

TYPHOON RAVAGES THE PHILIPPINES

Christians promise to rebuild, restore

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Relieve. Rebuild. Restore. Renew. Those are the goals of Churches of Christ — across the Philippines and around the world — as they face the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most destructive storms in Southeast Asia's history.

As representatives of church-supported nonprofits in the U.S. gathered around tables to ponder effective relief strategies, Filipino Christians buried their dead and picked through the remains of their humble homes.

"Even if we lost everything, still we are thankful because God has spared our lives," said Marivic Andales, a few days after the typhoon made landfall Nov. 8.

Jefferson Cal, a self-supported Filipino minister, interviewed and filmed Andales as she surveyed the barren plot of land where her house once stood, on the northern tip of the island of Cebu.

"We thought we were going to die that day," she told the minister. "But God has spared our family. All of my children are alive — even myself and my husband."

The super typhoon, known as Yolanda in the Philippines, was equivalent in strength to a Category 5 hurricane.

As it smashed across the central islands of the Philippines, the storm claimed more than 3,600 lives — mostly

in the country's Eastern Visayas region — and injured more than 12,000 people.

It was the second-deadliest storm on record in the Philippines, a country that seems to be pounded routinely by tsunamis, earthquakes and floods.

The Philippines ranks third on a list of the world's most disaster-prone

countries, behind the South Pacific nations of Tonga and Vanuatu, according to a study by environmental groups.

The country also has the highest number of Churches of Christ in Southeast Asia. The nation of nearly 95 million souls, spread across 7,107 islands southeast of China, is home to more than 1,000 congregations and at least 20 ministry

training schools, said Salvador Cariaga.

Cariaga, a native Filipino evangelist who splits his time between his family in Texas and his homeland, was in the U.S. when the storm hit.

"Lost all our buildings in Arapal, but glad no lives were lost — just goats, but not the dreams," he posted to Facebook just hours after the storm passed.

Since 2006, Cariaga and fellow church members have overseen Arapal Christian Camp, a 100-acre sustainable agriculture community in northern Cebu, which took a direct hit from the storm.

In the Dallas area, representatives of

See **TYPHOON**, Page 10



PHOTO PROVIDED

An 80-year-old widow surveys the remains of her home at Arapal Christian Camp on the northern tip of the island of Cebu.



MATT MAXWELL

Drilling for life-giving water in Cambodia

In the Southeast Asian nation of Cambodia, workers dig deep — in search of water — as Joe Crabtree and Larry Billingslea, members of the Golf Course Road Church of Christ in Midland, Texas, supervise. Eighty feet into the earth, the workers found clean water. The well-drilling was part of a mission trip to Svay Rieng, Cambodia, by Texas church members in support of Cambodia Christian Ministry. In one day, 14 Cambodians were baptized. Across Cambodia, Churches of Christ sponsor efforts to provide people with clean, safe drinking water.

MORE FROM CAMBODIA, Page 9

EEM Is FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE.



AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2014, WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO YOU, OUR PARTNERS IN THIS WORK. BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTICIPATION IN 2013, OUR DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES AND BIBLICAL MATERIALS (EXCLUDING THE \$1,000,000 SUNDAY DELIVERIES) EXCEEDED ALL PREVIOUS ANNUAL TOTALS. FIVE TEAMS OF 83 AMERICANS AND UKRAINIANS WENT TO WORK IN SIX YOUTH CAMPS IN UKRAINE. EEM AGAIN CAME ALONGSIDE MISSION UKRAINE AND SPONSORED THE SECOND CHURCH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR IN UKRAINE, WITH ATTENDANCE SURPASSING 60. AND THE WORK CONTINUED IN THE NATIONS OF ROMANIA, BULGARIA, RUSSIA, CROATIA AND OTHERS.

ALREADY MATERIAL REQUESTS ARE COMING IN FOR 2014, AND WE ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS IN EASTERN EUROPE. THE OPPORTUNITIES GOD IS PROVIDING ARE TRULY AMAZING, AND YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT ARE NEEDED AND APPRECIATED.

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Transitioning to a new role with *Chronicle*

For eight-and-a-half years, I have enjoyed the incredible opportunity to serve as managing editor of *The Christian Chronicle*.

In that role, I have overseen the journalistic side of the *Chronicle's* operations and had the unbelievable privilege to share personal insights — and even humor — in this space each month.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

If you've read my nearly 100 Inside Story columns, you know that I love God, my family and the Texas Rangers baseball team. Oh, and country music.

You've celebrated significant milestones with me, such as the baptisms of my son Keaton and daughter Kendall and the decision by my son Brady to major in preaching ministry at Oklahoma Christian University, my alma mater.

You've offered your prayers and support when my wife Tamie, the *Chronicle's* former advertising director, had to go on long-term medical disability because of Rheumatoid Arthritis and two other autoimmune diseases whose names I won't attempt to spell.

You've shared in the pain — and yes, the hilarity — when I ended up in the emergency room with a kidney stone. (Thankfully, I survived. But please excuse me for a moment while I chug another bottle of water.)

See **TRANSITION**, Page 4

Christian Chronicle names new editor

BY DAWN SHELTON | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Erik Tryggestad has been named editor of *The Christian Chronicle*, succeeding Lynn McMillon, who will remain president and CEO of the news service as it enters its 71st year of publication.

"Erik brings outstanding professional expertise and a deep Christian commitment to this position," said McMillon, who will continue to be involved in the *Chronicle*, focusing on administrative oversight and finances. "For the past 12 years he has demonstrated his ability to capture stories of Christians around the world and to tell those stories in a compelling manner."

McMillon said Tryggestad brings a clear vision of where the *Chronicle* needs to go in the near future and beyond.

"That's especially important as we continue to make every effort to provide our readers with trustworthy information both in print and online," McMillon added.

Tryggestad, 40, joined the *Chronicle* staff in 2001, not long after answering a request for Christian journalists to apply for an open writer's job when longtime managing editor Glover Shipp retired.

At first, his interest was in reporting and editing solely for daily newspapers.

A graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., he earned a master's in journalism from the University of Georgia and had begun a promising career at the *Savannah Morning News* in coastal Georgia. Still, he flew to Oklahoma City for an interview.

"Standing there waiting for me with a copy of the *Chronicle* was Bailey McBride, who was the editor at the time," Tryggestad said. "He put his arm around me and five minutes later I knew I wanted the job."

Fast-forward 12 years, hundreds of sto-



DEON FAIR

Erik Tryggestad shows children in the town of Dano, Burkina Faso, photos of themselves during a 2009 reporting trip to West Africa.



JIMMY BROWN

Lynn McMillon and Erik Tryggestad stand in the pressroom of OPUBCO, where *The Christian Chronicle* is printed each month. Olan Hicks produced the first issue nearly 71 years ago.

ries and datelines from 50 countries, and Tryggestad not only is grateful he took the job but is enthusiastic about the future of Christian journalism.

"The more I've looked at it, Christian journalism might be the fulfillment of what journalism is supposed to be," he said. "It is all of the ideals we aspire to — objectivity, truth telling, speaking truth to power, fairness, balance, telling the story like it is — based on the fact that there is one absolute truth, belief in the Divine."

Working alongside Bobby Ross Jr., who joined the *Chronicle* in 2005 as managing editor, Tryggestad has helped the publication become a nationally recognized news source, winning top honors from the Associated Church Press in 2009 and 2013.

"Bobby is my mentor," Tryggestad said. "His years in secular media — with *The Oklahoman* and the Associated Press — are an invaluable asset. He's a friend, and he's made me a better writer and editor."

With a growing subscriber list at a time when many newspapers are dying, the *Chronicle* is positioned for continued success, Tryggestad said. Nevertheless, ever-rising postal rates keep the staff looking

for creative solutions to honor the budget.

"We won't shift radically from a formula that works very well with our newspaper," he said. "We will also look for ways to be more efficient and grow our online presence. We should think of ourselves as a news service that provides information to readers through a variety of products."

McMillon said the decision naming Tryggestad editor was made by a group that included himself, *Chronicle* Board Chairman Deon Fair and Oklahoma Christian University President John deSteiguer. McMillon has

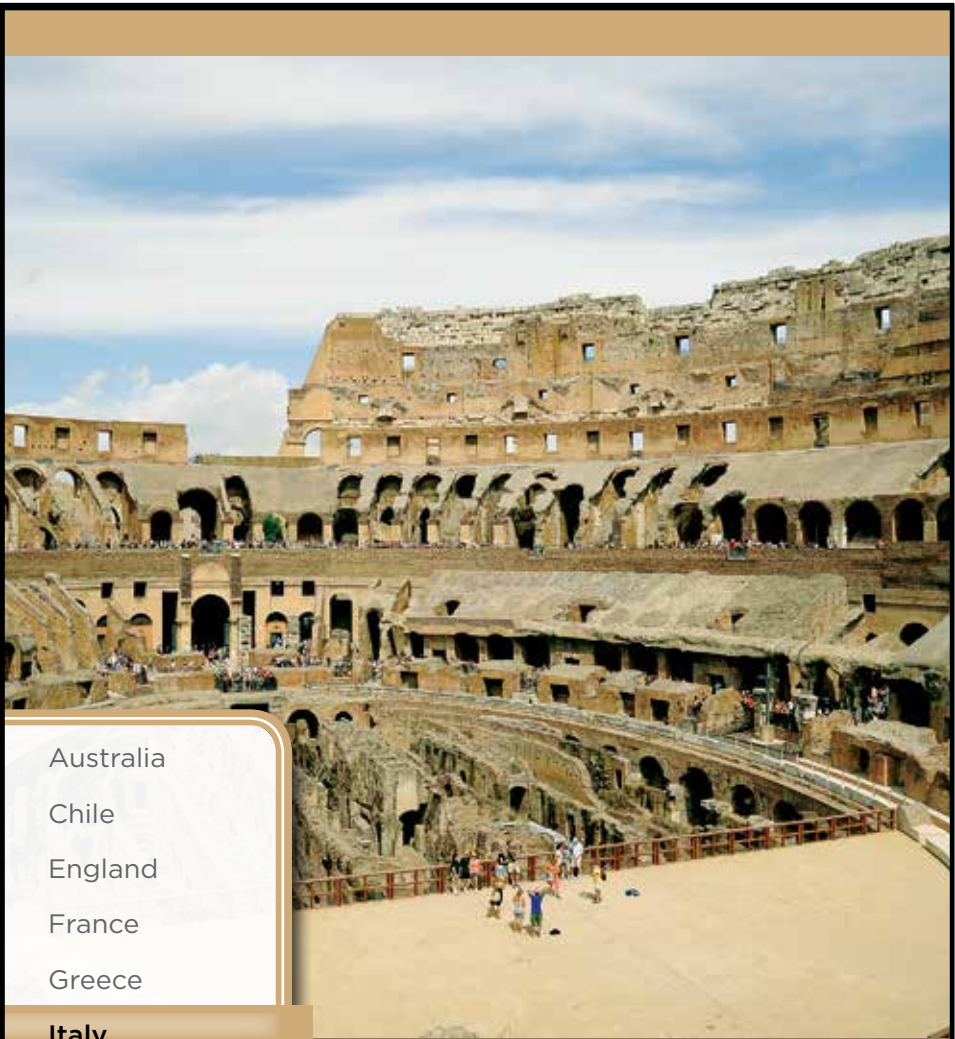
been with the *Chronicle* for 17 years.

"Erik deeply loves the Lord and the church," McMillon said. "He knows the church well from his many travels. He is an award-winning writer."

A native of Macon, Ga., Tryggestad met his wife, Jeanie, in the singles ministry of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, where they are active members and Bible class teachers. Dr. Jeanie Tryggestad is a pediatric endocrinologist at the Children's Hospital of Oklahoma. They have two daughters, Maggie, 5, and Lucy, who was born in September.

'Christian journalism might be the fulfillment of what journalism is supposed to be.'

Erik Tryggestad



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TRANSITION: Thank you, readers, for your support

FROM PAGE 3

You've indulged my interest in quirky topics such as the drawbacks of snoring during sermons, the pros and cons of texting during worship and the question of whether regular church attendance can make you a bit, *um*, plump around the waistline.

You've grieved with me after the deaths of important people in my life, including my Papa and Grandma Ross, my aunt Joan Hill, my grandmother-in-law Reba Dooley and my mother-in-law Pat Dillard.

You've showered me with positive feedback that made me feel valued and appreciated in my ministry with the *Chronicle*.

For example, Tom Martin, body life minister for the Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy, Ark., wrote to me after my September column, headlined "Mission trip leaves father hungry for more."

In that column, I described how quickly the deep spiritual lessons I learned on a mission trip to a Third World country gave way to a carnal craving for a half-pound cheeseburger.

Tom said he chuckled at the humorous part of that column but appreciated even more the serious points I made concerning reasons why I love mission trips outside our nation's borders.

"You nailed it!" Tom, who serves as volunteer stateside program coordinator for Manna Global Ministries, wrote in an e-mail. "I agree with you when you say, 'The best mission efforts occur when Americans listen and learn instead of telling foreigners what to do.' I always reminded my teams that we were the foreigners, not those we were serving."

The encouragement of readers such

as Tom made writing this column one of the most satisfying experiences of my life.

But as Erik Tryggestad assumes the editorship of the *Chronicle*, I will transition to a new role as chief correspondent, which will allow me to devote more time to my first love of writing.

You will see different faces in the Inside Story column space — and occasionally, perhaps mine.

Since 2005, I have handled the bulk of our domestic reporting — traveling to 46 states to produce firsthand stories. Still on my bucket list: Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota and South Dakota.

In my new role, I still will cover national news but also will tackle important international stories.

I got my first newspaper byline as a Texas high school sophomore in 1984. I edited the Oklahoma Christian newspaper *The Talon* for

two years before graduating in 1990. For 15 years, I enjoyed a rewarding career in secular journalism, working for *The Oklahoman* and The Associated Press.

After nearly three decades, I still can't shake my passion for journalism (and maybe, just maybe, I enjoy seeing my name in print).

As a new era begins, I wish Erik all the best and look forward to continuing my relationship with you — faithful *Chronicle* readers — on the news and features pages.

As we dedicate this ministry of informing, inspiring and uniting Churches of Christ to God, may he bless our humble efforts.



Bobby, Keaton, Brady and Kendall Ross at a Texas Rangers game.

TAMIE ROSS

CONTACT bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org.

JANUARY 2014

MISSISSIPPI

WOODVILLE — The Corinth Church of Christ's humble beginnings a century ago included Sunday school classes under an oak tree.

Stability through the worship of God helped the congregation through the Great Depression, a merger and a location change, all of which were highlighted during a recent 100-year celebration, the *Natchez Democrat* reported.

Minister Bernard Waites has served the congregation for 51 years.

He also preaches each Sunday for the Perrytown Church of Christ about 30 minutes away.

MISSOURI

SPRINGFIELD — About 45 homeless men made the East Sunshine Church of Christ their sanctuary from the frigid temperatures on a recent Tuesday night.

When it's freezing, at or below 32 degrees, the church's doors are open, KOLR television reported.

"We do it to love people, and this is a tangible way to show it," volunteer Darren Smith told the station. "We do it for Jesus." The ministry runs from Nov. 1 through March 31.

NEW JERSEY

MORGANVILLE — More than a year after Hurricane Sandy, the Gateway Church of Christ remains active in the long-term recovery effort.

Thousands of volunteers have partnered with the church and helped rebuild more than 150 homes.

The church is working on 70 additional homes in the Bayshore area and seeks skilled and unskilled volunteers, according to the church website at www.gatewaynj.com.



CHRIS GAIN

Jared and Whitney Homer and their sons attend the Lakehoma church in Mustang, Okla.



DAWN HARRISON

'We Are The Sermon,' declare Tennessee volunteers

Vanessa Tipton and Alei Bullington help repaint a den during the recent "We Are The Sermon" day of service by the North Boulevard Church of Christ in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The day began with an assembly at the future home of the congregation's first church plant, North Boulevard West. "After an abbreviated time of worship, members were released to serve the community in everything from home repairs to yard work to visits at local nursing homes," minister David Young said.

OKLAHOMA

MUSTANG — The Lakehoma Church of Christ recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, minister Clyde Slimp said.

Guest speakers for the homecoming event included Robert Gregg, who preached at Lakehoma for more than 25 years. Member Trey Girlinghouse interviewed longtime members and put together a video presentation.

OREGON

PORTLAND — It's called "TLC" — Together with Love in Christ.

One Sunday each fall, Churches of Christ within a 40-mile radius of Portland gather for a combined worship assembly.

"The event stands as a ringing affirmation of the congregations' commitment to unity," said Brian Simmons, pulpit minister for the Metro Church of Christ in Gresham, Ore.

More than 1,000 people attended the recent event, held at the Red Lion Hotel overlooking the Columbia River.

Keynote speaker Kent Allen, vice president for advancement at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, spoke on "The Hope of Unity."

TENNESSEE

MANCHESTER — A joint effort of a dozen churches in this city served more than 3,000 people. Chris Boyce, minister for the Forest Mill Church of Christ, was one of the event coordinators.

"We offered free clothes, food, groceries, medical/dental care, haircuts, family portraits, kids' games and a prayer tent," Boyce said. "We will be doing follow-up on all the people who signed cards and asked for prayer."

Organizers already have set a goal of helping 5,000 people next year.

SPOTLIGHT**Show for souls**

VINCENT, Ohio — The Barlow Vincent Church of Christ likes to rev its engine.

As an outreach to the farm community that surrounds it, the church hosts an annual car show, minister Nathan Greene said.

The recent show drew 350 people who saw 51 classic cars, including a 1932 Austin Roadster, a 1934 Ford Five Window Coupe, a 1928 Ford Model A and a 1940 Dodge Business Coupe. The show was organized by Barlow Vincent members Chuck and Brenda Pierson.

Harold Shank, president of Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., said the car show is just one outreach tool that has helped the congregation baptize many and grow to 100 members.



MARK DAUGHETY

Some of the classic cars featured at the show.

TEXAS

MAYPEARL — "Autumn's Harvest: Food and More" is a ministry of the Maypearl Church of Christ.

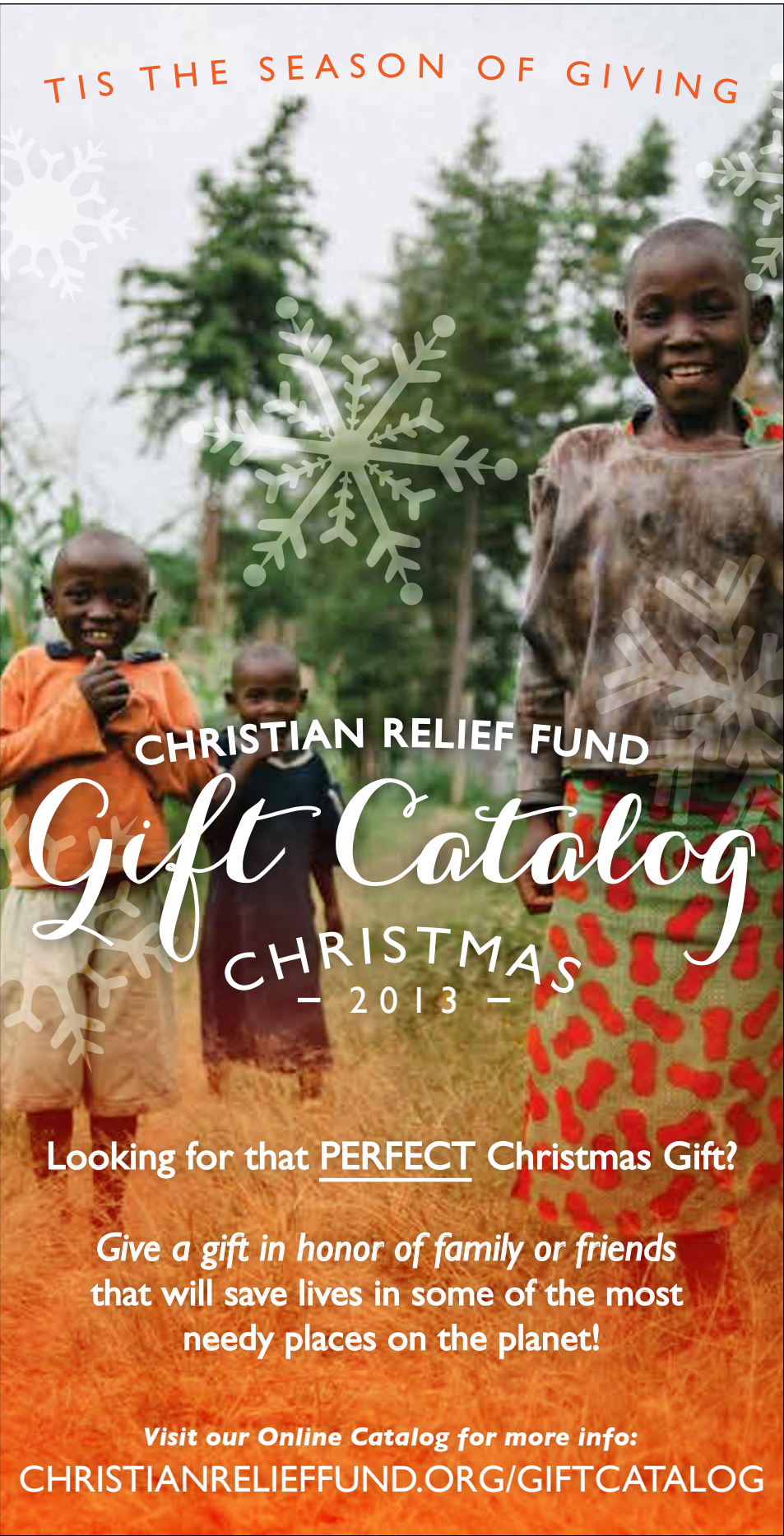
It's named after Autumn Whitfield, who died in 2011 and was the sister of Maypearl member Andrea Hendryx.

"Although this ministry is a food pantry, it is different in that 'Autumn's Harvest: Food and More' also supplies non-food items such as detergents, toiletries, personal items, paper products and more," Hendryx said.

"The pantry works in partnership with other organizations so that a person who needs help has every possible resource at their disposal," she added.

The idea for the ministry came after a Maypearl member visited the Church Under the Bridge, which serves homeless people in Waco, Texas.

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JEFF MONTGOMERY

Students and administrators from Harding University spell out “Get Well #1” outside the hospital where Robert Jordan recovers. Chancellor David Burks forms the center of the “G.”

Harding University prays for injured player on opposing football team

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Moments after Robert Jordan suffered a career-ending injury during Harding University’s homecoming football game, players, students and fans of the Searcy, Ark., university covered the wide receiver in prayer.

Jordan, a senior All-American, suffered a fractured tibia and fibula when making his third touchdown catch against the Harding Bisons. The Miami native played for Harding’s homecoming opponent, Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark., which went on to win the game 45-30.

None of that mattered as both teams emptied their sidelines, kneeling in prayer for the injured player.

Jordan was transported to White County Medical Center, where he underwent a two-hour procedure to secure his broken tibia with a rod.

The injured player “has received hundreds of messages through social media,” said Troy Mitchell of Henderson State sports information. “Teammates, fans, faculty and staff, as well as messages from players from Harding,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Harding University football players visit Robert Jordan in his hospital room.

supporters of the Bisons and others from around the Great American Conference have sent well-wishes.”

Players from Harding went to the hospital to visit Jordan and offer more prayers on his behalf. In the parking lot outside the hospital — positioned so that Jordan could see them — Harding students formed a human sign that read “Get Well #1,” referring to Jordan’s uniform number.

David Burks, Harding’s former president and current chancellor, formed the middle of the “G.”



LYNN McMILLON

Oklahoma church flying high after 75 years

Underneath a replica of the Winnie Mae, the Lockheed Vega aircraft flown around the world by legendary pilot Wiley Post, members of the Northeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma City and friends celebrate the congregation's 75th anniversary at the Oklahoma History Center, in view of the Oklahoma State Capitol. The congregation, formerly known as the East Seventh Street Church of Christ, moved to its current location in 1967. Despite a major renovation in 1988, the church struggles to fit its nearly 550 members into its current building.

Church a cappella group delivers Southern Gospel tunes at theme park

BRANSON, Mo. — Visitors at Silver Dollar City recently were treated to a healthy dose of Southern Gospel, delivered by a cappella singing group His Harmony.

The group of seven church members — Gene Edmonds, David Edmonds, Bruce Patterson, Steve McClelen, Aubrey Eudy, Rex Reese and Lanny Reed — performs annually as part of the theme park's Church of Christ week, attended by members from across the country.

The group formed in the Dallas area in 1993.

"As a rule, we choose each song we sing to encourage Christian living — its joys and challenges — to express thankfulness and keep our eyes focused on the goal of a higher calling," Gene Edmonds said.

WEBSITE: www.hisharmony.net

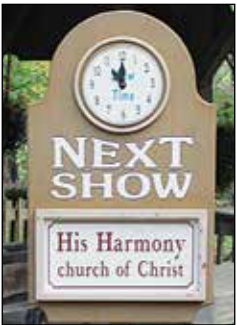


PHOTO PROVIDED

A sign at Silver Dollar City announces His Harmony's next show.



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CHINA

BEIJING — About 50 Christians from congregations in the districts of Wangjing, Haidian and Jinsong gathered recently for an all-church retreat. “Faith, Hope and Love” was the theme, and one representative of each congregation spoke on the topic. Participants said the retreat included long — but fruitful — discussions of the leadership needs of the congregations.

PANAMA

EL VALLE DE ANTÓN — The El Valle Church of Christ brought together four diverse groups of teens for a recent youth rally — children from the local community, youths from a church among the indigenous Kuna people, teens from the Metropolitan Church of Christ in Panama City and a mission team from Fort Worth Christian School in Texas. About 65 teens attended.

“From Friday night until Sunday noon, these young people participated in activities and classes, with each group presenting a portion of the program,” missionary Lisa Carter said.

PERU

LIMA — Church members in this South American capital have left the building. Recently, members of the *Aliento de Vida* (Breath of Life) ministry served people in the streets of Peru through an outreach effort called *Mano de Dios* (Hand of God). Church members served in Paraiso, a squatter’s settlement near the church building, praying for each home and sending hand-written notes of encouragement, inviting people to church. As a result, several people from the community regularly visit Sunday services, said Lee Fletcher, a member of the Team Lima ministry.

The church members also moved rocks to help renovate a community soup kitchen alongside students from Abilene Christian University in Texas, visiting from the university’s international program in Uruguay. The Christians also grilled 300 hot dogs for people in the community.

SOUTH AFRICA

BLOEMFONTEIN — Christians in South Africa are finding new opportunities to take the Gospel behind bars.

Church members who work with the nation’s chapter of New Life Behavior Ministries (spelled “Behaviour” in



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Good News reaches new souls in Albania

A smiling Sonila Zhilivoda hugs missionary Tom Bonner after her baptism in Tirana, Albania. Bonner, who has served in the southeastern European nation since 2002, has seen many new Christians mature in their faith — and some abandon it. “It is very sad to see those who have named the name of Jesus walk away from their commitment,” he says, “but God continues to bring more people into our sphere of influence, allowing us to share the Good News of Jesus with them.”

Recently, Bonner baptized a second-generation believer, Gloria Korreshi, whose mother, Maja, was baptized about two years ago. Maja Korreshi’s youngest son, 3-year-old Mateo, attends church with his family weekly and knows most of the hymns by heart, Bonner says.

South Africa) met with chaplains who serve prisons in Free State and Northern Cape. The Christians introduced the faith-based rehabilitation program to the chaplains.

“We are looking forward to a working relationship second to none,” said Louis Gerber, national director.



GARYANDMICHELLEFORD.COM

Chaplain K.E. Pico speaks with church member Edward Mogopodi about the New Life Behavior Ministries curriculum.

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON — A Church of Christ in Crawley, south of London, has “ceased functioning,” according to church publication *Christian Worker*. Meanwhile, a new congregation of 45 members meets in London’s Stockwell district. Stephen Eusell serves as the church’s minister.

VIETNAM

CANTHO — Church members in this Southeast Asian city used a national holiday to host a party for “Tom’s Kids” — students supported in their schooling by the nonprofit Amazing Grace International. Students who participate in English classes taught by the church members also attended. Nearly 60 children sang, played games and enjoyed the holiday, church members said. “Tom’s Kids” is an educational program founded by the late missionary Tom Tune.

SPOTLIGHT

‘Hooked to the world’ no more

LUANSHYA, Zambia — Mathews Ndalama has returned to the Lord. And he wants everyone in the bars to know about it.

The former evangelist, who fell away from his faith about eight years ago, broke the hearts of many Christians, said Kennedy Mukuka, a preacher and longtime friend of Ndalama.

“Church members would visit his home, and he would threaten them with violence if they ever came back,” Mukuka said. “The church got tired of visiting his house but did not give up praying.”

Neither did Mukuka. After years of no contact, the minister found Ndalama, through one of his nephews, in the mining town of Luanshya. He contacted Ndalama, and the two began talking.

The fallen Christian told the minister, “If you come to Luanshya and take me to church, I will give up my useless lifestyle and return to my Lord.”

Mukuka did just that. The two men



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kennedy Mukuka, left, and Mathews Ndalama.

rekindled their friendship and visited two Churches of Christ in the area. Then Ndalama insisted that Mukuka accompany him to all of the bars he used to patronize.

“From this day I have decided to stop drinking beer,” Ndalama announced in the bars. “Please don’t offer me any beer, as I want to work for the Lord. The brother you are seeing with me is a preacher who used to work with me before I got hooked to the world. Now my worldly life is over.”

Mukuka said, “I have never seen anybody do such a thing, but I could not stop him.”

Some of the bars’ patrons looked at Ndalama with astonishment. Others made fun of him “because he was a well-known drunkard,” Mukuka said.

“Please pray for Mathews Ndalama,” the minister added, “so that he remains faithful to the Lord.”

In Serbia, Gospel trumps ethnic division

BELGRADE, Serbia — There is no Jew or Gentile — or Serb or Croat — in Christ.

The years of brutal, ethnically charged conflict between the Croats and the Serbians in the 1990s did little to erode the family ties between Churches of Christ in the two nations, both part of the former Yugoslavia.

Recently, Mladen Dominic, minister for a Church of Christ in Varazdin, Croatia, and president of the council of the Churches of Christ in Croatia made a first-time visit to Belgrade to meet and encourage members of a small Church of Christ in Serbia. Dominic himself became a Christian during the civil war.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mladen Dominic preaches in Serbia.

“He did not know people from Serbian church,” said Drasko Djenovic, a member of the Belgrade congregation. Dominic knew only stories from his mentor — another Croatian minister, Mladen Jovanovic, who helped plant the Belgrade church in the early 1980s.

Jovanovic, a respected leader among Churches of Christ in Central and Eastern Europe, visited the Belgrade church about once every two years, Djenovic said. The church has been without full-time workers since missionaries assisting the congregation were forced to leave in the mid-1990s as the United Nations imposed sanctions on Serbia.

Jovanovic died after a heart attack Sept. 6, 2013. Dominic visited the church to continue to foster ties between Christians in Serbia and Croatia, “showing that the Christ who unites us is bigger than ethnic division,” Djenovic said.



Bright orange life jackets dot the waters of Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia. A church-supported nonprofit purchased the jackets for schoolchildren.

The way, the truth and the life jacket



A mother marvels at her daughter's new life jacket.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

KAMPONG KLEANG, Cambodia

Most parents don't worry about their children drowning on the way to school, but such concerns are a part of life in the villages on the edge of Tonle Sap Lake. Students must travel on small fishing boats for their education. “This is the reason why we began a campaign to buy 1,576 life jackets ... to provide to every child and teacher in the school system,” said Bill McDonough, international director of Partners in Progress. The nonprofit, supported by Churches of Christ, helps supply medical care and clean drinking water to the people of Southeast Asia.

Kim Somnang, a coordinator for the nonprofit in Cambodia, said the ministry hopes to raise funds to buy 7,000 additional life jackets for villagers who live near the lake. The life jackets cost about \$5 each.

WEBSITE: www.partnersinprogress.org



Boys perform a “Star Wars” lightsaber fight to demonstrate the difference between clean water (blue) and contaminated water (red).



Kim Somnang of Partners in Progress chats with a child as he tries on his new life jacket.



FAITH FORTESA

Church member Alan Monte and his family stand in the remains of their home on the island of Leyte after the typhoon.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The meeting place of a Church of Christ in northern Cebu is in ruins.



GERALD BANARES

At Arapal Christian Camp, badly damaged by the storm, workers set up tents to shelter the homeless in their community.

TYPHOON: Relief workers yearn for coordinated, effective strategy

FROM PAGE 1
church-supported ministries and nonprofits gathered to discuss an effective, coordinated response to the disaster.

“If we do not plan this relief work purposefully, we could use up all of our resources in a 10-foot radius,” Cariaga said at the meeting.

Among the groups represented were Christian Relief Fund, Shepherd’s Hill International (also known as Give A Goat), Body and Soul Ministries, Healing Hands International, Missions Resource Network, Disaster Assistance CoC and the Caris Foundation. Others working in relief include White’s

Ferry Road Relief Ministries, Global Samaritan Resources and CREST, a disaster relief ministry based in Malaysia.

“Our future efforts will be to help rebuild the lives of the orphans that this storm has created,” said Bobby Moore, vice president of global operations for Christian Relief Fund.

“But there are still victims of the storm that need our immediate prayers, food, water, medical care and shelter,” he added. “This relief cooperative ensures that our donors’ funds are effectively utilized.”

Chris Gingles, vice president of Healing Hands, said, “If all of us can work together, we will show an even bigger

example of the love and compassion of God to the people of the Philippines.”

As they wait for aid to arrive, church members in the Philippines mourn the souls lost to the storm — and pray for those still missing.

In the city of Tacloban on the island of Leyte, nearly 30 students at Leyte Christian College survived for a week after the storm hit with little food or drinkable water.

Now relocated to Lapu-Lapu City on the island of Mactan, the students are recovering from the experience. Cal, the minister who interviewed storm victims in Cebu, traveled to the island to offer aid and collect eyewitness accounts from the students.

In a video produced by Cal, Nino Domingo huddles over a plate of food as he talks about the days they went without sustenance, wandering the streets of Tacloban from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in search of relief supplies, passing dead bodies.

In the background, Filipinos sing karaoke, yelling “*There’s gonna be a heartache tonight*” from an old song by the Eagles.

“Everything around us was destroyed,” Domingo says. “It was so terrifying.” Despite the



SALVADOR CARIAGA

Dr. John Bailey of Body and Soul Ministries, Chris Gingles of Healing Hands International and Bobby Moore of Christian Relief Fund meet at the offices of the Caris Foundation in Colleyville, Texas, to discuss relief.

horror he witnessed, “I think God is reminding us of something. Perhaps he is reminding us to trust him more and more because he is the only reliable source of help.”

Cal then asks the young student if he has any words for the people still struggling to

survive on the island of Leyte.

“Please do not lose hope,” Domingo replies. “Just hang on there. God is with you. Help is on the way.”

TO CONTRIBUTE to typhoon aid, see a list of church-supported ministries collecting funds at www.christianchronicle.org.



GRAPHIC BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

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To apply, call **Dana Lawson 486-2274 x225** or visit us online at **www.tennesseechildrenshome.org**.

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**

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@iocc.com or prescottcoc@iocc.com**



The Las Cruces Church of Christ is seeking to hire a full-time Youth and Family Minister whose focus is on the Youth and their Families in Bible study, Fellowship, Missions, and Activities.

Compensation: Salary commensurate with experience and education.

Background check is required.

Submit a resume and two letters of recommendation by February 15th, 2014 to:

lccc@lascruceschurchofchrist.org

Interested parties may email for a more detailed description of Responsibilities.

Mail to: Las Cruces Church of Christ
Attention: Youth Minister Search Committee
2025 North Valley Drive
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88007

Phone: 575-541-0270

Minister Search

Kings Crossing Church of Christ, Corpus Christi, TX, 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 Pulpit Minister is retiring after 12 years of wonderful ministry.

If interested, please send a resume with a recent sermon DVD and a family photo to:

**ATTN: Elders, 5901 Yorktown Blvd.,
Corpus Christi, TX 78414.**

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

The **Highlands Church of Christ in Lakeland, Florida** is seeking a **Full-time Youth and Family Minister.**

Candidates will be working with both youth and parents in developing vibrant relationships with the Lord through worship, service, sharing, and fellowship. Candidates should be willing to help lead congregational worship, preach occasionally and embrace technology as an aid in communicating the gospel.

Letters of introduction and resumes can be sent to:

elders@hcofc.org.

Monroe Church of Christ - MI Seeking Full-Time Minister

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**Contact: Charles Ingram
734-652-3369
ingramcd@chartermi.net**

Maryville church of Christ, Maryville, TN, is seeking a spiritually mature man to fill a full-time minister position focused on Member Involvement and Community Outreach.

The Maryville congregation currently has approx 500 members, 9 elders and 4 ministers (pulpit, youth, deaf and World English Institute). Located in a growing, vibrant community, we are committed to strengthening our membership and reaching the lost.

If you share this same passion and have successful experience in congregational involvement and outreach, you are invited to review a detailed job description at our website using the URL:

<http://goo.gl/4p9FGe>. Submit a cover letter, resume & list of 5 references by **January 31, 2014**.



HARDING

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

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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.

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.

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

John Tyson brings years of faith-filled experience to his new job. He faces the challenge of helping Rochester College remain financially viable in spite of financial challenges — and the economic woes of nearby Detroit. The college in Rochester Hills, Mich., associated with Churches of Christ, inaugurated Tyson as its ninth president Oct. 10, 2013. He succeeds Rubel Shelly.

A native Texan, he ministered for churches in New Braunfels and Belton before moving to Lubbock, where he served as chair of the Department of Biblical Literature at Texas Tech University and as campus minister for the Broadway Church of Christ.

In 1989, he returned to his alma mater, Abilene Christian University, to serve as an executive assistant to the president. He established and directed the university's long-range planning program before moving to the development office, where he served for 17 years, raising more than \$330 million for the university.

He established the Madagascar Presidential Scholars Program with the African nation's then-president, Marc Ravalomanana. He met with a religion official from the government of China, paving the way for Chinese students to attend ACU.

In 2011, Tyson was named president of Abilene Christian Schools, a private Christian school serving grades pre-kindergarten through 12. During his tenure, he developed the school's strategic plan, significantly increased student enrollment and raised major gifts.

What is unique about a Christian college in the Detroit area?

For quite some time now, Detroit has been America's poster child for municipal corruption and incompetence. One might conclude that filing for bankruptcy only continues to tarnish the city's image.

In a recent conversation, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder offered a more hopeful perspective that resonates with me: The problems of Detroit are not new. They are decades in the making. Bankruptcy is part of a solution. It provides an opportunity to re-chart the course and reset the focus of the city. That is something all of us need from time to time.

Rochester College is the only Protes-



ELLIOT JONES

John Tyson "has just the right skill set" to serve as Rochester College's president, said Rubel Shelly, who served as the Michigan college's president from 2008 to 2013.

A conversation with John Tyson

NEW PRESIDENT of Rochester College in Michigan discusses the role of Christian education as 'a beacon of light.'

tant Christian college or university in the metro Detroit area. What better place to be a beacon of light in the darkness?

What interested you in becoming Rochester College's president?

First, I am optimistic about the opportunity for the college to prosper. No doubt, the college's fiscal health is still delicate. Yet there are positive signs pointing toward growth and strength for the future. I am convinced God will bless this community with the resources needed to flourish.

My second motivation is personal. My wife grew up near Chicago. For more than 30 years, I have observed the college's influence for good. I believe I can make a positive contribution to its role of producing Christian servant leaders.

Finally, I feel a sense of calling from God. I feel as though God may be nudging me and my family to new adventures in his service.

Why is Christian education relevant today?

Christian education at all levels — elementary, secondary and university — represents one of the greatest mission fields available to us. Day-in and day-out, godly men and women across our nation are informing, challenging, inspiring and mentoring future generations from the perspective of faith in God as our creator and Jesus Christ as our redeemer.

The values of our culture are shaped, first and foremost, through our families and our schools. It is no surprise that the majority of the first schools and colleges in our country were established by Christians to perpetuate the values of faith.

When we provide high-quality education in safe environments and produce reliable and responsible graduates of integrity, we attract students and their families who might not otherwise be influenced by our ministries.

What relationship to Churches of Christ will Rochester College have under your leadership?

That's an easy question. I have a lifetime relationship with Churches of Christ and I plan to do everything I can to strengthen the relationship of the college with our congregations.

What I am more curious about is what relationship will the Churches of Christ have with Rochester College and with all of our other primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities? We need more members of our fellowship to step forward and engage in the process of making our educational institutions strong. We need our best intellectual talent to teach, serve and lead. We need our families to send their students to attend. We need generous hearts to contribute.

What do today's college students need?

Today's college students need genuine relationships with godly adults who can model for them lives of faith, be transparent about weaknesses, challenge them to do their best and make good choices, demonstrate grace and not give up on them.

Students need mentors who believe in them and allow them to learn by doing. And most of our students need to be inspired to dive deeply into Scripture.

With the immense diversity we find in our culture today, we cannot take for granted what values and skills our students bring with them to our schools.

What do you see as the next great challenge for Rochester College?

We are in the midst of a great turnaround story that began a few years ago. In the short term, there is no question but that strengthening the financial position of the college is the greatest challenge.

A combination of some poor business choices and the regional economic downturn have left the college in a fragile situation. Enrollment is stabilizing and improving. We are improving our basic business model to be more efficient and effective. Friends in our community are stepping forward with encouraging acts of generosity.

In a few years, I believe we will look back at our journey and be pleasantly surprised to see what God has done here.

EXPANDED INTERVIEW at www.christianchronicle.org.



College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Gregory Straughn, Dean • ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-9210

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

College of Biblical Studies

Dr. Ken Cukrowski, Dean • ACU Box 29439, Abilene, Texas 79699-9439

The **Department of Marriage and Family Studies** invites applications and nominations in writing for a tenure-track faculty position as assistant professor of marriage and family therapy, beginning in Fall 2014. The M.M.F.T. program at ACU has held continuous COAMFTE-accreditation since 1983. The candidate will be expected to teach courses relative to the postmodern theories of family therapy, cultural diversity, and MFT assessment and intervention; supervise graduate interns; mentor student research; and accept departmental, college and university committee assignments. The candidate should possess a well-defined program of research as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications and presentations; demonstrate competence in the integration of theological and spiritual issues with therapy; must hold the Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy or a closely related mental health discipline; exhibit competence as a classroom teacher; demonstrate eligibility for licensure as an LMFT in the State of Texas; and hold Clinical Membership and Approved Supervisor or Supervisor Candidate status with the AAMFT. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/mft.

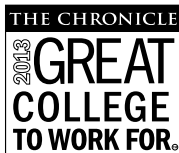
College of Education and Human Services

Dr. Donnie Snider, Dean • ACU Box 28276, Abilene, Texas 79699-8276

The **Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition** invites applications for a faculty position of fieldwork coordinator for its new program in occupational therapy (M.S.O.T. : Entry-level master's degree). The candidate must be an initially certified occupational therapist who is licensed or otherwise regulated according to the state(s) or jurisdiction(s) in which the program is located and qualified according to the American Occupational Therapy Associations 2011 Guidelines. The candidate also must hold a post-professional master's degree and have a sufficient clinical experience to ensure fulfillment of accreditation standards according to ACOTE Standards section C.1.0. Responsibilities include documenting the standards and process for selecting fieldwork sites, coordinating with faculty and students, and documenting agreements to measure and ensure program effectiveness. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/kinesiology.

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

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



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A celebration in Guatemala

THE PAN AMERICAN LECTURESHIP turns 50 and returns to the Central American capital where it started.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

GUATEMALA CITY

Fifty years ago, the Pan American Lectureship was launched in this Central American capital to focus attention on fledgling Latin American missions.

Just a few years before, Jerry and Ann Hill and their two young daughters drove a 1955 Chevrolet 210 station wagon all the way from Pleasanton, Texas — becoming the first Church of Christ missionaries between northern Mexico and the Panama Canal Zone.

The Hills — the first of a team of missionaries who came to share Christ with this nation known for earthquakes, guerrilla warfare and its deep Mayan roots — arrived in 1959.

“The oldest Churches of Christ in Mexico were only about 20 years old,” the late Jerry Hill wrote in “Guatemala: Joy and Crown,” his 2011 autobiography. “The oldest church in South America was seven years old. There were no known churches in Central America.”

Fast-forward to a recent Sunday: The Pan American Lectureship celebrated its half-century milestone by returning to this sprawling metropolis of 3 million people where it began in 1963.

To mark the occasion, busloads of Guatemala’s faithful came

together for a joint worship assembly — some traveling hours from remote rural areas.

Ann Hill, now 81, sat on the front row of a national convention hall the size of a U.S. football field, barely able to contain her emotions.

In a dramatic display of unity, about 4,000 members of Churches of Christ filled every white plastic chair in a shadowy, open-air facility with fluorescent lights and a concrete floor.

Hill, a white-haired grandmother, invited two of the earliest converts — Luis Lopez Hernandez, 83, and his wife, Maria — to sit beside her.

“All those thousands of people there blew my mind,” said

Hill, a member of the Pleasanton Church of Christ in South Texas.

Dan Coker, a fluent Spanish speaker and

one of the original

missionaries to Guatemala, delivered the sermon at the joint assembly.

“Oh, man, it was a thrill,” said Coker, 77, a member of the North Davis Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas, “and especially to see the very first converts and others who are still very faithful and very active in the church.”

After the service, the standing-room only crowd — including about 75 lectureship participants from the United States — enjoyed a fellowship meal of chicken, tortillas,

CONTINUED



BOBBY ROSS JR.

About 4,000 members of Churches of Christ fill a convention center in Guatemala City. The joint worship assembly in the Central American capital coincided with the 50th Pan American Lectureship.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Ruins of churches destroyed in a 1773 earthquake can be seen in the colonial city of Antigua, Guatemala, where lectureship attendees toured the cobblestone streets.

‘They left everything and came to be here’



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Guatemalan church members and Christians from the U.S., including Jim Frazier and Kent Hartman, arrive at a Guatemala City convention center for Sunday worship.

CONTINUED
potatoes and rice.
Guatemalan members sacrificed to buy and prepare all the food.
“We eat together, just like the church of the first century,” said minister Roberto Alvarez, whose late grandmother Josefina Noriega was baptized by Jerry Hill after the missionary initiated a Bible discussion at her southern Guatemala marketplace.

A VISION FOR LATIN AMERICA

In his book, Jerry Hill — who died in 2011 at the age of 82 — recounts answering a knock on his Guatemala City front door in 1963.
Standing outside his home was the late Reuel Lemmons, a renowned minister who served as editor of the *Firm Foundation*, then a prominent publication among Churches of Christ.
“While he stayed with us those few days, he introduced us American preachers to the idea of beginning a lectureship that would bring church leaders together in a different Latin American city each year,” Hill wrote.
Thus began the Pan American Lectureship.
Lemmons directed the lectureship

for 20 years before turning over the organization to Jim Frazier, Howard Norton and Coker.
“He was a great visionary,” Norton, a pioneering missionary to Brazil, said of Lemmons, who died in 1989 at the age of 77. “He had been involved in the early days of African evangelism in the 20th century and had a deep concern for Latin America at a time when not very many people in the Church of Christ knew anything about Latin America.”
Lemmons wanted to highlight the spiritual needs of Spanish-, Portuguese- and French-speaking nations in the Western Hemisphere.
“He was convinced that if our brethren would come to Latin America, experience it, see the needs and see the opportunities, then they would generously open their lives and their pocketbooks,” said Norton, former president of the Baxter Institute, a ministry-training school in Honduras.
Frazier, a member of the University Church of Christ in Shreveport, La., said he attended his first Pan American Lectureship in 1975. The location that year: Port of



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A photograph taken from one of the higher points of Antigua reveals a picturesque view of the ancient capital city, a 45-minute drive from the Guatemala City airport.

Spain, Trinidad.
“I thought we would be flying across the big pond to Spain,” Frazier quipped. “I have learned a lot more about geography since that time.”
Frazier, Norton and Coker directed the lectureship for the first time in



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Harding University President Bruce McLarty and his wife, Ann, eat chicken, rice and tortillas after the joint assembly.

1983, when it was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The next year, 1984, a record 290 Americans flew to Costa Rica for the event.
The Jackson Street Church of Christ in Monroe, La., sponsors the lectureship, and other men have joined the organizing committee — including Don DeLukie, Paul Shero, David Duncan, Kelley Grant, Bruce McLarty and Jeff Jenkins.
“We believe that one of the main reasons for the great growth in Guatemala, as well as all over Latin America, has certainly come to some extent from the Pan American Lectureship,” said Norton, an elder of the College Church of Christ in Searcy, Ark.
Now, Churches of Christ exist in every nation of the region, and every country except Bolivia, Cuba and Haiti has hosted the lectureship. The event has been conducted every year except one.
“We don’t know how much of that growth comes from the influence of the Pan American Lectureship,” Norton said. “But those of us who came to Guatemala and Brazil and other places in the 1950s and 1960s



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Luis Lopez Hernandez, one of the early Guatemalan converts, remains faithful.

know that the picture in Latin America today is totally and completely different from what it was.”
CHURCH GROWTH IN GUATEMALA
Each year, the Pan American Lectureship brings together U.S. Christians and Latin American missionaries for a week of fellowship, Bible study, mission field reports and even sightseeing.
But the crowd has grown older, and attendance has declined.
With all the options for foreign mission trips these days, younger Christians seem less inclined to spend a week listening to lectures in a hotel ballroom, even one in a Third World country.
“I don’t think the need is as great,” acknowledged Coker, who has attended 48 of the 50 lectureships.
Organizers split the 50th annual lectureship between Guatemala City — where attendees stayed in a modern, high-rise hotel and ate in a mall food court with a McDonald’s, Pizza Hut and Subway — and the ancient colonial city of Antigua, a 45-minute drive from the airport.
In the shadow of volcanoes, partici-



DAVID DUNCAN

Pan American Lectureship attendees gather for prayer, singing and Bible study at a former convent, transformed into the five-star Santo Domingo Hotel in Antigua.

pants walked along Antigua’s cobblestone streets, viewed church ruins from a 1773 earthquake and slept at a one-time convent transformed into a five-star hotel.
Alvarez, who preaches for the 500-member North Pineras Church of Christ in Guatemala City, praised God for the lectureship and updated his U.S. brothers and sisters on Guatemalan church growth.
“We believe that we are close to 40,000 Christians in Guatemala, easily,” Alvarez said, putting the number of congregations at about 400.
Students from the Biblical Institute of Central America’s Guatemala campus — which Alvarez directs — convert 700 to 900 people a year in evangelistic campaigns, he said.
“Recently, we were at the border of El Salvador and Guatemala,” he said,

“and we baptized — to the glory of God — 49 people in one week.”
All this work, Alvarez said, can be traced back to the missionaries who came to Guatemala a half-century ago.
Rigoberto Chamale attended the Sunday assembly with his wife, Maritza Alvarez.
“We thank God for our North American brethren, for their efforts, for their blood, sweat and tears, for everything they did 53 or 54 years ago,” Chamale said.
As he spoke, the Guatemalan church leader tapped his chest — his heart — for emphasis.
“They left everything and came to be here with the people of Guatemala,” he said of the missionaries. “It’s in our hearts that they would do that for us. They struggled and sacrificed, and every day we bless them and thank God for them.”



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Rigoberto Chamale takes a photo with his iPad during the joint assembly.

“At that moment, it was just me and God.”

JASON LEGER, deacon of the Southwest Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, remembering the moment he emerged from his storm shelter and found his home destroyed by a tornado.

“I believe you do what you can while you can for who you can, because you don’t know what tomorrow holds – or this afternoon, especially in L.A.”

REGINA BRYANT, member of the Crenshaw Church of Christ in Los Angeles.

“I know God’s good, and he’s taking me through everything. It’s just emotionally difficult.”

KAREN WEST, member of the Central Church of Christ in Moore, Okla., after an EF5 tornado flattened 1,200 homes, including her own.

“I believe that, if men were always looking to Jesus, we would not have had all of the racial problems that we have had ... not only in Alabama but all over the world.”



JACK EVANS, president of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, speaking from the steps of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery during the 2013 Crusade for Christ.

“I brought souls to Christ and even helped souls already in the body stay. Yet I was getting bigger and bigger physically and more estranged from my King.”

CARLEE DOGGAN, member of the Monroe Street Church of Christ in Chicago, who weighed 600 pounds before she overcame an eating addiction and lost almost 450 pounds.

“He’s stubborn.”

ROBERT OGLESBY JR., joking about the secret to his father’s 50-year tenure as minister for the Waterview Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas.



“Our show appeals to the world. Once we appeal to the world, we can attract them to Jesus, and that means being in the world, but not of the world, just like Jesus said. I hope that folks will just be patient with us and really trust that God’s using us in this way.”

MISSY ROBERTSON, wife of Jase Robertson and star of “Duck Dynasty.”

“It just kind of stirred me. I thought, ‘Are we, as Churches of Christ in Iowa, just going to let our weaker congregations fold?’”

TOM COLLIER, on rushing to help after he learned the West Liberty Church of Christ, a dwindling rural congregation seven miles west of Montezuma, Iowa, might be forced to close.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

“A major challenge is the disillusionment among the next generation that their faith doesn’t really relate to their world — that it’s just another belief system, one of 100 to choose from.”

GABE LYONS, author, researcher and ministry founder.



“A new day has risen in the church. Chan woke up a sleeping lion. He spoke to the heart of what we call the Church of Christ – and things will never be the same”

LYNN STRINGFELLOW, of Campus Ministry United, reacting to Christian author Francis Chan’s speech at the Tulsa Workshop.

“We’re noisy and loud ... and they’re so warm and welcoming. They want the children in there.”

ABBIE GRIFFITH, member of the Northwest Church of Christ in Westminster, Colo., on the congregation’s attitude toward young families.



“Mladen was a friend, mentor and spiritual father to us and so many across Europe. I pray that God will raise other men and women to have the far-reaching impact Mladen has had.”

BART RYBINSKI of Eastern European Mission in Vienna, Austria, on Croatian church leader Mladen Jovanovic, who died of a heart attack Sept. 6.

“She huddled kids in a corner and read stories to them while the shooting was going on. She kept them safe and together and calm until the police came.”

DOUG VILE, minister of the Danbury Church of Christ in Connecticut, on member Robin Walker — a teacher — caring for children during the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre.

“Our God is stronger than the god of Americans.”

GEORGE AKPABLI, director of the Benin Bible Training Center in West Africa, urging ministers there to rely on God rather than dollars.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

“At our congregation, it doesn’t matter where you’re from. There’s the aspect of Ephesians – being one body, one mind, one God, one Lord and one baptism – and everything else disappears.”

VICTOR ORTIZ, member of the Middletown Church of Christ in New York state, on the congregation’s racial and ethnic diversity.

“You realize there’s faithful brethren that just want to do good. The brotherhood, for all the negative talk, is an amazing brotherhood.”

ERNIE ALBRECHT, minister of the Church of Christ in West, Texas, on the outpouring of support after a fertilizer plant explosion rocked that small town.

“It seemed to me that this would be a great way to move beyond the headlines and the rhetoric that’s out there and talk about how we can truly ‘be Jesus’ to people.”

DAVID ALLEN, preaching minister for the Northside Church of Christ in San Antonio, on hosting a “Peacemakers Conference” aimed at helping congregations show love to everyone — including those who experience same-sex attraction — while maintaining strong convictions on the Bible’s teachings.



“God’s cutting me out and molding me to be what he wants me to be. He can see that end result.”

REX BROTHERS, Colorado Rockies relief pitcher and member of the Chapel Hill Church of Christ in Tennessee.

“We know, and we believe God has his timetable, and I hope and I pray God will open their doors, hopefully in my lifetime ... so that we can spread the Gospel to North Korea.”

SANG YANG, Church of Christ minister and Christian educator in Seoul, South Korea, standing just south of the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea.



“During the first days at camp, the Protestant kids were singing unrepeatable songs about the pope, and the Catholic kids were singing equally unrepeatable songs about Protestants. Within days, however, these two groups had forgotten the hatred they had learned from their parents, and they left camp as fast friends.”

JOE BRIGHT, former missionary to Northern Ireland, on the role of Camp Shamrock in reconciling a divided country.

“Bloom where you’re planted. The Lord can bless it.”

JEFF RICH, minister of the Beallsville Church of Christ in Ohio, reflecting on his ministry with a rural, 200-year-old congregation.

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"The Church for Such a Time as This" "Good News for Such a Time as This"



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CAMPUS MINISTRY

ALPHA OMEGA STUDENT MINISTRY

BALTIMORE — The Alpha Omega Student Ministry — a work of the East Baltimore Church of Christ — organized a recent clothing giveaway to benefit the needy.

Students produced and distributed flyers, sorted clothing donated by church members and distributed the items at the giveaway, campus minister Dan Hager said.

The ministry serves nearly a dozen colleges and universities in the Baltimore area.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ARMS OF HOPE

QUINLAN, Texas — Twenty seventh- and eighth-graders from Westbury Christian School in Houston learned that service can be fun during a recent mission trip to Boles Children's Home, an Arms of Hope campus 40 miles northeast of Dallas.

The students unloaded a truck full of donated items, sorted and stacked diapers and prepared and served dinner to grateful employees and residents, including many children around their same ages.

HIGHER EDUCATION

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — Freed-Hardeman's graduate program in Bible has a new name.

Trustees approved the change to "Freed-Hardeman University Graduate School of Theology."

The move reflects the program's importance to the university's mission as well as its growth, said C.J. Vires, Freed-Hardeman's vice president of academics and enrollment management.

The new name also will align better with standards set by the Association of Theological Schools, Vires said. Currently an associate member of the organization, FHU is moving toward full membership.

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — Harding's Carr College of Nursing will launch a new Master of Science in Nursing degree program in fall 2014.

"We believe Christian nurse leaders



DAVE HOGAN

Faulkner's 'Buddy Walk' benefits children with Down syndrome

During the annual "Buddy Walk" at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., Jacob Tribble and Faulkner President Billy D. Hilyer pose beside statues of retired football coach Gene Stallings and his late son, John Mark Stallings, who had Down syndrome. The walk is sponsored by the Down Syndrome Support Group and designed to raise awareness and money for children with Down syndrome. About 1,000 people attended.

are needed more than ever in the rapidly changing health-care environments," said Susan Kehl, the college's graduate program director.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb officials shelved the official use of the "LU" logo under pressure from Liberty University, an evangelical college in Virginia.

Liberty federally registered the trademark a few years ago and asked Lipscomb to stop using it for marketing and commercial purposes.

"Our athletics department introduced the mark a short time ago," Deby Samuels, Lipscomb's vice president for university communication and marketing, told *The Tennessean*.

"While it was one that we felt we had the right to use," Samuels added, "when contacted by another school about the mark, we chose to simply return to using the word 'Lipscomb.'"

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian has opened the Boker-Wedel Eagle Trail — a 3.1-mile trail that features side-by-side asphalt and crushed granite paths around the campus.

To build the trail, a \$605,000 grant by the state transportation department was matched by private donors.

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

GOODPASTURE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MADISON, Tenn. — Goodpasture's Lady Cougars finished the recent volleyball season undefeated (48-0) and won a second straight state championship.

Ricky Perry, school president and CEO, praised the team and head coach Lynn Dearing: "The team had such a spiritual focus, and it certainly bonded the team together in a beautiful way."

SPOTLIGHT

New chaplain named

MALIBU, Calif. — Sara Barton will serve as Pepperdine University's new chaplain.

Barton, assistant professor of religion at Rochester College in Michigan, was chosen after a nationwide search.

"Sara stood out because of her ability to connect with a wide range of people and for her love of Scripture and ability to relate it to everyday life," said Mark Davis, dean of student affairs.

For the past 10 years, Barton served as Rochester's campus minister as well as small-groups minister for the Rochester Church of Christ. She spent eight years as a missionary in Uganda.



Barton

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The **West Broward church of Christ** is searching for a Youth and Family Minister. We are located in Plantation, Florida, a suburb of Ft. Lauderdale. Average Sunday morning attendance is 350. Our full-time ministry team consists of our pulpit minister, a family minister and Spanish minister in this wonderfully diverse congregation under the leadership of 7 elders who are dedicated to maintaining an allegiance to the principles of the New Testament church.

We're looking for a dynamic man who is solidly grounded in Biblical truth. Our new family minister should be knowledgeable about contemporary issues and challenges faced by our young people while being able to use New Testament principles to help guide our young people through the often-tumultuous journey through adolescence. He needs to have 5 years experience in ministry.

Visit our Website for more information: www.wbcoc.com.

Submit resume to:

office@wbcoc.com
(email is the preferred method)

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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

Nov. 24-28 75th Annual Southwestern Christian College Lectureship. Terrell, Texas. Contact (972) 524-3341.

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 in Atlanta at (404) 289-4573 or West End church in Atlanta at (678) 444-4170 or www.cocnl.com

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Derrick Smith, Faulkner University's 2013 Alumnus of the Year. Smith is an assistant professor and researcher at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.



Derrick Smith



Dee Anna Smith



Austin



Doug Young

ANNIVERSARIES: 63rd: Charles and Bonnie Sheppard, Abilene, Texas. **61st:** Bill and Geraldine Joslin, Garland, Texas. **53rd:** Billy and Davie Fore, Houston, Texas.

BIRTHDAY: 89th: Vivian Clark, Abilene, Texas.

PASSAGES: Robert Hubert Beard, 90, Nov. 4, Lebanon, Tenn. Hazel Black, 99, Oct. 29, Bardwell, Ky. Erin Clark, 16, Oct. 26, New Hope, Ala. Brian Kessler Sr., 59, Oct. 26, Rincon, Ga. James Kimball, 57, Oct. 20, Williamstown, W.Va. Anne E. Lynn, 85, Oct. 9, Franklin, Tenn. Susan Melton, 57, Nov. 13, Woodbury, Tenn. Byron "Buddy" Rowan, 76, Nov. 10, Searcy, Ark. Bonnie Wilson, 67, Oct. 11, Coleman, Texas.

AWARDED: Dee Anna Smith, Lipscomb University's Hero of Business award. Smith is CEO of Sarah Cannon Cancer Research Institute in Nashville, Tenn. and a graduate of Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. She is an advisory board member for Lipscomb's College of Pharmacy.

CONGRATULATIONS: Jeff Austin qualified for the NAIA Cross Country Nationals in Lawrence, Kan. Austin, a junior at York College in Nebraska, was named conference Runner of the Week twice this season and also was named conference Newcomer of the Year.

NEW MINISTERS: Doug Young, the Church of Christ in Teague, Texas. Jeremy Young, the Church of Christ in Marshall, Mich. Daniel Kelly, the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Gainesville, Texas.

Milestones

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

Anniversary

70th

Cullen and Mary Lou Thomas

Cullen and Mary Lou Thomas were married Dec. 13, 1943. Cullen is a retired geologist and Mary Lou is a homemaker.

They have been longtime members of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. They reside in Edmond, Okla.



The Thomases have four children: Joy and Jim Ferguson of Byrdstown, Tenn., Dr. Cullen and Bonnie Thomas of Edmond, Randy and Kathy Thomas of Gilbert, Ariz., and Trent and Fran Thomas of Tulsa, Okla. They have 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren with one more on the way.

Memorials

Rex Boyd

Rex Boyd, 85, passed away on Friday, Oct. 4, 2013.

Rex was born on Dec. 18, 1927, to Sam and Opal Boyd in Pritchett, Texas.

He retired from the United States Army as a Major and retired from the Corp of Engineers having served as the manager of Lake Grapevine, Lake Lewisville and Lake Ray Roberts.

He was instrumental in building Lake Ray Roberts and Lake Sam Rayburn.

He was also very active on the Vice Presidential Task Force on Redefining Government and traveled for many years on Monday to Washington and back on

Friday.

He was an active member and elder of the Grapevine Church of Christ in Texas. He lived and traveled all over the world including Saudia Arabia and Europe.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 51 years Lavona Boyd.

Survivors: wife, Betty Boyd; children Rick Boyd and wife Sally, Larry Boyd and wife Cathy, John Stacey Boyd, Beth Boyd-Kolb and husband Doyce Kolb, Kerry Rodgers and wife Ellina; and grandchildren Diane Bobbitt, Kristin Boyd, Ashley Teague, Kelly Boyd, Emily Boyd, Austin Boyd, Brooke Boyd, Sierra Boyd, Catherine Rodgers and Dimitri Rodgers.



Belinda Curtis

Belinda Curtis, 54, passed away Nov. 5, 2013. Belinda fought a courageous, two-year battle against cancer that glorified God every step of the way.

Throughout her fight, knowing that Jesus was the Good Shepherd, Belinda knew Jesus knew how to lead His own through the valley of the shadow of death.

Belinda always desired to be a "sheep" following her Shepherd — keeping her head down, not looking up and searching out there for what was coming.

She was determined to follow the sandals of the Good Shepherd by keeping her eyes on His sandals. She was confident that He knew the direction they needed to go and the pace they needed to keep.

She had nothing to worry about, because she knew what was awaiting her at the finish line.

Belinda is survived by her husband, Tim Curtis, preaching minister for the Georgetown Church of Christ in Texas; her daughter, Andrea and her husband Aaron Miller; her son, Jeff Curtis; her parents, Jack and Rita Harriman; and her brothers Randy, Tom and Jason Harriman.

After graduating from Harding

University in Searcy, Ark., in 1981, Belinda helped many people through her role as manager of volunteer services at Agape Child and Family Services in Memphis, Tenn., and at Scott and White Hospital in Round Rock, Texas.

She also served as the executive director of court-appointed special advocates in Searcy for a time.

Belinda's love for God and for other people was reflected in the support she received from all over the world during her fight with cancer. She was a person of grace, strength and beauty which were displayed throughout her life, even to the end.

Her husband commented, "Belinda did not lose her battle to cancer; she won it. Cancer was unrelenting, but it did not break her spirit."



Glenn Ray McGregor

Lizella, Ga. — Ray McGregor, 62, passed away at home after a brief battle with cancer.

He was preceded in death by his parents H.L. McGregor, Jr., Dolly Davis McGregor, sister Yvonne Rabanas, and nephews Richard Crook and Donald Meeks.

Ray attended Lanier High School in Macon, Ga., and was a member at Thomaston Road Church of Christ in Macon, where he always smoked his famous Boston butts for Friend and Neighbor Day.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years Faye McDonald McGregor, daughters Meredith (Todd) Carroll and Allison (Mitchell) Bowman, grandchildren Lauren Ashleigh Jones, Christopher Carroll, Nathaniel Carroll, and Gage Jones, brothers Len McGregor, Neal (Debbie) McGregor, and Duncan McGregor, sisters Linda (Jerry) Richards and Bonnie Richardson, many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews.



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

Amid postage woes, reasons for praise

In our January 2013 issue of *The Christian Chronicle* we promised to keep you informed regarding the financial impact of the new postage rate increase.

Though not quite as large as we were originally told, the actual postage increase is still a staggering \$11,200 per month, or \$134,000 per year — a very large amount for a small organization.

After five months at the new rate, we were blessed to end the fiscal year — May 31, 2013 — in the black. In the previous fiscal year, 57 percent of our operating revenue came from your generous donations. In 2013, that amount increased to 58 percent. The rest came from advertising sales.

We are very grateful for the support you've given us as we have faced this new financial challenge. Now, of course, we are looking at a full year at the new rate, and we ask for your help once again.

We ask you to please consider placing the *Chronicle* in your church's budget. Consider placing us in your will and future estate planning. And please prayerfully

consider giving a donation that fits your financial status.

Every bit helps.

We planned to run this appeal in our previous issue, but the massive need that arose at

Southwestern Christian College in Texas took precedent. We appealed to our readers to help this college, associated with Churches of Christ, and we have learned that many of you responded generously. For that, we are overjoyed.

In the same way, we realize the dire situation in the Philippines, highlighted in our Page 1 story this month. We prayerfully urge you to contribute to relief efforts.

At the same time, we humbly ask for your support as we face ongoing postage challenges.

We have considered the option of printing a smaller-size paper with significantly fewer pages to mail at a lower postal rate. This would mean additional expenses, however, as it would require a complete redesign and refor-



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

matting of the newspaper.

As we weigh the benefits and costs of this possibility, we have renegotiated some service contracts and have looked for other ways to reduce our operating budget.

Knowing that the future of news is online, we recently launched a completely redesigned website, easily accessible on mobile devices. The new format allows advertisers to feature their products and

services in more ways than ever before. Our online readers have reacted favorably to what they have seen.

Many of our readers have told us they prefer reading the *Chronicle* online, but neither online contributions nor online advertising revenue are at the point where an online-only publication can be self-sustaining.

Meanwhile, the print edition of the *Chronicle* continues to grow in circulation — contrary to the newspaper industry's trend. Discontinuing print is not an option for the foreseeable future.

We face an important challenge: To offer a reliable source of uplifting and timely Christian journalism in multiple formats. We must maintain our print edition while we continue to expand and develop our online

resources and revenue streams. To do this, we must have more reader and church participation.

So please, dear readers, consider the value of what you are getting, whether you are using the print or digital version — or both.

The *Chronicle* brings you something we believe you have come to rely upon — a trustworthy source of information about God's kingdom that is worthy of support.

This paper's positive-yet-honest content helps us love and appreciate one another more. We regularly receive letters and comments thanking us for the paper's tone — encouraging and supportive of brotherhood unity.

In the midst of speaking of finances, challenges and donations, I must express our deepest gratitude for the incredible way you have long blessed *The Christian Chronicle* with your generous financial support. I do not want that appreciation for your support to be overshadowed, because I am keenly aware of it.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways you encourage and support this unique ministry. We always are mindful that this ministry must remain dedicated to our Lord's purposes and the needs of our readers.

Editorial



Lynn McMillon

'This ministry must remain dedicated to our Lord's purposes and the needs of our readers.'

The Christian Chronicle

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Sex, lies and teenage girls: Churches can – and must – help youths navigate sex-drenched culture

From a young age, girls are bombarded with powerful media messages — through song lyrics and videos, advertisements, dramatized stories and social media interactions — that tell them quite simply, “The most important thing about you is your physical appearance and sexuality. If you’ve got it, flaunt it.”

Teen girls are witnessing the transformation of longtime Disney channel mainstay Miley Cyrus from a cute preteen to a preening performer who knows no limits. Like Rihanna and Britney Spears before her, Cyrus recklessly flaunts an objectified version of sexuality on the world stage. Her persona communicates to girls that their primary identity should revolve around their potential physical desirability and how they make other people feel.

Christian girls are struggling to hold onto their identity in Christ while they live in a culture that encourages them to use their sexuality to gain attention and power. It is imperative that churches confront sexualization head on.

In my work and research with adolescents, I hear time and again that girls desperately want to be able to talk about these messages about sexuality with their church family. They long to receive guidance, to ask questions, to see how other Christians deal with these pressures.

As a body, we can help girls see the great lie of sexualization: that their power lies in their desirability. Instead, we can shine the light of God upon the

beauty of the real plan he has for them. God wants them to be his light in a broken world.

Views



Jennifer W. Shewmaker

Girls deserve the chance to follow the dreams that God has placed in their hearts, to cultivate the talents that he’s given them and to fully examine how God wants to use each of them to make this world a better place, in ways large and small.

It’s time for us to work together to fight the perception of women and girls as objects and to stand against a world-

view that hurts our daughters and keeps them from achieving wholeness.

So how do we help our girls fight this dangerous mindset?

Here are a few ideas:

- **Encourage vulnerability:** Girls are hurt by the everyday sexualization that focuses solely on appearance. They need the freedom to be vulnerable with family — at home and within their church. They must be able to drop their guard and be themselves. Girls should be loved and accepted for who they are inside, not for how they look.

- **Believe in girls:** We must build girls’ belief in themselves by first positively reinforcing the beautiful, authentic people God made each of them to be. Plan opportunities for adults in the congregation to speak words of encouragement and support to girls. Let those young women know that they are an important part of the body and that God wants them to use their gifts to make the world a better place.

- **Focus on strengths:** Don’t

dwell on the physical. Refrain from commenting on girls’ physical appearance in connection to worth or value. Instead, shine a light on what each girl does well, on her gifts and talents and on the way that you see God working in her life.

- **Praise courage:** Give the girls in your church encouragement when they are willing to try something new, when they choose to allow God to use their gifts to serve him and others and when they do something to make the world around them better.

- **Talk openly about sexualization:** Girls are exposed to sexualization whenever they see an advertisement, watch television or movies aimed at their age group and listen to most music. Don’t be afraid to talk about how the messages they’re seeing and hearing affect them. “What did you think about how that show depicts girls your age? Do you think it’s accurate? Why or why not?” Keep the lines of communication open, and give girls the opportunity to talk about sexualized media. If we ask them, girls will let us know what they think.

May we as a body be bold in standing against sexualization, and may we raise more girls who have the courage to honor and cultivate the gifts God has given them.

JENNIFER W. SHEWMAKER, an associate professor of psychology at Abilene Christian University in Texas, is a licensed specialist in school psychology who has worked with hundreds of families, children and teachers. She shares her insight on her “Don’t Conform...Transform” blog at www.jennifersheemaker.com.

LETTERS

Readers rally behind Southwestern Christian

I pray that Southwestern Christian College will get the financial help that it needs to continue with its Christian education. (See “Financial crisis at Southwestern,” Page 1, December.)

I came all the way from the Bahamas to attend Southwestern Christian College.

Lilymae McDonald | Nassau, Bahamas

I was blessed to travel with Jack Evans to Liberia a few years ago. I have visited the school and pray that it can continue to serve its students.

Gary Chamblee | Alpharetta, Ga.

Prayers are coming. Some money, too. Can everyone pitch in and send a little?

Nancy de Marçay | Baton Rouge, La.

When I grow too old to dream, Southwestern I will remember.

Clark Brown III | Atlanta

Judge takes ‘the high road’

I am proud of my brother and college classmate, Judge Gary Tabor. (See “Judge admonished for voicing concern on gay marriage,” Page 3, December.) He has always been a man of admirable character. Even in this situation, he teaches us by example to take the high road.

Bruce Henderson | Carson City, Nev.

We need more like him to stand up for the Word of God.

Cledius Collins | Grayson, Ky.

VOICES

If you could correct one injustice in the world, what would it be?



Political oppression. When people are free from political oppression, they are encouraged to choose for themselves.

When people are allowed to choose right or wrong, it gives them the freedom to make the right choice.

Caleb Dillinger | Pittsburgh



I wish people would see the big picture — not to live for today but to live for a higher purpose. People don’t realize that

their life is part of something bigger than themselves. If we all considered eternity, this world would be a better place.

Michael Rowand | Greenville, S.C.



The gap between the rich and the poor. It prevents people from solving problems. Some people don’t have a choice but to be poor, and their poverty prevents them from thinking outside of the box and pulling themselves out of poverty.

Erica Mokaya | Nairobi, Kenya



Sexual slavery. It’s not only a violation of your physical body, but a violation of your emotional safety zone. It is an abomination.

Stephanie Corbelli | Jamestown, N.Y.

Asked by Erik Tryggstad, assistant managing editor, at the 2013 World Mission Workshop at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City.



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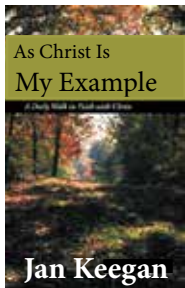
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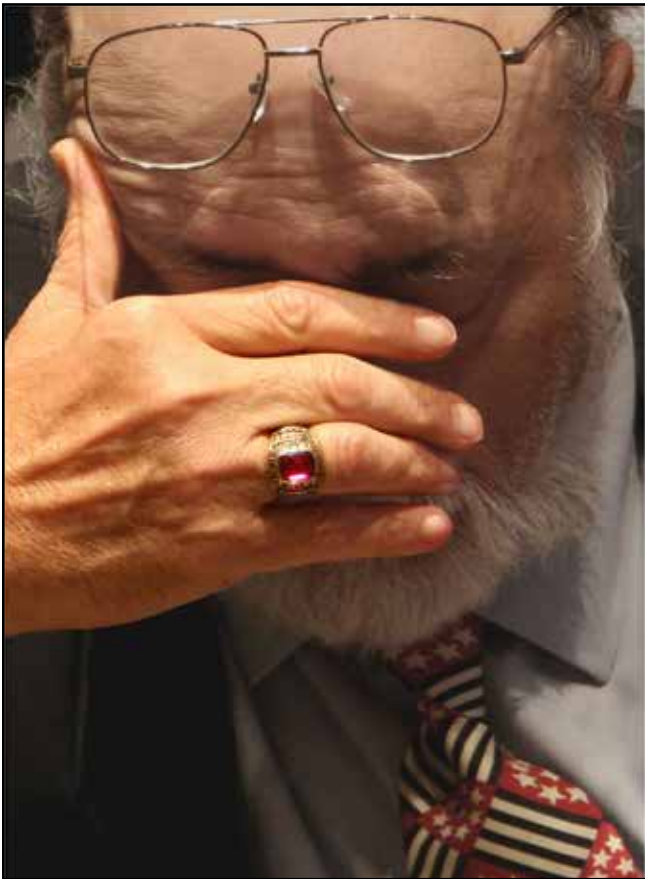
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As Christ Is
My Example

Jan Keegan



We are praying for a Great Awakening to begin!

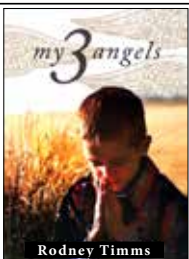
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my 3 angels

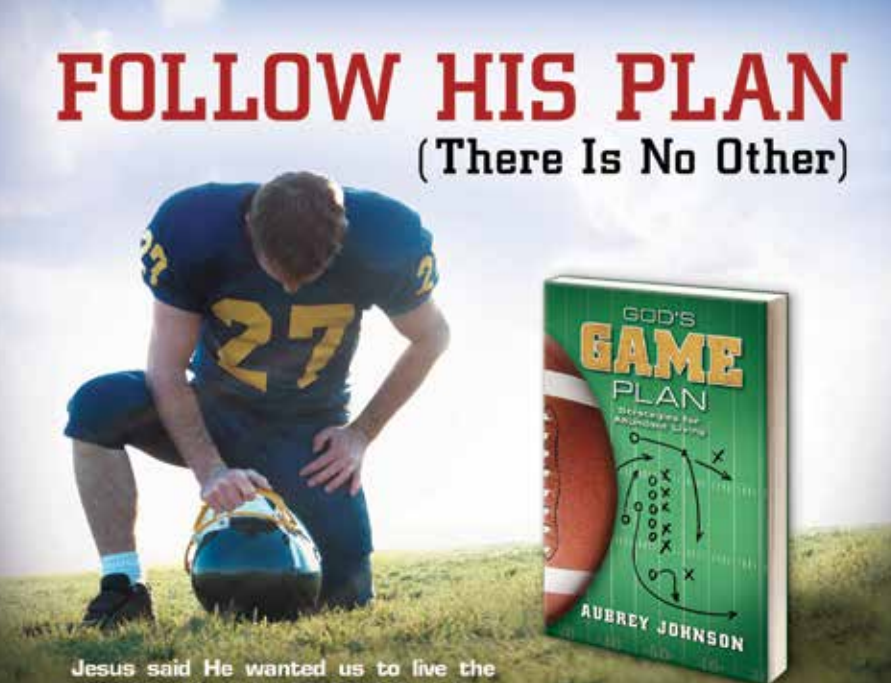
Rodney Timms

Rodney Timms didn't have an idyllic childhood. He spent most of his young years living in constant fear of his alcoholic and abusive father. Some nights he'd go to sleep wondering if tomorrow would be his last day on earth.

In *My Three Angels*, Timms tells the story of how a young man's destiny was changed by the hands of three different but equally important individuals. Had it not been for these three people, Timms writes, he may not be alive today.

www.callingallhearts.com

FOLLOW HIS PLAN
(There Is No Other)



Jesus said He wanted us to live the abundant life (John 10:10). What does that involve? What does that look like? These are the questions Aubrey Johnson answers in his newest book, *God's Game Plan*.

G56464 \$9.99

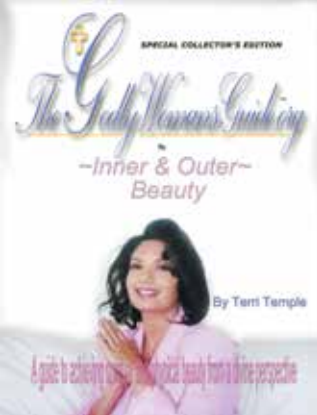
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The Godly Woman's Guide is a women's ministry, created to uplift and empower godly women by Terri Temple, a Christian author and church of Christ member for more than three decades.

Recently published

"A Lady We Called Mother"
A book by Jacinth Spivey

It's currently available online at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and can be requested at Barnes and Noble stores.



A LADY WE CALLED
Mother

By Jacinth Spivey

Books endeavor to help Christians understand Islam

The realization that the Muslim community is growing rapidly in the U.S., along with the impact of Islam on our daily life, has generated more fear among Christians than understanding.

To take our calling in Christ to love our neighbor seriously, we need resources to understand our neighbor — especially the Muslim ones. Two recent books, written for the beginner, will introduce readers to the timeless issues that haunt our personal encounters with Muslims.

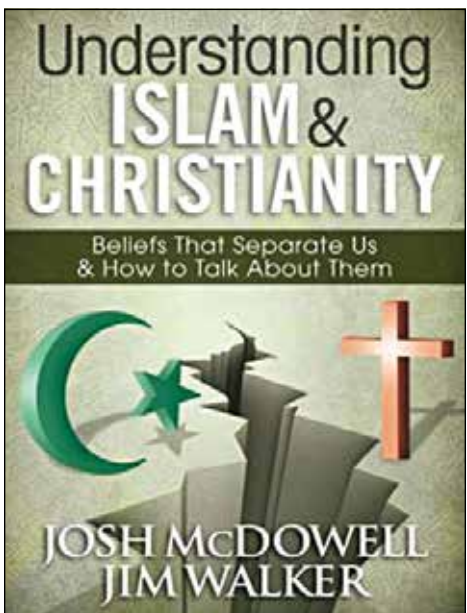
In “**Understanding Islam and Christianity: Beliefs That Separate Us and How to Talk About Them**,” well-known apologist author Josh McDowell and Jim Walker, a Christian experienced in Islamic ministry, seek to equip readers with answers to the typical questions (and misconceptions) Muslims have of Christian doctrines of the Trinity, Son of God, atonement, crucifixion and reliability of the New Testament.

Reading their chapters on the Trinity reminded me of how little progress we have made in our debates with Muslims. The very first known treatise written by Christians in response to Islam — in Arabic, around 755 A.D. — defended the triune nature of God. And yet, successive generations of Muslims continue to ask: “*How can the Father be God and Jesus be God?*” “*Why would God dishonor his Son and let him die such a horrible death for someone else’s sins?*” “*How can we believe the story of Jesus if the Bible is corrupted?*”

One will find a good introduction to the issues that separate us and the blessing of deepening our own understanding of the Christian faith through the challenges raised by Islamic beliefs and traditions.

Another apologist, James R. White, takes a more academic approach in “**What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Qur’an**.” In it, he explains why Christians reject many of the claims of the Muslim religious text, the Quran (an Arabic word meaning “the recitation,” spelled a variety of ways in English). White provides a functional knowledge of Islamic terms and useful resources, devoting a chapter to each of the major challenges to our faith.

For example, he explains the only



★ ★ ★ ★

Josh McDowell and Jim Walker. **Understanding Islam and Christianity: Beliefs That Separate Us and How to Talk About Them.** Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 2013. 304 pages, \$14.99.

unforgivable sin, or *shirk*, according to the Quran, is a denial of the central Muslim belief in the oneness of God, or *tawhid*, which contrasts with the foundational Christian belief of the Trinity.

White’s chapters on Jesus and the Cross, as presented in the Quran, help the reader understand that there is much more to Muslim rejection of Jesus as the Son of God and denial of the crucifixion than a desire to offend the Christian. Because Christians and Muslims are ignorant of the other’s sacred texts, “we tend to talk right past each other,” he writes, assuming nonexistent commonalities of language and definition, which makes for dangerous scenarios (as the headlines bear out). ”

Both books have Christians as their primary audience, but express an awareness of potential Muslim readers.

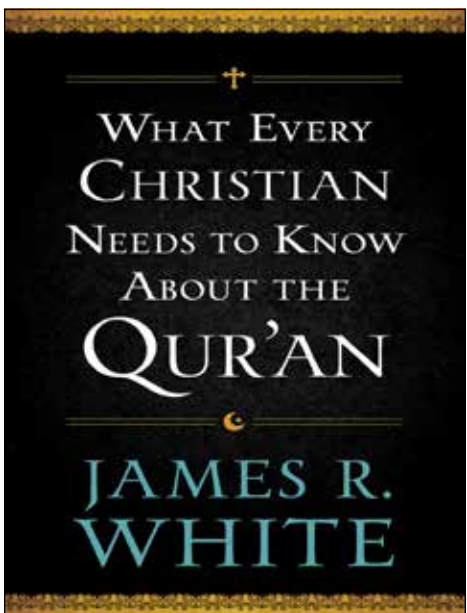
However, both of these books also illustrate that Christians — even ones who write books about Muslims — may not always hear what Muslims are asking.

For example, the comparison of Jesus to Muhammad or the Bible to the Quran guarantees the continuation of centuries of miscommunication. Christians

In Print



Evertt Huffard



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James R. White. **What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Qur’an.** Ada, Mich.: Bethany House Publishers, 2013. 320 pages, \$16.99.

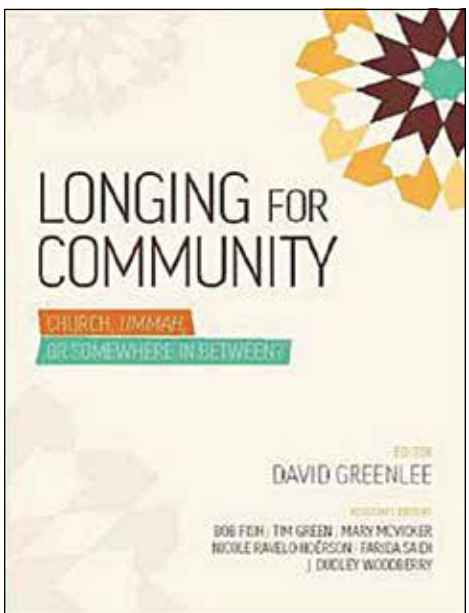
view Jesus as the uncreated word of God (John 1:1-14), while Muslims view the Quran as the uncreated word of God. Muslims view Muhammad as a poet, prophet and leader of a religious empire, closer to how Christians view King David.

To claim “100 percent disagreement over God’s nature,” as McDowell and Walker write, or to miss the shared belief in the uncreated word of God (through Christ or the Quran) leaves us without starting points in our witness.

For the reader moving beyond a defensive posture to developing relationships with Muslims, a third book, “**Longing for Community: Church, Ummah, or Somewhere in Between?**” will challenge, inform and inspire.

David Greenlee edited a collection of presentations from a gathering of 20 missiologists, sociologists, anthropologists, linguists and followers of Christ from Muslim backgrounds. The global complexities of those who have engaged in ministries among Muslims will quickly move one beyond a curiosity for understanding or a drive to defend.

Reading about the spiritual journeys of men and women of Muslim backgrounds from all over the world will show readers the complexity of bringing Muslims to



★ ★ ★ ★

David Greenlee, editor. **Longing for Community: Church, Ummah, or Somewhere in Between?** Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library, 2013. 295 pages, \$19.99.

Christ — and will inspire renewed confidence in the power of the Gospel. In many places, these believers face both rejection from their families and resistance from churches assimilating them into fellowship. Case studies of various views of salvation, spiritual growth among women and the diversity of the conversion process provide meaningful practical insights into ministry among Muslims.

Every day, thousands of tourists pose on the western tip of the Mount of Olives for the typical picture with the old city of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley. The most prominent structure in that picture is the Dome of the Rock, a holy site to Muslims, built over the site of Herod’s temple.

However, the most important site for Christians visitors — Golgotha — is not visible from the mount without a guide to point out its location.

Our world needs more guides to point seekers to the Cross and resurrection. These resources could be a place to start.

EVERTT HUFFARD is dean of the Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn. He has nine years of ministry experience among Palestinians, lectures frequently on “Understanding Your Muslim Neighbor” and teaches a graduate seminar, “The Christian-Muslim Encounter.”

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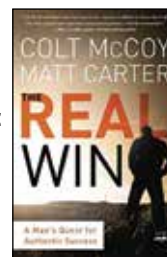
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

FOR MEN

Colt McCoy and Matt Carter. **The Real Win: A Man's Quest for Authentic Success.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: Multnomah Books, 2013. 224 pages, \$19.99.



Co-authored with the pastor of a large community church in Austin, Texas, NFL quarterback and Church of Christ member McCoy challenges men, using Scripture and personal stories, to trust in God, not self, and to be a leader in the home and outside it.

Other great gifts for guys include "Si-Cology 1: Tales and Wisdom from Duck Dynasty's Favorite Uncle" by Si Robertson and "7 Men and the Secret of Their Greatness" by Eric Metaxes — biographies of the faith and courage of significant men in history.



FOR WOMEN

Kay Robertson. **Miss Kay's Duck Commander Kitchen: Faith, Family, and Food — Bringing Our Home to Your Table.** Brentwood, Tenn.: Howard Books, 2013. 256 pages, \$29.99.



This cookbook includes more than 100 original recipes, from Jase's Favorite Sweet Potato Pie to Phil's own Crawfish Fettuccine. Old family photos and favorite stories from the Robertson family dinner table also are included.

Women might also like "Glimpses of Grace: Treasuring the Gospel in Your Home" by Gloria Furman, a missionary's wife living in the Middle East and caring for her young children, and "For Women Only: What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men (Revised and Updated)" by Shaunti Feldhahn, based on scientific research of men's minds and how women can make spiritual applications.



FOR EVERYONE

Alan Robertson. **The Duck Commander Devotional.** Brentwood, Tenn.: Howard Books, 2013. 401 pages, \$16.99.



Compiled by the oldest Robertson brother, who recently joined the popular A&E show, this book includes entries by four generations of Robertsons and a few family friends. Each entry includes a Bible passage, a short devotional thought, and the author's personal prayer. The book is available in brown or pink.

FOR TEENS

Jefferson Bethke. **Jesus > Religion: Why He is So Much Better Than Trying Harder, Doing Better, and Being Good Enough.** Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2013. 214 pages, \$16.99.

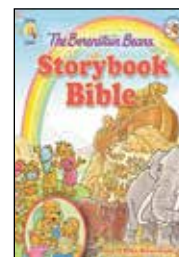


Bethke became a YouTube sensation in 2012 after he posted a video titled "Why I Love Jesus, But Hate Religion." His first book develops that video's message of grace, often employing his unique prose-poetry to do so.

More good teen reads are "Perfect Glass" by Laura Anderson Kurk, a Church of Christ member in Texas, and "Get Lost: Your Guide to Finding True Love" by Dannah Gresh, a guide to loving God before seeking romance.

FOR KIDS

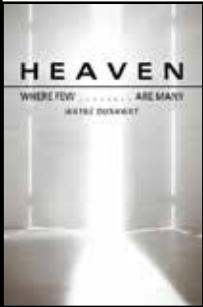
Stan and Jan Berenstain. **The Berenstain Bears Storybook Bible.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zonderkidz, 2013. 256 pages, \$16.99.



Children who like this classic series will enjoy seeing 23 Old and New Testament stories illustrated in the same style and told in the same folksy voice.

Other books for kids: "Audrey Bunny" by Angie Smith, a picture book about a girl's imperfect, but beloved stuffed animal; "The Adventures of Wilder Good" by S.J. Dahlstrom, a Church of Christ member, the first in a series of short chapter books about a boy who hunts and works on a ranch.

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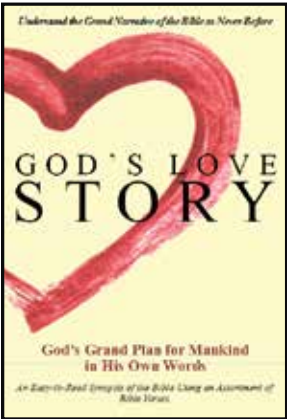
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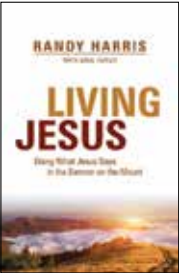
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A Samaritan's question helps us worship

Occasionally I begin to grow weary of congregational worship.

I feel like I have sung these same songs a thousand times. The prayers seem to be general and repetitious. Communion is a hollow ritual. The preaching seems pointless.

Usually those times occur when I am much too busy and when all my life seems overwhelming.

Those are times when I return to the Psalms to renew my perception of the God I am worshipping. When I begin to address my problems — and they are my problems, not the congregation's — I turn again to John 4 and Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman.

You recall that Jesus and his disciples were returning from Judea through Samaria. While sitting beside an ancient well, Jesus asks the woman for a drink of water. She is startled that a Jew would ask her, a Samaritan, for a drink. Jesus tells her the water he offers "will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The conversation turns to the life of the woman, who has had five husbands and is now living with a man that is not her husband. Jesus' knowledge of this prompts the woman to understand that he is a prophet.

She has a worship question: Can we worship at this mountain or do we have to go to Jerusalem? Jesus tells her that the question will not be relevant in a short time. He declares: *"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:23-24)

The power of that statement helps move me beyond the immediacy of the congregation with which I am worshipping. Worship is all about the spiritual, eternal being of God. Worship is about my bringing my spirit into harmony with the spirit of God.

Worship is the process of diminishing my awareness of myself and increasing my awareness of God, the being worthy of all honor and praise.

The songs we sing are written by men and women. They are not inspired but reflect the best efforts of a person to express praise, adoration or description of God and his workings.

In the early church, singing was

usually a simple chant of a psalm or other text of Scripture. During the 17th and 18th centuries, many poets set out to compose poems to convey a spiritual truth or insight.

I grew up singing those songs, and many people of my generation still prefer those songs. People of

Insight



Bailey McBride

my generation often describe contemporary Christian songs as 10 words repeated eight times. Yet I find that the simplicity of many contemporary songs helps me focus and concentrate on God.

When public prayers begin to seem flat and redundant, I must concentrate hard on

making the sentiment of the prayer more appropriate for a petition or praise to our divine father. Years ago, I simply prayed on my own and ignored the public prayer, but a friend urged me to share in the prayer and try to enrich it with a more thoughtful expression — a good practice for public prayers in a non-worship situation.

I always struggle when I pray privately. I understand that God knows what I need, but my prayer is a reflection of my faith. It assumes a trust in God's interest in and concern for what is on my heart.

When the whole church becomes more attentive to public prayer, those leading prayer move beyond vague generalization to the specific requests and expressions of thanksgiving.

Communion should be powerful in renewing our understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done for us. I know that reminders of the beaten, bloody Christ are sometimes necessary to help communion move us. The greater power, however, comes from the reminder of the Creator becoming a sacrificial offering for my sins.

I wish that, leading into communion, we could spend at least an hour in prayer and meditation as a means of leading people to a fuller discernment of the holy offering.

As Jesus taught the Samaritan woman, and all the generations that followed her, *"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org



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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 krturley@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.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY. DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES. Seeking a full-time faculty member. The successful candidate will possess a Ph.D. or equivalent in medicinal chemistry or an allied field. Preference will be given to applicants with postdoctoral experience as well as to those with two or more years of academic experience. A professional degree in pharmacy is desirable but not required. The primary responsibilities for this position are

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Submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to Dr. Kenneth Yates, chair, at byates1@harding.edu or Box 12230, Searcy, AR 72149.

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 populations with communication disorders are highly desirable.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Dan Tullis, chair, at tullis@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.

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.

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. A music position and a School of Theology faculty position are listed elsewhere in the Chronicle.

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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



The Philippines needs our help. In the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, the death toll is horrendous and human suffering is beyond description. Thousands of people are without homes, power, food and water. Led by OC alumnus Salvador Cariaga and OC president emeritus Mike O'Neal, Shepherd's Hill International has a long history ministering in the Philippines through Give A Goat, Arapal Christian Camp and other programs. Now, relief is the focus. Relief is the need. As you're called to help, consider partnering with Shepherd's Hill. Donate now at shepherdshill.org.

In the Philippines, Christians make ICHTHUS (fish) bracelets out of recycled paper to help provide for their families, send kids to school, and help the local church become self-sufficient. These bracelets have become symbols of the work and faith of Filipino Christians.