison.*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TED PARKS
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

The gym was full of “freeworlders” — the nickname for those who live outside prison walls — and inmates.

Together they clapped and cheered as eight “inside students” climbed to the stage, shook the president’s hand, grasped their diplomas and became recipients of the first-ever associate of arts degree granted by Lipscomb University.

Held on the eve of the traditional December graduation on campus, the ceremony capped seven years of study for the graduates in the LIFE program — Lipscomb Initiative for Education — offered behind the locked steel doors and razor-wire perimeter of Nashville’s Tennessee Prison for Women. Lipscomb University is associated with Churches of Christ.

Comprising 63 hours of course-

work, the LIFE program is taught by Lipscomb faculty and puts up to 30 traditional, freeworld undergrads side-by-side with a similar number of inside students. Classes meet in the prison on Wednesday nights during the semester.

“I felt loved, I felt appreciated, I felt successful and that the sky’s the limit,” said graduate Markeisha Seagraves during the reception following the graduation ceremony.

Before shedding the top half of their prison blues to don black caps and gowns, the graduates were guests at a catered Provost’s Brunch, where the menu included egg casserole, biscuits and bacon. Faculty members served the meal to the students, mirroring the traditional Provost’s Breakfast on campus.

After graduation, guests and inmates enjoyed a sheet cake baked in the prison’s kitchen, complemented by fruit and other dessert treats.

Eight students received their diplomas before an audience of about 150 people. A ninth student — who was

transferred to another state correctional facility — will officially graduate in May.

“Coming into prison, I didn’t even have a high-school diploma,” said graduate Tabitha Slack, who finished her high school work behind bars in 2005.

“Now my associate degree ... is a chance for me to actually be able to survive when I am released.”

Seagraves listed two reasons she wanted to study in the LIFE program.

“One was to know that I could do it, because I hadn’t always believed in myself,” Seagraves said.

The other “was to let my daughter know that educational opportunities exist any and everywhere, regardless of what your address is, and, though we fall, we can always get up.”

Now an eighth-grader, Seagraves’ daughter was 14 months old when her mom went to jail.



Goode

“She thinks it’s awesome that I’m still trying to succeed, even though I’ve been locked up almost 13 years,” Seagraves said.

With program courses ranging from foreign languages to physics — easily transferred to other universities — LIFE coordinator and Lipscomb history professor Richard Goode believes the classes Lipscomb offers behind prison walls breathe freedom and opportunity into students’ lives.

“On one level, it’s not about being in prison at all,” Goode said. “It’s about the power of the liberal arts and ... the liberating capacity of education to help us re-envision, and reconceptualize, re-imagine our lives. ... If we’re going to take the story of the Gospel seriously, grace means second chances.”

In his address during the ceremony, Lipscomb President L. Randolph Lowry echoed the connection between learning and liberation.

“As you complete this program, my hope is that you, in fact, do find a sense

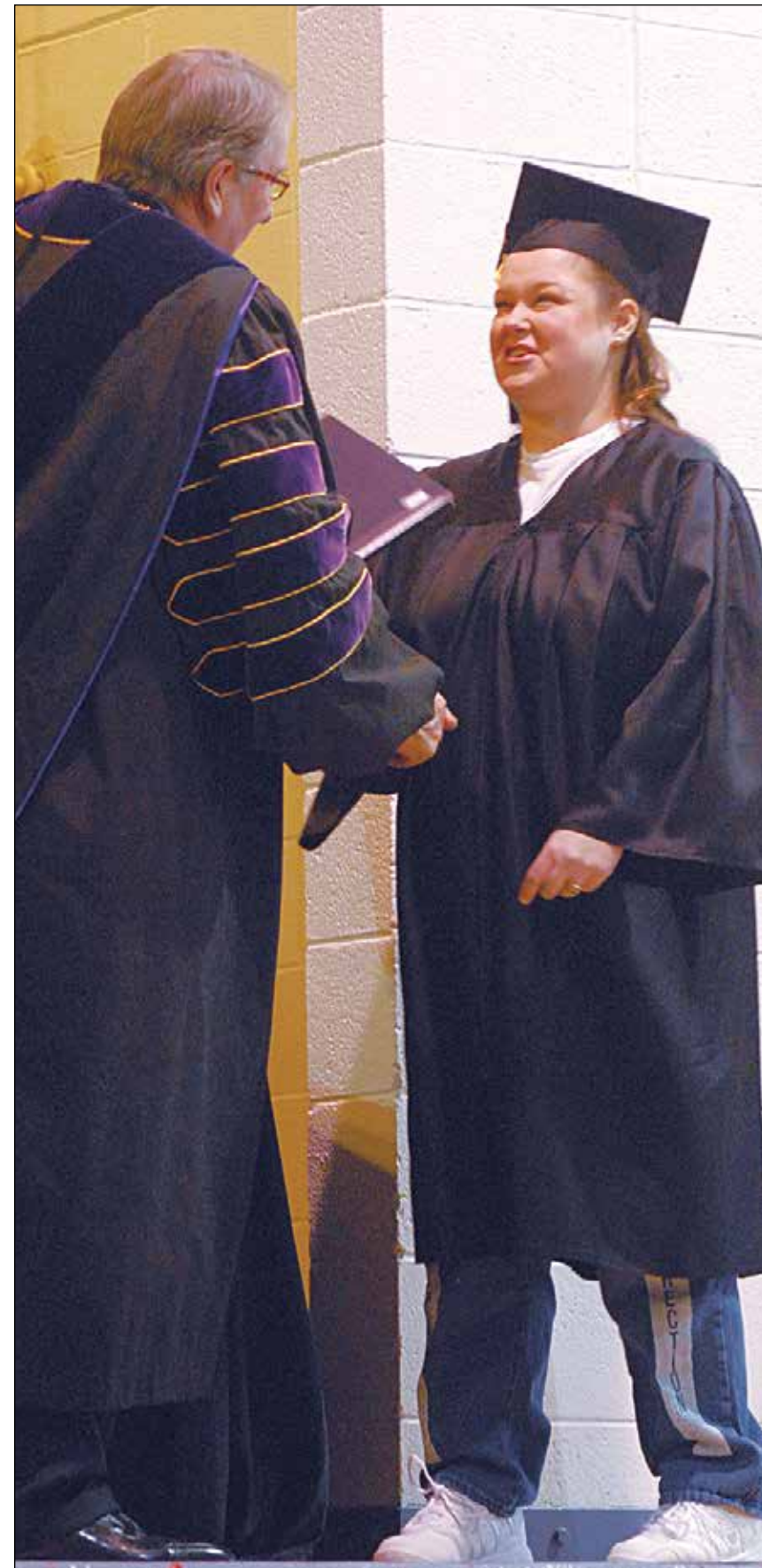
of freedom you didn’t have, in ... literature that takes you other places, and ideas that stretch who you are, and relationships that are formed,” Lowry said.

Among the guests was Lipscomb psychology major Zach Hackett, a freeworlder who had just completed a LIFE course called “Influencing Change through Civic Engagement” and decided to attend the prison graduation to see his friends.

While the course was an offering from the university’s law, justice and society curriculum, Hackett drew spiritual lessons from his experience.

“What I learned after being here, is that the real application from Scripture is the equality of every human,” he said. “We’re all the same; none of us are greater or better, and no sin is greater or worse than anyone else’s.”

“It was the most enjoyable graduation I’ve ever been to,” Hackett said. “It was all the cliched things you hear in graduation speeches, ... but it wasn’t cliched. It was real.”



Erika East receives her diploma and congratulatory handshake from Lipscomb University president L. Randolph Lowry during a graduation ceremony at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville.



Razor wire lines the prison, which houses women from pre-release to death penalty, according to corrections officials.



Barbi Brown and Tabitha Slack put on their graduation gowns. Brown delivered the student response during the graduation.



Inmates join guests of the graduates along with Lipscomb faculty, administrators and board members for the university’s first bestowal of associate degrees. University officials sought to replicate a campus graduation ceremony as closely as possible in prison.



Gift bags for each graduate included a Bible and a publication from Lipscomb University’s College of Arts and Sciences.



Anticipating the culmination of long years of study, graduate Antoinette “Tone” Kidder-Hill queues up with fellow students and Lipscomb faculty in preparation for the graduation procession.

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INTERACT: Working together 'implies agreement,' minister warns

FROM PAGE 3

that also claim Jesus yet practice their faith in ways that differ from the pattern church members see in Scripture?

Opinions in Churches of Christ across the U.S. vary from cooperation to confrontation, said church members interviewed by *The Christian Chronicle*.

Churches of Christ have roots in the American Restoration Movement, which began on the U.S. frontier in the 1790s and called for Christians of all denominations to rid themselves of man-made creeds, following the Bible only.

More than two centuries later, the debate in Churches of Christ over how to relate to other faith groups has intensified, church members said, as young believers eschew the "brand loyalty" of their parents and join community churches outside the fellowship — churches that also claim the Restoration ideal of non-denominational Christianity.

The phenomenon is "almost breath-takingly ironic," said Libby Weed, principal of Brentwood Christian School in Austin, Texas. "Our movement began as an effort to unite Christians — to do away with sectarian 'branding' and be Christians only. What a jarring paradox that, in the minds of many, we in Churches of Christ want to draw rigid lines of exclusion and impose boundaries that Scripture does not impose."

Recent efforts to break down those barriers — such as 4 Amarillo — are not unprecedented, said Steve Sandifer, pastoral minister for the Southwest Central Church of Christ in Houston.

"This church has, for 70 years, cooperated with others in Kingdom matters," he said. "During World War II, we cooperated with the YMCA in serving the needs of soldiers. ... We cooperate with area churches in staffing and supporting a hunger coalition food and clothing distribution center."

"None of these requires us to deny who we are or compromise what we believe," he said. "In a major urban area like Houston, it is not Churches of Christ against the Baptists. It is Christians trying to share Jesus with Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Zoroastrians, Jews and cultural pagans."

But Park Linscomb, minister for the Manchester Church of Christ in New Hampshire, called for caution when cooperating with other faith groups. Such interaction may cause confusion among



NEIL STARKEY/AGN MEDIA

Howard Griffin of First Presbyterian Church, Allan Stanglin of Central Church of Christ, Howard Batson of First Baptist Church and Burt Palmer of Polk Street United Methodist Church, all in Amarillo, Texas, participate in a combined Thanksgiving service at First Baptist.

new Church of Christ members, he said, on doctrinal matters such as baptism by immersion. Churches of Christ believe the practice is essential for salvation. Many denominations do not.

"To work with other religious groups implies agreement — or at least no disagreement — to other religious groups, to the world and, sometimes, to the weak brother or sister," he said. "Our brotherhood has usually refused to participate in Billy Graham crusades for such reasons — especially as they professed a 'worship at the church of your choice' teaching."

SERVING THE HOMELESS, PRAYING TOGETHER

Across the U.S., Churches of Christ cooperate on various levels with other faith groups:

- Congregations including Southwest Central in Houston, the Manhattan Church of Christ in New York and the Tempe Church of Christ in Arizona participate in interfaith organizations that help the homeless.
- Several ministers for Churches of Christ serve as hospital or police chaplains, sometimes supervised by ministers from various denominations.
- Some ministers for Churches of Christ participate in prayer groups alongside denominational leaders.

"I've learned to love these people and appreciate their approaches to theology and church life," said Keith Roberts, preaching minister for the Calhoun

Church of Christ in Louisiana, who has participated in prayer groups for more than a decade. "But it has also made me appreciate my heritage in the Restoration Movement even more."

"We have met only to pray together for our community," he added. "We almost never talk doctrine."

- In Austin, Texas, 342 churches, including representatives of 13 denominations, took part in "Explore God," a recent multimedia campaign. Organizers designed the campaign to tackle often-difficult questions ministers hear, such as, "How can a loving God allow suffering?"

The campaign's website, www.explore-god.com, was promoted on billboards across the city as part of "a media blitz the likes of which Austin has never seen," said Roger McCown, minister for the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ.

The congregation participated in the effort. From their individual pulpits, ministers, including McCown, preached sermon series on "big questions" raised by the campaign.

"We can and should be involved in these things," McCown said. "We give away nothing and we gain much."

- The Tempe Church of Christ rents its building on Sunday nights to a community church with a growing outreach to students at Arizona State University. The community church was violating the fire codes at its previous facility, said Blake Jones, connecting minister for the Tempe Church of Christ.

- In Spokane, Wash., 400 people gathered for a recent all-area worship, hosted by Churches of Christ.

Organizers invited Churches of Christ and several Christian Churches, which also claim the Restoration Movement as part of their heritage.

"The Churches of Christ led the service with a cappella music," said Patrick Newbill, minister for the Westside Church of Christ in Airway Heights, Wash. "It was a good way to reach out to others who don't believe exactly as we do."

'DENOMINATIONALISM IS A SIN'

In Amarillo, ministers for the Central Church of Christ cited Jesus' prayer in John 17 as a rationale for cooperation with other faith groups. Before his crucifixion, Christ prayed for his disciples and "for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one."

"We're really taking John 17 seriously," Stanglin said. The goal, he added, is stated by Jesus in his prayer: "so that the world may believe."

Jay Kelley, evangelist for the Austin Street Church of Christ in Levelland, Texas, agrees with that idea, though he has come to different conclusions about cooperating with denominations.

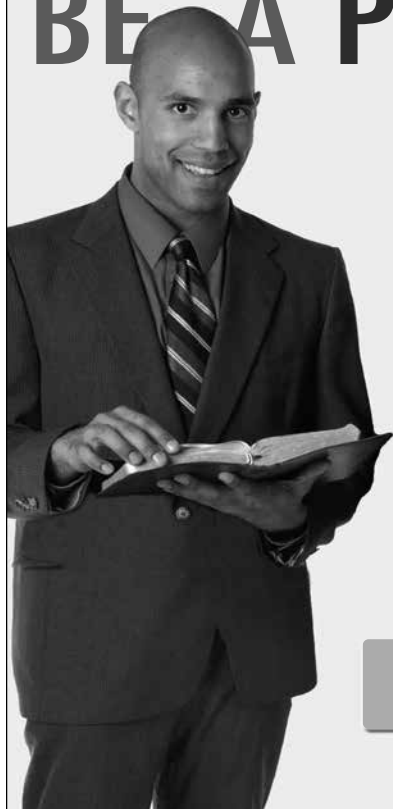
"Denominationalism is a sin — whether it's practiced by 'us' or 'them,'" he said. "It is in direct conflict with the prayer of Jesus in John 17. Because of this ... I have very little to do with organized ecumenical activities that are designed to accept all beliefs, unchallenged."

He does, however, participate in activities that encourage spiritual growth. While preaching in Kansas, he helped launch a Bible study with several denominational preachers in which each presented a lesson from the book of Romans and allowed time for the others to ask questions.

"I believe many of our early pioneer preachers had the right idea," he said. "There must be a willingness to change when Scripture demands it, while being unwilling to bend on scriptural doctrine."

"While this hasn't been the most successful viewpoint in terms of ecumenical unity, I believe it has been very successful in terms of reaching individuals with the unencumbered Gospel of Christ."

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Tim Pyles
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A conversation with Carisse Mickey Berryhill

HONORING AND DIGITIZING *the past is a heavenly pursuit for this archivist at Abilene Christian University*

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Carisse Mickey Berryhill is the kind of person who thinks ahead — about 300 years ahead, she says.

As a librarian and archivist for Abilene Christian University in Texas, she wants to make it easy for future generations of researchers to access documents about the history of Churches of Christ.

She also wants church members to be aware of their heritage of faith. When you ignore your past, “you lose your sense of who you’ve been and where you were,” she told the *ACU Optimist* in February 2005, eight months after she started working for the university.

As a child, she cherished a comic book based on the Old Testament book of Esther, she told the *Optimist*. The daughter of a Church of Christ minister, she studied English and began teaching at Lubbock Christian University in Texas at age 25. She earned advanced degrees in library science and church history. In 1992 she moved to Memphis, Tenn., to work as associate librarian for Harding School of Theology, where she served for 12 years.

She is a scholar of Alexander Campbell and the 19th century Stone-Campbell movement, a back-to-the-Bible awakening associated with Churches of Christ. She directs the acquisition of print, archival and digital collections related to the movement for the university’s Center for Restoration Studies.

She has received accolades for her work from Pepperdine University and the Web-based Information Science Education (WISE) Consortium. She currently serves as chair of the Corporation Board of *Restoration Quarterly*.

What does a theological librarian do?

We specialize in gathering, organizing and preserving religious resources and building bridges from them to the needs of readers.

As a librarian and archivist of our

heritage, I focus on identifying and preserving collections of mostly non-book materials, such as letters, diaries, sermons, manuscripts, photographs, recordings, pamphlets, church histories, newsletters, mission reports, teaching materials, cloth charts, websites and ephemeral documents.

We are also stewards of extensive collections of historic books and periodicals from Churches of Christ and related groups.

We digitize some materials to make them accessible. For example, we are in the middle of a three-year project to digitize about 2,000 of our missionary photographs made between 1899 and 1969 in 45 countries outside the U.S.

How can an academic life also be a spiritual ministry?

A disciplined mind that is humble before the Lord is a worshipful mind, therefore academic life is part worship and part witness.

Professors love to discover and to try to connect the dots. But professors are not satisfied just to know things — they want to share their insights with young people to equip them to bring light, justice and love into the world.

Knowledge is both beautiful and formative, thus it is both a service and a ministry.

What attracted you to study the life of Alexander Campbell?

I knew he was important to my heritage, but I wanted to understand why.

Because I was a student of language and the history of rhetoric, I was struck by the fact that he was educated in Scotland — the birthplace of modern rhetorical thought. I was curious about how Campbell’s ideas about communication were formed by his education and how they played out in his long career as a debater, educator and publisher.

What do you see as the lasting heritage of Campbell?

Campbell was one of the most influen-



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Carisse Mickey Berryhill

tial men of the 19th century, but he is not well-known today. He worked tirelessly through publishing, public speaking and education to encourage Christians to demonstrate the love of God to the world through their love for one another.

He has been caricatured as a cold rationalist, but he was a person of great vision and passionate hopefulness. He was a great blend of intelligence and optimism.

What do college students and others need to know about our Restoration heritage?

We need to know that we have a heritage and what comprises that heritage. It’s inspiring to learn about heroes and heroines of faith through whom God has loved and saved us.

It’s also good to understand the ideas and social forces that shaped our forbearers and us. Students need to understand how early American ideals in the Republic and on the frontier taught us to value freedom of individual judgment, for example.

We ought to understand how the Civil War revealed deep rifts in our commu-

nity’s attitudes toward the role of faith in our national destiny.

Students ought to understand how the early 20th century stimulated enthusiasm for missions and for institutions, and how the social upheavals of the late 20th century challenged the hegemony of those same institutions.

Knowing our history makes our faith both rooted and real. It equips us to think about how to be faithful in our own time.

What are you studying currently?

I have two projects going right now. I am transcribing one of Campbell’s college notebooks from Scotland, written from 1808 to 1809. This notebook had immigrated with Campbell descendants to Australia and was returned in 1985 to Bethany College, which he founded in 1840.

I am working from microfilm made of it in Australia and from a photocopy made in Bethany. I began the transcription during an ACU sabbatical a couple of years ago. This research reveals so much about the roots of Campbell’s ideas on truth, beauty, and community.

I am also working on a book of edited interviews with theological librarians who have been guests in my online course on theological librarianship. My colleagues have been generous with their time and candor about the work they do. I admire their hospitality.

Why is Christian education so important today?

A Christian education is more than adding Bible classes to a normal course of college studies. It is participating in a community of mind, heart and creativity. It is about interacting with scholar-teachers who think rigorously across diverse disciplines and cultures — with reverence for God and love for God’s whole world.

Studying with Christian educators will form and mobilize young people to show the light of the love of Christ in our world.



HARDING

U N I V E R S I T Y

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM. Seeking a full-time program director for August 2014. The successful candidate will possess a doctorate or meet degree guidelines for BOC/Commission of Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (minimum of a master's); hold current national certification and be in good standing with the BOC; hold or be eligible for current Arkansas licensure; have a minimum of five-years experience as a BOC-certified athletic trainer; hold a clinical instructor educator certificate with board of certification; and demonstrate teaching, research, scholarship and service consistent with institutional standards. Responsibilities include planning, evaluating and directing the curriculum; advising students in both their education and clinical experiences; maintaining certification of the program with the CAATE; coordinating work with the athletic program; oversee and direct the education and clinical work of all athletic faculty and staff; teaching responsibilities in the CAATE accredited program, clinical responsibilities in athletic training facility, and direct supervision of students as a preceptor. Additional responsibilities will include serving on university and departmental committees and other departmental duties as assigned.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Kenneth Turley, exercise and sports sciences chair, at kturley@harding.edu.

CARR COLLEGE OF NURSING. Seeking clinical director for the Master of Science in Nursing/family nurse practitioner track as an assistant/associate professor of nursing beginning January 2014. The successful candidate should maintain an active, unencumbered nursing license; be eligible for RN and APRN licensing in the state of Arkansas; have a minimum of a graduate degree in nursing; be currently, nationally certified as a family nurse practitioner; and have work experience in a primary care practice. Ph.D., D.N.P. or related doctoral degree is required; an experienced, qualified applicant currently pursuing a doctoral degree will be considered. Responsibilities include administrative responsibility for the program outcomes, working collaboratively in shared governance with administration and faculty of the College of Nursing and College of Allied Health, teaching online courses, and participating in program development and implementation. The College of Nursing encourages applicants who are willing to facilitate exceptional student distance learning environments, value mentoring and advising students, and are willing to engage in service for the University, profession and community. Applicants will be expected to pursue scholarly interests and engage students in these activities.

Seeking full-time faculty member for Master of Science in Nursing, family nurse practitioner track for spring 2015. The successful candidate should maintain an active, unencumbered nursing license; be eligible for RN and APRN licensing in the state of Arkansas; have a minimum of a graduate degree in nursing; be currently, nationally certified as a family nurse practitioner; and have work experience in a primary care practice. Teaching experience is preferred. A candidate with a Ph.D., D.N.P. or related doctoral degree is required, and an experienced, qualified applicant currently pursuing a doctoral degree will be considered. Responsibilities include teaching graduate nursing courses, working collaboratively in shared governance with administration and faculty, teach online courses, and participate in program development and implementation.

For either position, contact Dr. Susan Kehl, graduate director, at skehl@harding.edu, Box 12265, Searcy, AR 72149, or 501-279-4941.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY. Seeking full-time lab supervisor. The successful applicant will organize and supervise freshman level chemistry laboratories. A bachelor's degree in chemistry is required; a master's degree is preferred. Duties include chemical preparation, laboratory set-up, pre-lab lectures, supervision of beginning chemistry laboratories, and grading.

Applicants should contact Dr. Dennis Matlock, chair, at dmatlock@harding.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS. Seeking a full-time faculty member. The successful candidate will possess a Ph.D. and hold the certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Candidates with a master's degree will be considered. Clinical supervisory experience and experience working with adult popu-

lations with communication disorders are highly desirable.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Dan Tullos, chair, at tullos@harding.edu.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT. Seeking full-time faculty member. The successful candidate will possess experience teaching English composition and a minimum of a master's degree; doctorate preferred. The position can lead to teaching literature classes as well. A diversity of teaching areas is helpful, as is the ability to incorporate technology into the teaching of writing and literature.

Send letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. John Williams, chair, at jewilliams@harding.edu or Box 12248, Searcy, AR 72149.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT. Seeking full-time faculty in woodwinds. The successful candidate will have a doctorate in music (master's considered) with a strong performance background. A strong background in jazz and successful K-12 teaching experience are preferred. Responsibilities include serving as primary woodwind specialist for the department; teaching private woodwinds in area(s) of specialty; teach Class Woodwinds method course; teaching additional areas based on candidate's expertise, preferably including jazz and music education; and participating in recruiting, advising and other departmental activities.

Send letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Mike Chance, associate professor, at mchance@harding.edu.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM. Seeking program director. The successful candidate will have a doctoral degree, eight years of clinical experience in the OT field, administrative experience, and three years in a full-time academic appointment at the post-secondary level.

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

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

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

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY. Seeking full-time faculty member. The successful candidate will possess a Ph.D. in Old Testament. Preference will be given to applicants with postdoctoral teaching experience as well as ministry experience. Responsibilities include teaching Old Testament courses, teaching Hebrew in classroom and online formats, and serving on research committees.

Submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to Dr. Evertt W. Huffard, dean, at dean@hst.edu.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT. Seeking full-time assistant technical director. Responsibilities include assisting directors in set design and construction for the Homecoming musical, Spring Sing all-campus musical revue, and Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre; constructing sets and supervising student workers; and providing supervision for theatre program shop facilities.

Submit application, current resume and portfolio to Robin Miller, chair, at rmiller@harding.edu.

ADDITIONAL OPENINGS ANTICIPATED

Due to increasing enrollments and anticipated retirements, Harding expects to have additional openings in behavioral sciences, American history, graphic design, Spanish and oral communication. Individuals interested in any of these positions should contact Dr. Larry Long, provost, at provost@harding.edu to obtain more information about specific openings. These openings will be filled as funding is approved.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

CHRIST'S STUDENT CHURCH AT CAROLINA COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Church of Christ campus ministry at the University of South Carolina organized two recent picnics for homeless residents.

"Our students host these picnics a few times each year in a large city park, providing a serving line in which guests come through and have sandwiches made to order, along with hot soup and other side items," campus minister Randy Gore said.

HIGHER EDUCATION

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY ABILENE, Texas — *"I Will Listen."*

So reads the cardboard sign that Reid Rivers, an ACU freshman missions major from Juneau, Alaska, holds in silence on a walkway between the campus center and the library.

"Looking around the world and inside myself, there's a lot of pain and hurt," Rivers told the student newspaper *The Optimist*. "As Christians, what we tend to do is speak and preach and teach to that, and a lot of times, that hurts more than helps."

So, Reid took a different approach: "Some people just need another person willing to listen. So, that's my goal, to listen and show the love of God."



MANDY LAMBRIGHT, THE OPTIMIST

Reid Rivers offers to listen to fellow students' needs.

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Faulkner hosted the recent Christian College and University Presidents' Conference.

Those who attended included Andrew Benton of Pepperdine University, John deSteiguer of Oklahoma Christian University, Steve Eckman of York College, Billy Hilyer of Faulkner, Ken Hoppe of Crowley's Ridge College, Dennis Jones of Heritage Christian University, Randy Lowry of Lipscomb University.

Others in attendance were Bruce McLarty of Harding University, Tim Perrin of Lubbock Christian University,



PHOTO PROVIDED BY IRON ROSE SISTER MINISTRIES

Bilingual ladies' day in Colorado brings together sisters, young and old

Participants pose for a photo during a ladies' event presented by Iron Rose Sister Ministries and hosted by the Northwest Church of Christ in Westminster, Colo. Tears filled the eyes of many as the girls and women sang "I Love You With the Love of the Lord" in both English and Spanish. Iron Rose Sister Ministries executive director Michelle J. Goff taught classes in English and Spanish on Friday night and Saturday. While the English-speaking group was in the auditorium for a lesson, the Spanish-speaking women met in small groups. Then they switched. Iron Rose Sister Ministries is a bilingual ministry for women. For more information, see www.ironrosesister.com or email ironrosesister@gmail.com.

Denny Petrillo of Bear Valley Bible Institute, Michael C. Turner of Amridge University, John Tyson Jr. of Rochester College and Joe Wiley of Freed-Hardeman University.

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — FHU, based in West Tennessee, plans to expand to Middle Tennessee, thanks to the largest gift in the university's 144-year history.

The Jackson Foundation transferred ownership of the Renaissance Center in Dickson to FHU.

Designed as a fine arts and technology learning center, the \$18 million facility includes 110,000 square feet of classroom space, conference rooms, film and video production studios, theater areas, offices and a planetarium.

Starting this fall, FHU will offer a four-year undergraduate program and post-graduate degrees in Dickson.

"We recognize that the Renaissance Center is so much more than a building," FHU President Joe Wiley said. "It's the heart of the Dickson community, and that's why it's the perfect place to make our home in Middle Tennessee."

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LUBBOCK, Texas — LCU has received a \$10 million gift to construct a new nursing building.

The donation was made by the J.T. and Margaret Talkington Charitable Foundation in honor of Margaret Talkington. It is the largest gift ever received by the LCU Foundation.

"This gift will advance our mission of changing lives, strengthen our partnership with the Covenant School of Nursing and enhance nursing education in this region and beyond," LCU President Tim Perrin said.

SPOTLIGHT

Adoption angel

CENTENNIAL, Colo. — Elizabeth Rich Bolz, executive director of Colorado Christian Services, was honored as an "Angel in Adoption" by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Bolz was selected by Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., to receive the award for her service in the field of adoption. Rep. Michelle Bachman, R-Minn., presided over the ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Colorado Christian Services is associated with Churches of Christ.



SCOTT LLOYD

Elizabeth Rich Bolz with a baby placed for adoption.

Full-Time Minister

Prescott Church of Christ

in Prescott, Arkansas is soliciting applications for a pulpit minister; a college degree or degree from a school of preaching is preferred. Salary is \$50+ and is negotiable; 4-bedroom house provided.

Interested candidates should forward resume, including sermon sample, to:

Prescott Church of Christ
PO Box 578, Prescott, AR, 71857
870-887-3160
bsmith@ioccc.com or prescottcoc@ioccc.com

Channelview Church of Christ

in Channelview, Texas is soliciting applications for a pulpit minister; a college degree or degree/certificate from a school of preaching preferred.

Salary is \$50K+, commensurate with experience; 3-bedroom house provided.

Interested candidates should forward a resume and sample of a recent sermon on

CD-ROM/DVD to:

Elders-Minister Application
Channelview Church of Christ
1301 Sheldon Road
Channelview, TX 77530
281-452-7129

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

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:
Box 267
Kandiyohi MN 56251

Do you have the gift and passion for leading powerful a cappella worship?

Legacy Church of Christ (North Richland Hills, Texas) is seeking an experienced worship minister to lead our rapidly growing 1100-member congregation in meaningful a cappella worship assemblies & related responsibilities.

For an extended job description, visit
LEGACYCOC.ORG

Minister Search

The church of Christ in Lander, Wyoming has begun a preliminary search for a hardworking minister.

Lander is a medium sized town with a diverse population located at the base of the beautiful Wind River Mountains in central Wyoming.

The church in Lander is a stable, self-supporting congregation active in many areas of ministry and mission work.

Please send inquiries and resumes to:
Minister Search Committee in care of:
landerchurchofchrist@gmail.com



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Discover more at **anewday.tv**

Jan. 6-9 National Conference on Youth Ministries. Daytona Beach, Fla. Contact dudley.chancey@oc.edu or www.ncym.org.

Jan. 11 Mladen Jovanovic Life Celebration. Bammel Church of Christ, Houston, Texas. Contact (281) 440-1910 or www.mladencelebration.com.

Jan. 17-18 32nd Annual Medical Missions Seminar. Hosted by IHCF African Christian Hospitals. Marriott DFW Airport South Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. See www.ihcf.net/seminar.

Jan. 17-19 Winterfest 2014. "WEAVE — I Will Build My Church." Arlington, Texas. Contact dudley.chancey@oc.edu or www.winterfest.org.

Jan. 22-25 Sunset Vision Workshop. "Assurance in Uncertain Times." Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, Texas. Contact www.sibi.cc/workshop or (800) 658-9553.

Feb. 2-6 Freed-Hardeman University Lectureship. "The Patience of Hope: First and Last Things in Thessalonians." Henderson, Tenn. Contact (731) 989-6000 or www.fhu.edu/lectureship.

Feb. 7-8 Women of Hope Conference. "A Living Hope." Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, Tenn. See www.hhi.org/womenofhope.

Feb. 14-16 Winterfest 2014. "WEAVE — I Will Build My Church." Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact dudley.chancey@oc.edu or www.winterfest.org.

Feb. 21-23 Challenge Youth Conference. "For I am the Lord Your God." Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact Larry Davenport: ldavenport7671@gmail.com, (256) 710-7671 or www.cyconline.com.

Feb. 23-26 40th Annual Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies Lectureship. Knoxville, Tenn. Contact (865) 691-7444 or www.wedopreaching.com.

March 7-8 New England Church Growth Conference. "Disaster Relief for the Soul." Manchester, Conn. church. Contact www.newenglandcgc.org or (203) 265-2787.

March 19-22 The Tulsa Workshop. "Worth the Cost." Tulsa, Okla. Fairgrounds. Contact (918) 344-3402 or www.tulsaworkshop.org.

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

August 1-3 100th Anniversary, Church of Christ in Tabernacle, N.J. Contact (609) 268-0576 or email weplantandwater@gmail.com.

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Carly Cave, National Christian College Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete for women's soccer. **Oleg Yakimenko**, national coordinator for Russia for Eastern European Mission. Yakimenko served for nine years as minister for the Neva Church of Christ in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Cave
Kostya Voropayev, director of mentor recruiting and training for YouthReach International. **Jim Carr, Rick Lytle** and **Ray Stewart** to the Herald of Truth/Hope for Life board of directors. **Katelyn Jackson** and **Hannah Ketring** to the Teach For America program. **Terry Winn**, executive director of human resources for Oklahoma Christian University. **Kyle Frederick**, director of development for AGAPE in Nashville, Tenn.

Winn

ANNIVERSARIES:
65th: John and Davida Hollingsworth, San Antonio, Texas. **63rd:** A.J. and Willie B. Coates, Centerville, Tenn. **58th:** Bobby and Joyce Mayberry, Centerville, Tenn. **54th:** John and Wanda Givens, Centerville, Tenn. **50th:** James and Tommie Gadberry, Centerville, Tenn.

BIRTHDAYS: **95th:** Dale Herndon, Springfield, Mo. **81st:** Willie B. Coats, Centerville, Tenn. **80th:** Jim McCord, Centerville, Tenn.

PASSAGES: **Larry P. Bass**, Nov. 19, Chattanooga, Tenn. **Drew Cochran**, 23, Nov. 26, Edmond, Okla. **June E. Collier**, 90, Nov. 17, Seabeck, Wash. **William E. Galloway Sr.**, 85, Sedalia, Ky. **Harry E. Glass**, 93, Oct. 18, Granite City, Ill. **Guy F. Hester**, 77, Dec. 5, Corinth, Texas. **Clark "Deak" Johnson**, 91, Dec. 11, Lubbock, Texas. **Jolynn Lawson**, 75, Nov. 19, Wichita Falls, Texas. **Juanita Quillin**, 85, Dec. 13, Edmond, Okla. **Bonnie Tappe**, 87, Dec. 8, Hurst, Texas. **V. M. Whitesell**, 91, Nov. 20, Edmond, Okla.

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

Anniversary

60th

Donald and Marilyn Myers



Donald Myers and Marilyn Fourier were married Dec. 11, 1953, at 8th and Maine Church of Christ in Enid, Okla., with Jack Cox officiating.

Don worked for the Enid Post Office from 1954 to 1987, serving four of those years in the Air Force. He served with the Air National Guard at Will Rogers World Airport until he retired in 1994. He drove a school bus for five years and then worked 13 years at Vance Air Force Base Post Office, retiring in May 2013.

Marilyn is a homemaker and worked as a secretary for Enid Public Schools, working in the high school library from 1970 to 1980 and then in the central office. She served as secretary for Superintendent Kim Keithly for eight years, retiring in 1992.

They are members of Garriott Road Church of Christ, where he serves as deacon and they both volunteer.

Their children are Steve and Sally Myers, Edwardsville, Ill.; Kristi and Ken Murrell, Cushing, Okla.; and Sherri and Kurt Kreplin, Savannah, Ga. They have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorials

Charles L. Branch MD

Texas neurosurgeon Charles L. Branch Sr. passed peacefully to his reward at the age of 87 on Dec. 6, 2013, with family surrounding him at his San Antonio home.

Dr. Branch left a large legacy. He leaves behind Sylvia, a beloved wife of more than sixty years, five children and their spouses, 18 grandchildren, one great-grandchild and

an impressive legacy of service to others, including thousands of healed patients across the United States and abroad.

He was a man for all seasons. The first in his family to become a physician, he taught himself to sail and ranch. He enjoyed golf, traveling, classical and country music, singing hymns, reciting poetry, telling a good story and surrounding himself with family and friends.

From surgery to ranching and from academia to family, Dr. Branch lived an energetic and productive life punctuated by his deep faith in Jesus Christ. Depending on the situation, he could be forgiving or demanding, gentle or tough. At age 85, he made an amazing recovery from a life-threatening heart arrest and extended coma. In many ways, his last 18 months were a special blessing.

He was born Aug. 9, 1926, in Bells, Tenn., and later moved with his family to Jackson, Tenn. His father, E.H. Branch, was a railroad depot agent. His mother, Grace Mae Colvett Branch, was a school teacher and homemaker. Following high school, he served honorably in the United States Army during World War II.



After the war, he attended Lipscomb College in Nashville, Tenn., and graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1949 and Vanderbilt Medical School in 1953. He began a neurosurgical residency at the University of Chicago and completed his training in 1959 at McGill's Montreal Neurological Institute under Drs. Wilder Penfield and Ted Rasmussen, two preeminent neurosurgeons. He remained in Montreal on the faculty of McGill until 1968 when he and his family moved to San Antonio. Dr. Branch was a clinical professor at McGill University Medical School, the University of Texas

Health Science Center at San Antonio and a distinguished guest lecturer at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

A longtime member of the Texas Medical Association, Dr. Branch practiced neurosurgery in San Antonio for nearly 30 years. He practiced primarily at SW Texas Methodist Hospital, where he developed the Neuroscience unit. He published more than 20 articles on neurological and neurosurgical topics and helped develop techniques of spine fusion surgery that led to innovations now used around the world.

In 2004, he was recognized by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons with the Humanitarian Award for his medical mission work in Nigeria, Haiti and Guyana. He and his wife, Sylvia, established the only emergency medical facility in an impoverished region in southeast Nigeria.

In 2006, the Southern Neurosurgical Society awarded him the Distinguished Practitioner in Neurosurgery Award and in 2010, the UT Dallas BrainHealth Center honored him by creating the Charles L. Branch Award to recognize the nation's leading neuroscientists.

For three decades, Dr. Branch served as vice chair and trustee of the board of Oklahoma Christian University. The Branches also sponsored numerous student scholarships.

He was an active member of the MacArthur Park Church of Christ, where he served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, medical missionary and as an elder for more than 43 years.

Dr. Branch, a longtime member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, was the founding partner of Branch Ranch holdings in Guadalupe County, where he developed and preserved more than 1,700 acres with native grasses and wetlands.

While a student at Vanderbilt Medical School, he met Sylvia Lee Boswell, a coed at Peabody College. They were married on Aug. 4, 1953, in Sylvia's hometown of Lakeland, Fla.

Other survivors include his younger brother, Bill Branch of Roanoka, Va., and his younger sister Carolyn Branch Evanson of Irving, Texas.

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

EDITORIAL

Two resolutions for 2014

1. We will get to know our neighbors. Across the nation, Churches of Christ are urging members to rekindle the fire of evangelism that, for many of us, has dwindled. We find it easy to board a plane and show Christ's love across an ocean, but it's more difficult to walk across the street and love our neighbors. To be honest, a lot of us don't even *know* our neighbors.

We resolve to make 2014 a year in which we set aside time to learn about the people with whom we share a street, cul-de-sac or apartment complex. We

'We pray that we will seize the opportunities God provides to share our faith with our community.'

will invite them into our homes and visit their homes. We will learn about their children, their parents, their hopes and dreams. We pray that we will seize the opportunities God provides to share our faith with our community.

2. We will spend time in the Bible. Churches of Christ once were renowned for our amazing knowledge of Scripture. For many of us,

that's no longer the case. We resolve to dedicate time for regular Bible reading and meditation.

Programs for mobile devices, including YouVersion, offer easy-to-use reading plans that send reminders and track progress.

In the spirit of increased Scripture reading, we're re-introducing a monthly, Bible-based devotional in our Opinion pages titled "In the Word." We pray that you will find these devotionals inspiring as we pursue a deeper understanding of God's plan.

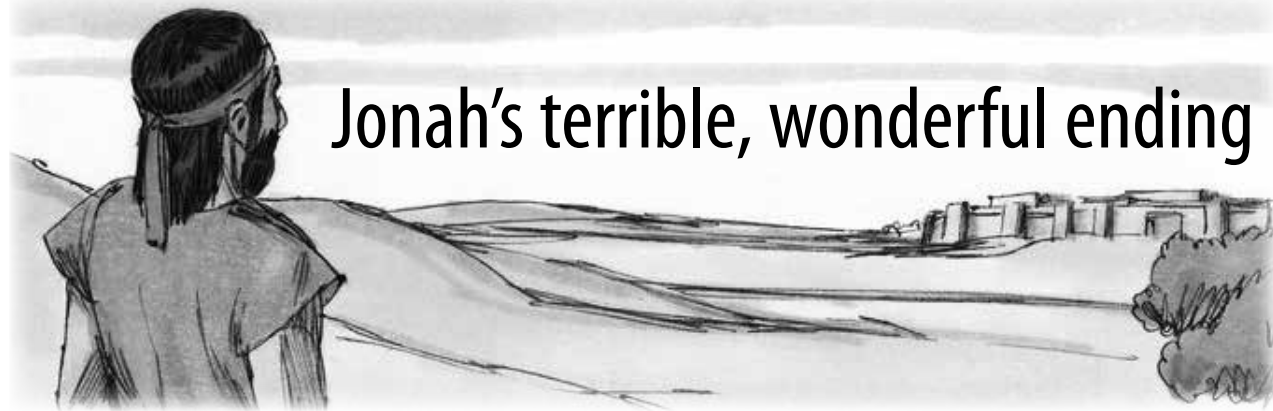


ILLUSTRATION BY JIM PADGETT, COURTESY OF SWEET PUBLISHING

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. ... And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than 120,000 people ...?"

— **Jonah 4:9-11**

I don't like Jonah. In a book with an evil king, pagan sailors and a giant, man-eating fish, he's still, hands-down, the most unlikable character.

He whines and runs from God — and then refuses to show the mercy to others that God had just shown him.

My main problem with this little book is how it ends. The prophet sits on a hill, overlooking the city of Nineveh, angry that God isn't raining down judgment on its people. He loses his one comfort, a plant that's giving him shade, and he tells God he wants to die.

God, as always, gets the last word, and it's a question: "Shouldn't I care about these people too?" That's it — no tidy bow or resolution. Jonah just fades to black with this little question floating in the air.

While I might not like Jonah, I realize that I am more like him than I care to admit. I'm a BUICK, (Brought Up In Church Kid). I'm thankful for that, but I believe it brings with it a different set of tempta-

tions than those faced by people who come to Christ as adults. We BUICKs grow up in church buildings, showing up every time the doors are open, serving the Lord's Supper and performing skits at Vacation Bible School — never indulging in the "fun sins."

How do we react when we see that this God — the one we've spent our whole lives serving — really does love everyone, even the people who haven't spent their lives like us?

Jonah is a book written to good people. It's a warning that those of us who are willing to spend our lives serving the Lord can also be the most prone to forget the very nature of the Lord. After years and years of service, we start to forget just how much we need God. We find ourselves, just like Jonah, sitting in our safety zone, looking down on the sinful city — a place desperately in need of God — and complaining when we lose a creature comfort.

The ending of Jonah is frustrating and brilliant. It's a question that should make us mad and lead us to action. If we want Jonah to have a better ending, we have to be the kind of people who write it ourselves. Shouldn't the children of God care about everyone?

JONATHAN STORMENT is preaching minister for the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. He blogs at jonathanstorment.com.

In the Word



Jonathan Storment



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The church and Pandora: Are we limiting our spiritual community to our ‘playlist?’

Remember the days when AM/FM radio was virtually the only source of music available while traveling?

Unless your car had an eight-track or cassette player, you were at the mercy of a local radio station for music and entertainment while on the road. Even if you could tune in to a station that played your favorite style of music, there were those times when songs were played that you didn’t particularly like. You learned to tolerate it until the next selection came on the air.

Then a few years ago, Pandora came on the scene, and suddenly a whole new world of managing music opened up. With Pandora, you can build your own personal radio station on your computer or iPhone. You can select a music genre or artist and then, when a song is played, you can give it a “thumbs up” to keep it on your playlist or a “thumbs down” to remove it. You can pick and choose whatever you want, creating your own blend of music and never again have to tolerate listening to music you don’t like.

We can become so accustomed to the Pandora concept that we begin applying it in other areas of life, including the church. Why should we tolerate worship styles we don’t like and people with whom we have little in common when we can just build our own “church,” choosing a personal “playlist” of people and activities we want?

Our spiritual community becomes our Bible class, our small group or the Christian friends with whom we hunt, shop or do kids’ sports. We have little or nothing to do with God’s people outside of that circle. We may attend a Bible class with our peers but skip the worship assembly because it “doesn’t fit my style or meet my needs.” Or we may hang out in the fellowship center with our friends on Wednesday night instead of attending a Bible class because

“I’m not interested in anything being offered, and I don’t know those people in class.” Such thinking and behavior is indicative of a Pandora mentality.

The Pandora concept in the church is really nothing new. In fact, the first century church in Corinth had its own form of it. Members of that local body had broken off into groups, building their own “playlists” around their favorite church leader, as discussed in 1 Corinthians 1:11-12. Some resonated with Paul’s analytical approach, while others preferred Apollos’ dynamic style. One cluster liked Peter’s “live in the moment” way of life, and then there was the group that followed only Christ.

Rather than commend this practice, the Lord, through Paul, points out its divisiveness and makes an appeal for unity of mind and thought. Then, in 1 Corinthians 12, he states that everyone baptized by one Spirit forms one body and is a part of that body, belonging to one another. As mere parts of the body, we are not in a position to determine who belongs and who doesn’t.

Only God, as head of the body, has the authority to build and arrange the “playlist” — not us, Paul states in 1 Corinthians 12:18. Our job is to accept each one that God adds to the body and have equal concern for one another (see verse 25).

So if you find that you have created your own narrow Pandora “playlist” in the church, decide now to broaden your horizons to include and participate with everyone God has added to his body of believers, whether they share your choice of style and interests or not. You might be surprised how blessed and enriched your life will be as a result.

JAN KNOX IS an administrative assistant, minister’s wife, and ladies’ Bible class teacher for the Granbury Church of Christ in Texas.

Views



Jan Knox



VOICES

What is your prayer for 2014?

Asked by Erik Tryggestad, editor.



I pray for Christian unity that comes from Christians submitting to God’s will in an unprecedented way. As a result, people will be inspired to turn to Jesus for the first time and others will be influenced to return to him.

Larry Musick | Nashville, Tenn.



My prayer for 2014 is that churches will unleash the untapped creativity of their members by encouraging them to put their faith into action — in a wide variety of ways — to reach out to the community.

Jennie Keeran | Victoria, British Columbia



My prayer is from Micah 4:1-3, “The law will go out from Zion ... He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.” For this purpose, we need to go into the world with his Gospel more strongly.

Shiro Obata | Gunma Prefecture, Japan



Holy Sovereign Living God, may I allow my heart to be completely filled with your Holy Spirit. Touch the heart of our president and legislators to have your integrity that will allow America to continue to be a great nation.

Jim Frazier | Sibley, La.

TO OUR READERS

Correspondents wanted

Do you have a nose for news and a heart for the Lord? *The Christian Chronicle* seeks dedicated people of faith who wish to volunteer their news-gathering talents to serve our readership.

Our goal is to provide news that informs, inspires and unites. We seek new writers to join our ranks of correspondents who regularly provide us news stories, features and interviews from across the nation and around the world. We are particularly interested in Christians with experience writing for newspapers or magazines who can meet deadlines and have a working knowledge of Associated Press style. If interested, please send two or three writing samples to *Chronicle* editor Erik Tryggestad at erik@christianchronicle.org.

LETTERS

Chronicle readers made a difference

On behalf of the board, administration, faculty, staff and students of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, this is to thank you for the editorial you wrote in the December issue of *The Christian Chronicle* (Page 24).

We are very appreciative of your efforts to let the brotherhood know of our fundraising campaign to offset the \$2.5 million in federal funds that has been cut for the next five years.

To date, we have received \$463,995.51 in pledges, of which \$344,865.51 has been collected.

We are also very thankful for the readers of *The Christian Chronicle*, who are responsible for \$177,213.47 of the amount collected.

At our 76th annual lectureship, we kicked off the 2014 leg of the “Soaring within a Culture of Excellence Campaign.” We have \$5,000 in pledges for next year’s campaign so far, of which \$1,000 has been collected.

Thank you again for your efforts in helping Southwestern Christian College.

James Maxwell | vice president for institutional expansion



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Authors offer insights on same-sex attraction, faith

Do the homosexuals in your church and community know how much you love them? How have you proven it to them? Are you sure they appreciate the way you love them?

Those questions, posed at a conference I attended titled, “For God So Loved the World ...,” challenged me to rethink my assumptions about how my church and I minister to those struggling with same-sex attraction or even living a secret homosexual lifestyle.

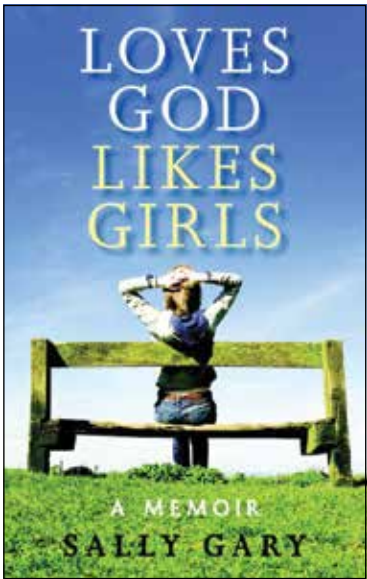
I have been in ministry for more than 30 years, serving churches in sparsely populated rural areas, a medium-sized industrial town and now in Atlanta. Homosexuality was and is present in all of these communities and churches in which I have served.

With 13 years of experience ministering to men and women young and old who are struggling with same-sex attraction or homosexuality, I was interested to read three recent books written by people of faith who have also experienced this struggle.

The authors all offer valuable insights to Christians but differ in lifestyle and conclusions about homosexuality and faith.

Sally Gary excelled as a trial lawyer, teacher of debate, and a professor at Abilene Christian University. But it was while on the faculty at ACU and a member of the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, that she came forward with her secret struggle: same-sex attraction.

This brave public disclosure was met with warmth, love, support and opportunity in the ACU community. She founded and directs CenterPeace, a ministry that facilitates safe conversations about faith



★ ★ ★ ★
Sally Gary. **Loves God, Likes Girls: A Memoir.** Abilene, Texas: Leafwood Publishers, 2013. 240 pages. \$14.99.

and homosexuality for individuals, families, churches, schools and communities. In “**Loves God, Likes Girls,**”

Gary offers vignettes that vividly draw the reader into her life and journey with same-sex attraction. She opens up about her family, school and church. She shares her isolation, embarrassment, humiliation, fear, determination and ultimately her faith.

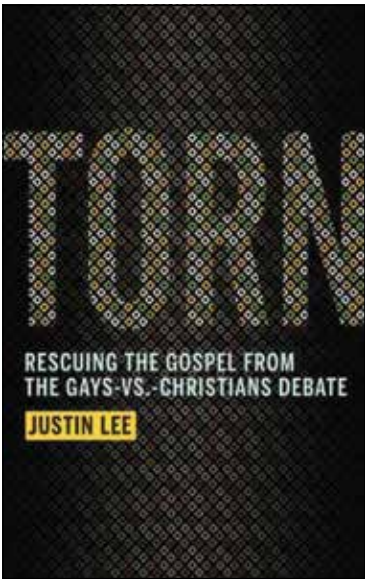
She tells about the devastating effect of her father's rage in their home, and then the journey through openness and counseling that led them from painful isolation to loving embrace. But she shares all this without defaulting to a general statement connecting fathering flaws to same-sex attraction.

Her honesty can give others a vision for what healing can look like in a family — and within the body of Christ. I recommend this book to families, churches and anyone struggling with the inner secrets they long to get out.



In Print

Don McLaughlin

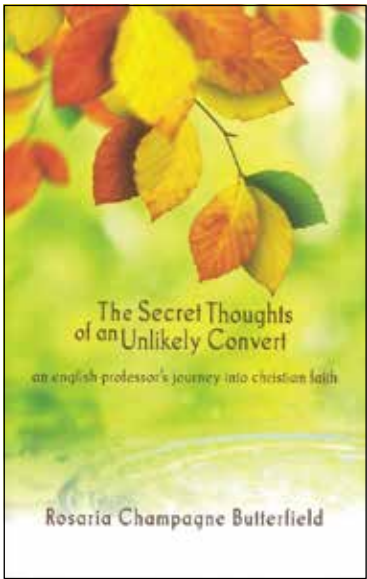


★ ★ ★ ★
Justin Lee. **Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays vs. Christians Debate.** Nashville, Tenn.: Jericho Books, 2012. 272 pages. \$15.

A more prominent voice in the Christian-gay debate is Justin Lee, founder of the Gay Christian Network, described as a “nonprofit, interdenominational organization working to increase dialogue between gays and Christians and support people on both sides wrestling with related issues.” His recent book, “**Torn: Rescuing the Gospel From the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate,**” expresses deep love for the church and even for people who vehemently disagree with Lee's conclusions.

Lee's seven suggestions in the final chapter provide a meaningful structure that can improve how the church interacts with this subject and, more importantly, with those who are gay. Although I do not agree with the way he states all seven of them, they are still a valuable starting point.

Some readers will be impressed by his approach, while others will be critical of his questionable exegesis. Because Lee believes the Bible is not definitive in rejecting



★ ★ ★ ★
Rosaria Champagne Butterfield. **Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert.** Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant, 2012. 154 pages. \$12.

committed, monogamous, same-sex relationships, he argues for acceptance in the body of Christ of gays who are choosing celibacy and those who are in committed, monogamous relationships.

This book will ignite emotions and thoughts and will hopefully inspire readers to dig deeper on their own, no matter where they start or end up in their beliefs about homosexuality and the Bible.

Like the other books, “**Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith**” is directly related to the author's struggle with homosexuality and living as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield was a tenured professor of

English at Syracuse University. An open lesbian and gay activist, she was doing research for a book she was writing about the “religious right,” when she met a Christian minister who began to turn her thoughts and heart toward Christ. She describes her conversion as a “train wreck” that destroyed her life as she knew it. Butterfield's entrancing writing style and relatable experiences offer the reader many ways to connect with her story. She relentlessly stresses the cost of discipleship. She writes, “I learned the first rule of repentance is that it requires greater intimacy with God than with our sin.”

As she writes a few decades after her conversion, she is now a Christian mother, and the wife of a minister.

There are some minor detractors for me in the book. She speaks derisively, by name, of a few other Christian authors by singling out a small component of their entire body of work with which she disagrees, which seems unnecessary to her overall point.

All three authors share their stories with love, grace, humility and great vulnerability. The reader will not agree with all the conclusions of any of them, just as the three authors do not agree on all the issues either.

However, these books are enlightening, engaging, and helpful in this vital conversation for churches and families.

DON McLAUGHLIN is pulpit minister for the North Atlanta Church of Christ, where he and his wife, Susan, have served since 1997. He is an adjunct professor for Harding University in Searcy, Ark.



HOW CAN CHRISTIANS relate to those with whom they disagree — without compromising the truth? Read the complete series, including “Homosexuality and the church,” online. See “Bridges & Barriers” under the “Series” tab at www.christianchronicle.org.

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Charles Branch leaves legacy of faith

The death of Dr. Charles Branch Sr. is a tremendous loss to the world.

He was one of the great intellects of his generation, and he made significant contributions in his work as a neurosurgeon. He was an exemplary elder in the Lord's church and a devoted husband.

I first began hearing of Charles while he was doing his residency at McGill University's Neurological Institute in Montreal, Quebec. His wife is the sister of our lifelong friend JoAnne Boswell North, and we often heard stories about the Branch family and their experiences in Canada. Even though he was fully engaged with his medical work, he and his family were instrumental in establishing the Lachine Church of Christ.

In 1982, I joined a group of students who were going to Montreal to work with that church. Charles had done much of the preaching and teaching as the church was getting started. The congregation had a small but useful building.

While planning for that campaign, I learned that the Branches and about 50 members of the MacArthur Park Church of Christ in San Antonio were going to be in Montreal about a month before we would be there. Charles had established the criteria for making the trip: a number of memory verses, spiritual disciplines practiced in preparation and mastering Bible lessons to teach.

Through the Norths, I met Sylvia and Charles a couple of times, but I only came to know Charles in the mid-1970s when his children began attending Oklahoma Christian University. I learned that he had been an English major at Vanderbilt University and that his favorite professor was Walter Clyde Curry, a legendary scholar who had published a major book on each of the three great English writers — Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton. Charles, a great storyteller, often told about specific lectures he remembered from Dr. Curry.

On one occasion, Charles was telling about his first opportunity to see a Shakespearean play, "Macbeth." He didn't like it. He dramatized his pain at hearing such terrible rendering of Shakespeare's great lines.

He could quote long passages from his favorite Shakespeare plays, though the work he loved best was "Cyrano de Bergerac" by Edmond Rostand. Charles delighted in acting out his favorite

scenes of that great comedy.

Joyce and I recall with great fondness our trip to the Bible lands with Charles and Sylvia. Stafford North organized the trip, and all the travelers studied the people and places significant to the travels. Charles and Sylvia were only present for a couple of the study

Insight



Bailey McBride

sessions, but on the trip Charles delivered a running commentary on the sites we were visiting.

I remember vividly his rejecting the guide's suggestion about the place of the transfiguration. Charles had studied the matter carefully and had a logical

conclusion for his view.

Charles regularly taught an adult Bible class at the MacArthur Park church. On a visit to a San Antonio, I attended his class and heard a marvelous exposition of Jesus' prayer in John 17. He began by quoting the passage from memory, and although he had pages of notes, he never looked at them during analysis of the prayer and its theology.

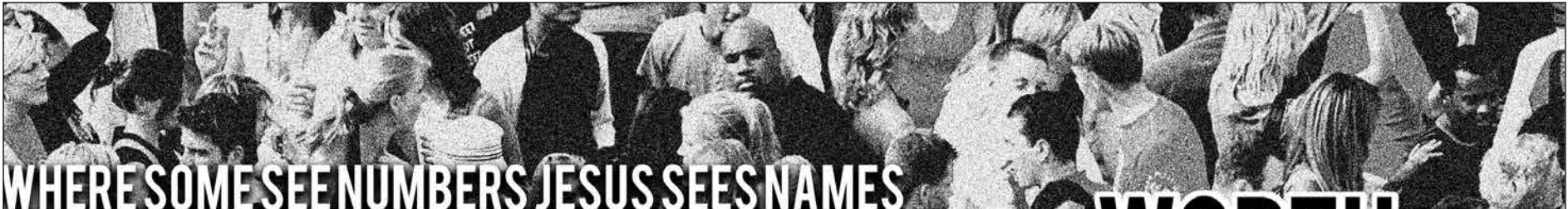
Once, when Oklahoma Christian University's trustees were meeting in San Antonio, the Branches invited everyone to their ranch for dinner. We were able to see how he had become a first-class rancher as we toured his land.

Later, after we had eaten, Charles got out his slide projector and began showing photos of the operations performed at Nigerian Christian Hospital. His love for that work was so great that he wanted everyone to know about it and support it. One of his favorite stories was about working at the hospital with his son, Charles Jr., also a distinguished neurosurgeon, and his granddaughter — three generations of doctors. He also did medical mission work in Haiti and Guyana.

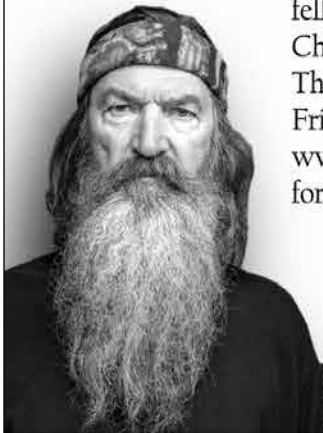
Charles and Sylvia have been my heroes for years. They are intellectuals of great faith and service. They have raised five remarkable children who are intelligent, focused and faithful to God.

The world has lost a great humanitarian and godly Christian. We are not likely to see a man of his stature again.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org



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