

‘God put his hand on us’

IN OKLAHOMA, *tornado prompts Christians to ask why even as they rely on their faith*

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NEWCASTLE, Okla.

I found them! Whoo-hoo!” Digging through debris in what once was her bathroom, Kala Leger rejoices. She has recovered something of great value — not jewelry, not her wedding dress or baby photos, but handwritten Bible lessons.

Each Thursday night, she and 30-plus Christians filled every corner of this 2,100-square-foot home — now a mass of broken bricks and tattered, wet insulation — to worship and work. They crafted the lessons for children at their congregation, the Southwest Church of



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD
A weather-beaten Bible is among the remains of the Legers' home.

Christ in nearby Oklahoma City.

Less than 48 hours earlier, their house was one of the first hit by a tornado that intensified as it plowed eastward toward Moore, Okla. There, it wiped away entire neighborhoods, toppled two elementary schools and killed 24 people — 10 of them children.

As the warning sirens screamed, Leger and her husband, Jason, rushed their own children — McKenzie, 14; Madison, 11; Jett, 10; and Hutton, 3 — into a tiny concrete bunker next to the house. On his phone, Jason Leger filmed a massive funnel as it formed down the street. Then he shut the door and prayed.

Branches, pipes and car parts
See **OKLAHOMA**, Page 12



Presley Robbins and Kala Leger sift through debris in what once was Leger's bedroom, looking for handwritten Bible lessons. Leger and her husband, Jason, hosted weekly devotionals at the house in Newcastle, Okla.

IN TEXAS, *churches in two storm-battered communities become hubs for disaster relief*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CLEBURNE, Texas — After a tornado ravaged Carolon Nelson's neighborhood, a fire department floodlight pierced the darkness.

In the bright light, Nelson — who survived the twister huddled in a closet as her roof caved in — said she couldn't help but see Jesus.

“It brought peace and comfort,” said Nelson, whose husband, Jerry, preaches for

the Westhill Church of Christ in this city of 28,000, about 30 miles south of Fort Worth. “I saw it as God's presence in our dark world.”

In the days following tornadoes that flattened hundreds of North Texas homes May 15, Churches of Christ in storm-battered Cleburne and Granbury shined the light of Jesus — serving as hubs for disaster relief.

“Right from the get-go, the

church offered up the use of its building, and it was so dynamic because the location is just to the edge of where the major damage is,” said Rick Holden, Cleburne's city manager. “So it gave us a chance to funnel a

See **TEXAS**, Page 14

MORE COVERAGE

SCENE IN MOORE: SINGING GOD'S PRAISES 3
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BOBBY ROSS JR.

Members of the Westhill Church of Christ line up to deliver meals.



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After the tornado, Oklahoma church sings God's praises

MOORE, Okla. — Tears.

Hugs.

Emotional recountings of survival and loss.

In the wake of a disaster such as the May 20 tornado that devastated this Oklahoma City suburb, the casual hellos and handshakes

of a typical Sunday give way to deeper, more intimate communication — in body language, if not words.

"How are you?" an older woman asks a fel-

low member of the Central Church of Christ, as the two share a tender embrace.

"I'm good," the sister in Christ replies and repeats, "I'm good."

"It didn't hit you?"

"I didn't have any damage."

"Oh, good."

The holy chatter of 150 similar conversations fills the church auditorium.

The Central church building sits at the edge of the disaster zone — just across the street from the decimated Moore Medical Center. The EF5 twister flattened 1,200 homes and killed 24 people.

"The tornado was taking a path straight here, and as soon as it hit the Moore Medical Center, it turned right," says Casey Haynes, youth and family minister. "It should have destroyed our building, but it didn't."

Pulpit minister Tommy Haynes, Casey's dad, sought cover in a church bathroom.

See **MOORE**, Page 4

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Students from Mauldin Middle School in Simpsonville, S.C., pray during a "Released Time" Bible study at the Holland Park Church of Christ, across the street from the public school.

Yes, it's constitutional to teach the Bible during the school day

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SIMPSONVILLE, S.C.

Eight middle school students gather around a classroom table at the Holland Park Church of Christ.

Teacher Becky Mays asks if anyone has a prayer request.

"My grandma," one student says.

"My uncle," another says. "He might be paralyzed."

"My dad because he lost his job a while back," a third student adds. "He's still going through a hard time."

This is no extraordinary scene, except that these are *not* Sunday school pupils.

Instead, they are students from the public school across the street, studying the Bible during the regular school day on a Friday — and it's totally constitutional.

The Christian Learning Centers of Greenville County — a nonprofit organiza-

tion directed by Janice Butler, a member of the Holland Park church — provides "Released Time" Bible instruction to more than 1,800 students in 20 public elementary, middle and high schools.

As Butler explains, "Released Time is time during the school day when public school students are released from school, with parental consent, to receive biblical instruction."

TWO KEY HIGH COURT RULINGS

It's not just the Bible that can be taught during Released Time.

The off-campus approach to religious instruction of public school students is prevalent among Mormons as well as some Jewish and Muslim groups.



Butler

Rochester College names John Tyson president

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — Rochester College has named John Tyson, president and CEO of Abilene Christian Schools in Texas, as its ninth president.

Tyson will succeed Rubel Shelly, who announced plans in late 2012 to step down. The college, associated with Churches of Christ, selected Tyson after a nationwide search.

"The college has a great history and a bright future," Tyson said.

"The commitment of the faculty, staff and board of trustees to produce graduates who desire to serve and lead, excel in learning and live out their Christian faith is impressive and inspiring."

A native Texan, Tyson and his wife, Valinda, have three adult children.

While serving at Abilene Christian Schools, a private Christian school serving grades pre-kindergarten through 12, Tyson developed a strategic vision and long-range plans, increased student enrollment 8 percent and raised major gifts for capital improvements.

Tyson served as vice president for development for Abilene Christian University from 1994 to 2010. He directed all campus fundraising and advancement activities, securing more than \$330 million for ACU in philanthropic gifts.

"With years of quality experience in higher education development and administration, Dr. Tyson is a visionary leader," said William Anderson, chairman of the college's board of trustees. "He will continue to help Rochester College achieve its mission of preparing strong, contributing citizens by providing an excellent liberal arts education in a Christian environment."

Shelly, who will continue to teach at Rochester, said, "Dr. Tyson has just the right skill set for the opportunities before us." He called Tyson "the right person to take Rochester College to the next level."



Tyson

See **CONSTITUTIONAL**, Page 24

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MOORE: 'God's good, and he's taking me through'

FROM PAGE 3

Central recently began construction of a new facility a mile east of its current location. The church eventually expects to tear down the old building, but "I didn't want to be in it" when it happened, Tommy Haynes jokes.

No Central members died in the storm, but 20 church families lost homes or sustained serious damages.

Before Tommy Haynes steps to the pulpit, the church sings "Our God, He Is Alive."

There is a God, he is alive. In him we live and we survive.

From dust our God created man. He is our God, the great I Am.

The minister's eyes well with tears as he reflects on the song and the people in the pews — many of them out-of-state disaster relief volunteers.

"When you've been on the verge of crying all week, it's not just the sadness," he says. "It's from the joy of seeing so much pouring out of this congregation."

Teens and adults in cowboy hats cook smoked sausages outside the church. This group drove 430 miles from the Denver City Church of Christ, southwest of Lubbock, Texas, to prepare meals.

Inside, worshipers — many wearing bright orange "Disaster Assistance" T-shirts — maneuver around ceiling-high stacks of emergency food and supply boxes delivered by Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort.

The church's sign along Interstate 35 normally grabs drivers' attention with catchy Bible verses and witty sayings.

But now it declares simply: "Disaster Relief Center."

Karen West was at work when the

tornado destroyed her home.

"I thought when I left work," the church member says, "that I just had what I was wearing."

But later, her son recovered her wedding ring set and a few treasured paintings by her late husband, Randall.

Mostly, though, she's starting over.

"I've got my family," she says of her three children and six grandchildren.

But she's quick to stretch out her arms and point to her other family, too — her church family.

"I know God's good, and he's taking me through everything," she says. "It's just emotionally difficult."

God didn't cause the tornado, but he will use it for his glory, the preacher assures.

He turns to the Bible: "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*"

— **Psalm 46:1**

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

— **Galatians 6:9-10**

Disaster causes some to question God. Buddies who served as first responders have come to Casey Haynes, "just wanting answers."

On the other hand, the 26-year-old Freed-Hardeman University graduate says the tragedy has boosted his faith.

"You see the way people respond," he says of the volunteers. "You see the fact that God is working with the disaster, even though he wasn't the one who caused it."

CONTACT bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Volunteers at the Central Church of Christ prepare meals for victims.

JULY 2013

MICHIGAN

LANSING — Each spring, 300 members of independent Christian Churches and a cappella Churches of Christ come together for the Michigan Christian Convention at Great Lakes Christian College.

“In the state of Michigan, it is currently the closest event in Restoration circles to a small Tulsa Workshop,” said Al Meakes, outreach and involvement minister for the Plymouth Church of Christ in the Detroit area.

Although about 80 percent of those who attend come from instrumental churches, this year’s event featured entirely a cappella worship services.

“This was done as a demonstration of unity on the part of the instrumental churches in relationship to the a cappella Churches of Christ,” Meakes said.

MISSISSIPPI

WILKINSON COUNTY — For 51 years, Bernard “Boo” Waites has preached for not one but two congregations in this rural county.

Waites leaves his home at 8 a.m. each Sunday, driving the back roads to the Perrytown Church of Christ to teach the 8:30 a.m. Bible class and preach.

Then he drives 30 minutes back to the Corinth Church of Christ in the Buffalo community to preach again that morning and night.

On Tuesday night, he teaches a Bible class at Perrytown. He does the same on Wednesday night at Corinth.

Waites said he intends to keep preaching for both congregations until the Lord calls him home — or, as he puts it, “until they haul me off in a pine box.”

NEW YORK

WEST ISLIP — Fifty years ago, the first “Exodus Movement” church was planted here.

The movement — which made national headlines — involved large groups of Christians in the South and Southwest forming ready-made congregations in places such as West Islip; Stamford, Conn.; Burlington, Mass.; Rochester, N.Y.; and Toronto.

Dwain Evans served as the first minister for the “Exodus/Bay Shore”



KRYSTAL SHETLER / THE TIMES-MAIL (BEDFORD, IND.)

A ministry to Indiana students' growling stomachs

Gary Spear, youth minister for the Mitchell Church of Christ in Indiana, browns meat while fixing lunch for two dozen high school students. Spear and other volunteers use the local high school's open campus policy as an opportunity to minister to students. After the school district closed campus for next school year, however, the approach will change. “I’m always glad to work within the system,” Spear told *The Times-Mail*. “Now it’s about finding a way to work within the new system.”

effort, which became the West Islip Church of Christ.

“Our message was simple,” said Evans, who plans to attend the group’s 50th anniversary reunion June 28-30. “We asked people to commit their lives to vocational evangelism. We asked them to sell their homes, quit their jobs and ... proclaim Jesus Christ to an area greatly in need of the Gospel.”

For more information, see wchurch.wordpress.com.

TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS — The Sycamore View Church of Christ didn’t linger in the pews on a recent Sunday.

Instead, members engaged in restorative projects across the city as part of the church’s first “Restore Sunday.”

The congregation gathered briefly in the church building before dispersing to

serve organizations such as Memphis Union Mission and MidSouth Food Bank.

Members also provided on-site auto services, neighborhood cleanup and volunteer opportunities through faith-based organizations such as Agape and HopeWorks.

TEXAS

PASADENA — It’s never too late to begin a new life in Christ. A year before he died March 12, Ira Pringle was baptized for the forgiveness of sins — at age 100.

“Everyone had always assumed that Pringle had been baptized since he attended church regularly with his beloved wife, Flo,” said Terrie Taylor, secretary for the Watters Road Church of Christ. “After Flo’s death, when he came to live with his stepdaughter, Bobbie Baker, she learned he had never been baptized.”

SPOTLIGHT**111 baptisms**

CARLSBAD, N.M. — A recent two-week campaign in association with We Care Ministries resulted in 82 baptisms by the Fox and Lake Church of Christ.

“The Lord really blessed it,” minister Philip Lairson said. “We prepared, and we prayed hard.”

Before the campaign even started, church members had baptized 29 people since July 2012 as they prepared for the evangelistic undertaking — a total of 111 souls led to Christ, Lairson said.

Seventy-five We Care campaigners joined director Larry West in Carlsbad, staying in homes, recreational vehicles and campers. The White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La., sponsors We Care.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PHILIP LAIRSON

Philip Lairson baptizes Daniel Jackson, 15.

Pringle, who served as an aircraft mechanic during World War II, “was very excited about his walk with Jesus, and his whole week was an effort to get to church on Sunday,” Taylor said. “His contribution check for the upcoming Sunday was found in his wallet at the time of his death.”

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND — One of two agents with the FBI’s elite hostage rescue team killed on a counterterrorism training exercise May 17 was a member of the Church of Christ at Three Chopt Road.

Minister Bob Ogle said agent Christopher Lorek, 41, his wife and two daughters came to the congregation about six years ago.

“They are as solid as they come,” Odle told *The Associated Press*. “They were here every time the doors were open.”

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Greg Johnson leads singing during a Sunday morning assembly of the Middletown Church of Christ in upstate New York. The church meets — for now — at a Howard Johnson Hotel.

‘God’s been good’ to New York church

DIVERSE CONGREGATION celebrates the purchase of its first permanent building after leasing a hotel ballroom for years.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y.

Even with a GPS, finding the Middletown Church of Christ can be difficult.

It’s hidden behind a pancake restaurant inside a worn-out Howard Johnson Hotel that often houses homeless people and recovering drug addicts.

For two decades, the congregation has worshiped in a hotel ballroom in this Hudson Valley city of 28,000, about 60 miles northwest of New York City.

Recently, though, the church purchased its first permanent facility, an old town hall that members intend to refurbish — with their own sweat and support from Christians across the nation.

“The Lord has blessed the church in Middletown in a way that has amazed us all,” said Grant Southwell, an Oklahoma native and financial consultant who handles the preaching duties most Sundays.

“Even with the economic downturn, real estate in New

York state is not inexpensive, but we were able to purchase a building that should serve us many years and at a price that was well below market value,” added Southwell, who said the building cost \$234,000 plus interest but may need to be insured for three times that amount.

The small, growing congregation — which drew 60 souls on a recent Sunday — mixes whites, blacks and Hispanics as well as immigrants from Barbados, Ghana, Italy, Jamaica and Nigeria.

The church reflects the increasing racial and ethnic diversity of Orange County, which saw its Hispanic and black populations surge between 2000 and 2010.

“In the last five years, we have been blessed with people from all walks of life coming in,” said longtime member Charles Auston, a former Brooklyn resident who organizes a monthly singing service at a nursing home where his wife, Wanda, resides. She has Huntington’s disease.

Member Victor Ortiz was



Longtime member Jane Godfrey, far left, sings during the service. Also pictured, at right, is Godfrey’s twin sister, Ruth Puckhaber.

born in Manhattan but later moved to Puerto Rico, where he attended a Spanish-speaking Church of Christ.

As an adult, Ortiz fell away from his Christian roots. But he returned to his faith seven years ago and found a home in the Middletown church.

“I think what you see in our church is definitely what you would encounter out here in

of Accra, and his wife, Fola, a native of Nigeria, said they felt an immediate spiritual kinship with the Middletown congregation.

“Whenever the people of God are doing things the right way, it’s always the same,” Charles Andoh said. “It never changes.”

“So many of the songs that we sing, we used to sing in Ghana,” added Andoh, who said he enjoys leading “We’re Marching to Zion” because it reminds him of home.

Far from the Bible Belt, the Middletown church serves a county with 375,000 residents but only 185 total adherents of Churches of Christ, according to a national directory published by 21st Century Christian in Nashville, Tenn.

Members describe the purchase of the 9,000-square-foot building as the answer to prayers. “Very long, many, many prayers,” said longtime member Jane Godfrey, who recalls the church forming as a group of about 15 Christians meeting in homes.

Viewing upstate New York



Church members Victor Ortiz and Charles Andoh visit the old town hall that will become the first permanent meeting place of the Middletown Church of Christ.

as a mission field, congregations in at least six states have contributed to the Middletown church’s building fund.

Supporters include the Maysville Church of Christ in Gurley, Ala.; the Westside Church of Christ in Crossett, Ark.; the Cape Cod Church of Christ in Massachusetts; the Highland Church of Christ in Tecumseh, Okla.; the I-85 Church of Christ in Greenville, S.C.; and the Fifth Ward Church of Christ in Houston.

The church hopes to move into the old town hall in September. A new roof has been put on, and a group of Sojourners — retirees in recreational vehicles who travel the county helping fellow Christians — plan to work on the renovation in July.

“God’s been good. When it looked like there was no way, he made a way,” said member Greg Johnson, who grew up

in the Fifth Ward church in Houston. “I don’t think it was an accident that all of us came from different places and ended up here.”

Johnson said the building will allow the congregation to organize community events and youth activities such as Vacation Bible School. “That’s tough to do at the Howard Johnson’s,” he said.

The hotel has a government contract to

house homeless people and recovering addicts. “We’ve tried to maintain good contact with the management there, and there’s been a lot of times we’ve helped residents in the hotel,” Andoh said. “We’ve taken food up there. We’ve taken games and toys for the children.”

But the lack of a permanent facility and, in some cases, the hotel’s reputation have hindered evangelistic efforts, he said.

Friends and neighbors who do visit find a loving congregation that tran-

scends colors and cultures, members said.

“They hear the truth, but I think they’re just overwhelmed by the love,” Johnson said. “When they see that love, it prompts them to come back. The more they come back, the more they hear God’s word.”

Southwell said he can’t help but see God at work in bringing together the diverse group of Christians.

Working on a domestic mission field, he said, “you almost feel like you’re in a desert.” In that desert, the church becomes an oasis.

“And you come to the oasis,” Southwell said, “and whatever personal differences you may have — or historical or background or cultural differences — they all go away because you’re all thirsty. You come together, and you get that thirst quenched.”



Children of Jamaican immigrants enjoy snacks while the congregation sings.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Children 'fly o'er the enemy' as Christians from Arkansas and Panama host Vacation Bible School

Darrell Webb leads a long line of children playing a game during a recent Vacation Bible School in the Central American nation of Panama. Webb and his wife, Debbie, were part of a mission team from the Center Hill Church of Christ in Paragould, Ark. The Christians worked alongside Panamanian church members at the Bible School of the Americas in Panama City.

Rigaberto Rodriguez, an instructor at the school, and minister Alberto Juarez invited children

from the community and a children's home housed at the school to the VBS. Center Hill member Darrell Webb led classes for teens on topics of morality and Christian living.

The Arkansas church includes some of its own teens on the annual trips to Panama, Darrell Webb said, adding that they "come home more dedicated to living their lives in service to our Lord." The Forrest Park Church of Christ in Valdosta, Ga., oversees the Bible school.

ANGOLA

HUAMBO — A church in this southern African nation rejoices after the baptisms of "triplets in faith," said Katie Reese, a member of the Angola Mission Team.

"The three young men (Gidi, Pedro and Paulo) were part of the infant church planted in our neighborhood of Sao Luis," Reese said. Each received a Bible from a Christian in the U.S. through the team's "Bibles for Angolans" program.

"Christians from half a world away, in Colorado and Tennessee, began praying specifically for these young men," Reese said. Meanwhile, the Angolan church's members encouraged and fed them — physically and spiritually. For more information, see www.angolateam.org.

AUSTRALIA

GLEN WAVERLEY — About 90 Australians — 20 of them from outside Churches of Christ — attended an "annual gathering of hearts and voices for God," as church member Ted Paull put it.

The Autumn Songfest — which likely would be called "Spring Songfest" in the northern hemisphere — was organized by members of the South East Church of Christ, near Melbourne. The event featured six song leaders from three Melbourne congregations. One of the sessions of songs "formed a narra-

tive of humanity's broken relationship and God's means of bringing about reconciliation," Paull said.

GHANA

MANKESSIM — Church members conducted a World Bible School campaign in this coastal West African city recently, resulting in 85 baptisms and a new congregation. Campaigners then moved to Kumasi, an inland city of about 2 million souls in Ghana's Ashanti Region. There, 161 Ghanians were baptized, workers report.

JAPAN

TOMOBE — Yen by yen, members of a small church in central Japan are saving up for a new building.

Members repeatedly have patched cracks in the 28-year-old building's walls after earthquakes, "but they just keep coming back," missionary Marlin Ray said. The church uses the building almost constantly — for potlucks, devotionals and Let's Start Talking, a church-supported ministry that uses the Bible to help non-native speakers improve their English.

The church has collected 10 million yen (about \$100,000) and needs at least that much more for a new building, Ray said. "It may take another 15 or 20

years," he added, "but we don't want to be paying off a loan on a new one.

"We need your prayers that the building holds up until we get enough money to build a new one," he said.

THAILAND

BAN MAE SURIN — Church of Christ members in Thailand collected and distributed thousands of dollars worth

of relief supplies after a fire at a refugee camp killed 37 people and left nearly 2,300 homeless.

The blaze, likely the result of a cooking fire, devastated the Ban Mae Surin camp in northwest Thailand, near the country's border with Myanmar. The camp houses thousands who fled ethnic conflict in Myanmar.

Robert Reagan, a member of a mission team in Chiang Mai, Thailand, helped launch a fundraiser for the victims, which netted about \$3,000. Reagan and Thai Christians bought clothing, detergent and toothpaste and delivered them, along with donated items, to the camp.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Robert Reagan and a child left homeless by the camp fire.

SPOTLIGHT

A great church, bar none

LUSAKA, Zambia — A new church in this southern African capital was birthed in an unlikely place — a tavern.

Victor Lombe, a minister and graduate of Mapepe Bible College in Zambia, planted the church in the "compound," or neighborhood, of Chipata.

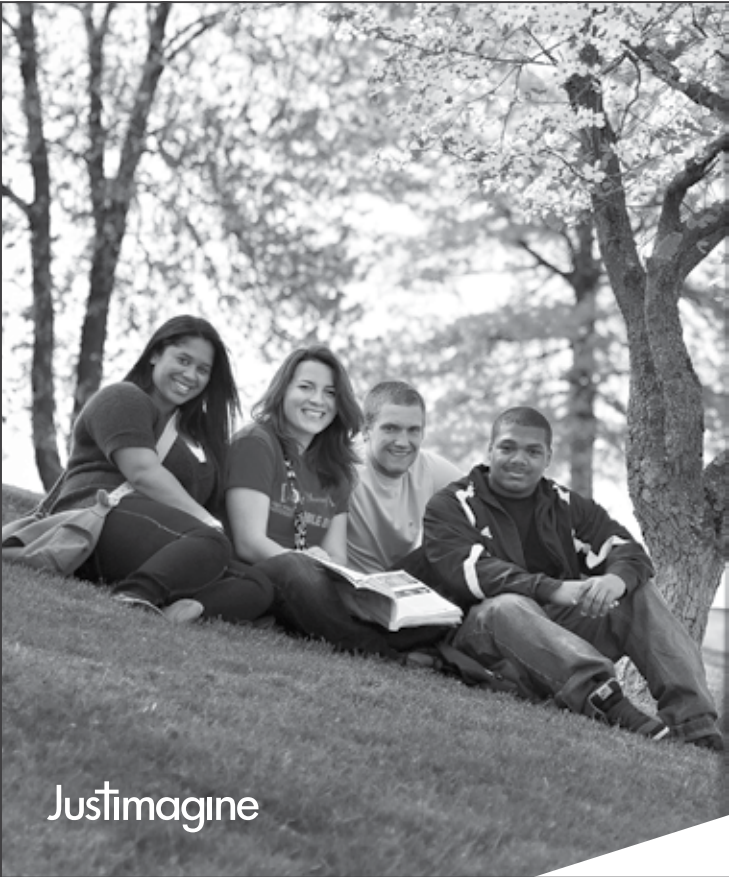
The tavern's owner, a friend of one of the church members, "offered not to open the bar for business on Sunday mornings so that the church could use it," said Kennedy Mukuka, an instructor at the college. "I wish he never reopened it at all," Mukuka added.

The church, which now meets in a private school, has struggled in its first year, Mukuka said. Some Zambians call it a cult. Others have left for "more attractive religious groups."

"Nonetheless, a good number of families have remained faithful," he said. "Most of them have shown such tremendous spiritual growth that they have become well known in their community as spiritual men and women."



Lombe



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PHOTO STILL FROM YOUTUBE.COM VIDEO

Surrounding their friend Andry, youths from the Betikara orphanage sing about his plight.

Christian youths in Madagascar sing, rap and plead for their friend's life

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

On the island of Madagascar, Christian youths want to tell the world about their friend Andry, who needs kidney dialysis to live.

The youths live at Betikara, a children's home supported by the Church of Christ at Three Chopt Road in Richmond, Va.

Most of the youths, including Andry, were rescued from the streets of the island's capital, Antananarivo. Now in his early 20s, Andry speaks four languages and ministers to new generations of orphans at the children's home and church. His kidneys failed a few years ago. Now he relies on dialysis that costs nearly \$30,000 per year. The orphanage's staff seeks funds to continue dialysis as they consider options for long-term treatment, said Barry Rosie, a missionary in Madagascar and co-director of Betikara.

In response, Andry's friends composed

a song in the Malagasy language about his struggle and posted it on YouTube.

"I personally thank God for placing me here at Betikara, for he is the one who ensures and takes care of me," one of the youths "raps" as he tells Andry's story in the video. "He always thinks of me in my need. Even if I am far away, he still died on the cross for me."

Though glamorized by the "Madagascar" animated movies, people on the island struggle with real-world problems of poverty and poor health, said Ryan Jones, a church member in Germany. Jones and his wife, Dorris, met Andry on a mission trip to the island.

The couple has provided funds for Andry's dialysis and launched a "Please Help Andry Now" Facebook group. They have raised enough money to fund Andry's dialysis through September.

SEE THE VIDEO at www.christianchronicle.org/blog. Search for "Andry."

Refugees work to plant churches in Denmark

AARHUS, Denmark — Christians from the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, baptized in a refugee camp in neighboring Zambia, are working to plant Churches of Christ in Denmark.

After living in refugee camps in Zambia and Mozambique, Donasien Kalala and his family were granted asylum in the Scandinavian nation. There, a group of African immigrants invited Kalala to help establish a church



Kalala

in Aarhus, the country's second-largest city. Doyle Kee, a missionary in Geneva, Switzerland who works with French-speaking churches around the globe, is assisting the young congregation.

SEE UPDATES at www.christianchronicle.org/blog.



PHOTO PROVIDED

In a rural Indian village, minister Paul Subhan presents a Christian woman with a Bible.

Indian Christians unknowingly bid farewell to minister

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Christians placed garlands of fragrant, tropical flowers and brightly colored shawls around the neck of Paul Subhan, wishing the longtime minister well on his upcoming journey.

None of them realized that they were saying goodbye to him for the last time.

Subhan, who dedicated much of his adult life to spreading the Gospel in his native India, died May 15 of an apparent heart attack. He was 75.

He was scheduled to fly to the U.S. just days after the sendoff service at the Chinnacumbum Church of Christ. He would spend three months in the U.S., visiting supporters and promoting Gospel for Muslims, the ministry he directed.

Instead, he fell ill and was rushed to the hospital with high blood sugar. Although he seemed to improve at first, he fell into a deep sleep and never awoke, a minister for the Chinnacumbum church said.

Subhan, born into a Muslim family, converted to Christianity and was trained by J.A. Johnson, a missionary in the Indian city of Chennai. Subhan preached for a Church of Christ in Nandavaram. Though he named his ministry "Gospel for Muslims," he shared his Christian beliefs with numerous faith groups.

In a recent newsletter, Subhan wrote that the churches he helped plant in India "continue to grow in number and in maturity of faith as they persevere through hardship."



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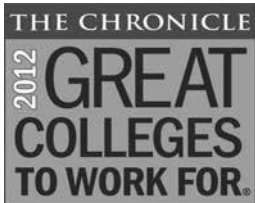
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See acu.edu/academics/provost/positions.html for complete descriptions of these positions. In a letter to the appropriate dean or chair, applicants should address their qualifications for the position. They should include in the application a statement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

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OKLAHOMA: God ‘protected us so that we could walk out of there’

FROM PAGE 1
clattered against the door, knocking loose the exterior latch. Jason Leger jumped to brace it, feeling pressure throughout his body, a sensation he describes as “being immersed in mashed potatoes.”
The kitchen wall fell and smashed the bunker’s vent, covering the family in dust. The single light bulb illuminating the shelter burst.
“We’re OK, we’re OK,” Kala Leger yelled as she held her children, unable to hear her own words — and wondering if they were true. “Four minutes, just four minutes,” she thought to herself — the time she’d been told it takes for a tornado to pass. It likely was much shorter, she said. It seemed like eternity.
Finally, the storm was gone. The house was too; they knew it. Jason Leger resumed filming and opened the door. Panning across a field of devastation, he said, “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Wow.”
The video caught the attention of international media. As the sun set, TV networks interviewed Jason Leger in his yard. Viewers commented on the “eerily serene” quality of his voice as he quoted Job, the Old Testament figure who lost his sons and daughters to “a great wind.”
Jason Leger, a deacon of the Southwest church, said he didn’t intend to question the divine.
As he stood among overturned cars and strewn Bible pages, stripped of his worldly possessions, he was keenly aware that, “at that moment, it was just me and God.”

Casey Thompson of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City and Greg Anderson of the Riverside Church of Christ in Coppell, Texas, clear debris in Newcastle, Okla.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD



ERIN BAXTER

A sport utility vehicle crashed through the roof of Plaza Towers Elementary in Moore, Okla.

The May 20 storm attained EF5 status, cutting a swath of destruction more than a mile wide, as it moved from Newcastle to Moore, where Jennifer Simonds teaches at Plaza Towers Elementary School.
Parents had picked up all but six of the 22 students she teaches during afternoon kindergarten. She made sure the remaining students were in the “duck and cover” position. As the storm got closer, one of the girls asked her if a train had come in the building.
Jennifer Simonds remembers the lights flickering, the sound of breaking glass, the taste of dirt in her mouth as she yelled “we’re going to be fine!”
“I kept praying ... that if anything was to happen, it would happen to me,” she says. “When it was all over ... I sat up on my knees and realized that, on my back, was an upside-down SUV.”
Rescuers pulled the sport utility vehicle away from the teacher and her students. Paramedics took them to a hospital in nearby Norman. They all



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Jennifer Simonds sheltered six children as her elementary school collapsed. Her husband, Colby, calls her a hero.

survived but later learned that seven third-graders, ages 8 and 9, had perished when a wall collapsed on them.
Colby Simonds raced from his work and walked through block after block of debris to reach the school, only to learn that his wife was at the hospital. The couple reunited about five hours after the storm. Remembering the devastation he saw, “I don’t know how anybody walked away from that,” Colby Simonds says.
Now Jennifer Simonds sips frozen coffee left-handed at a Starbucks in southwest Oklahoma City, en route to get a new driver’s license. Hers was lost in the storm. So was her car.
Her right arm, no longer in a sling, is still stiff. Her T-shirt, bearing the logo of Plaza Towers Elementary, covers most of the “road rash,” as she calls it — scratches and gashes suffered as she shielded her six students.
They call her a hero. So does her husband. She calls herself blessed.
“Although it’s horrible, and I don’t understand why it happened,” she says, “God put his hand on us and he protected us so that we could walk out of there ... and see our family again.”

“One thing about a disaster — it removes all boundaries and borders.”
Danny Benefield, an elder of the

Oakcrest Church of Christ, talks as he works, arranging tables in the church’s gym so it can serve as a relief center.
Near the storm’s path of destruction, houses of faith overflow with help. At the massive Baptist church and tiny storefront churches in Moore, volunteers form assembly lines and make sandwiches next to banners offering free food to victims and relief workers. Regardless of denomination or doctrine, “everybody is here to serve Christ,” Benefield says.
Outside the Oakcrest church’s building in Oklahoma City, about four miles north of the destruction, members unload bottled water and canned goods from passing cars. Inside, high school students sort through donated clothes on the church’s pews.
Here, in Tornado Alley, disaster relief is a way of life, Benefield says, adding that Oklahoma City showed the world how to respond to a crisis — with compassion and self-sacrifice — after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995.
The 900-member Oakcrest church served as a relief site after a May 3, 1999, tornado that also devastated Moore. In the years since, the congregation has become a well-oiled machine for relief. When the director of a church-supported disaster ministry calls Benefield’s cell phone and offers to

coordinate the church’s relief efforts, the elder politely declines.
On the north side of Oklahoma City, members of the Memorial Road church also are lining up rows of canned goods and organizing relief teams — for Moore, Newcastle and communities damaged by other recent tornadoes, including Shawnee and Luther.
The 2,200-member church’s newly anointed director of disaster relief, Joe Crawford, was a recipient of the church’s relief efforts in 2011, when a tornado ripped apart the house where he, his wife and four daughters lived in Cashion, Okla.
“Every phone call I’m getting now is the same phone call I made” two years ago, Crawford says as he writes on a dry-erase board in the church’s fellowship hall, jotting down the names of available van drivers for relief teams.
Beyond immediate needs, storm victims call with questions about insurance claims and counseling.
Crawford remembers their concern. This storm will impact their lives for years to come, he says.
“I know how to move trees,” he says. But dealing with shock and trauma is equally important. The church plans to build relationships with storm victims, to help guide them through the rebuilding and healing process.
“We don’t want to go down, clear their house, give them bottles of water and leave,” he says. “We’ve got to come up with a system that’s long-term, or we’re just moving rubble.”

“This is God on earth — the Lord’s church.”
Kala Leger talks to a TV reporter as she watches nearly 50 volunteers from the Memorial Road church and Oklahoma Christian University sift through the remains of her house.
After they’ve salvaged what they can, the volunteers move on to a house across the street. As the group’s coordinator, Woody Loden, tears down what’s left of the Legers’ home with a front-end loader, the family watches.



COLBY SIMONDS

Colby Simonds found this fragment of a picture frame in his wife’s car after the Moore tornado.

“I kind of thought I’d be bawling,” says their 10-year-old son, Jett, “but not yet.”
They mourn the losses in their spiritual family, the Southwest Church of Christ. A member, Brandon Smith, lost his brother in the storm, Jason Leger says. They also regret that they weren’t able to salvage the paperback Bibles they use during Thursday night devotionals. Each participant had one with his or her name on it.
But they can buy more Bibles, Jason Leger says, and the weekly studies will continue, uninterrupted by the storm. In less than two weeks, he plans to accompany members of his church on a mission trip to Peru.
When asked if he wonders why God allows tornadoes, Jett Leger simply shrugs and says, “God has a purpose for everything.”
Job, whom Jason Leger quoted as he surveyed the ruins of their home, also

questions God in the Old Testament story. Though he receives back from God twice what he lost, he wants to know why his heavenly father allowed tragedy to befall him.
God answers Job “out of the storm,” according to the Bible story. The answer, though lengthy, points to the Lord’s power, wisdom and control. Put simply, he is God, and he is with you.
Colby Simonds says he saw evidence of God’s presence as he and his wife returned to Plaza Towers Elementary. They searched the remains of her classroom, looking for her belongings and salvageable school supplies. Though the school is gone, Jennifer Simonds plans to teach again this fall.
Colby Simonds found his wife’s car in the parking lot. There was little inside, except for a piece of a picture frame, likely blown in from a nearby house.
Originally, “it probably said ‘God bless this home’ or something,” he says.
After the wind, after the rain, after almost unimaginable devastation and death, the broken piece bore only one word — “God.”
Tears flowing, Colby Simonds says, “I just know he was there.”

Close to home: Christian reporter and son cope with loss of a friend

BY MURRAY EVANS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MOORE, Okla. — How do you explain death and destruction to a 9-year-old, especially when it happens at a place like a school, where he should feel safe?
I am firmly convinced that, without the prayers of literally hundreds of our Christian friends, my wife and I would not have had the wisdom to handle that conversation.

As a reporter, first for *The Oklahoman* and then for The Associated Press, I’ve covered my fair share of tornadoes. The sights, sounds, smells and emotions are all too familiar. But it’s different when it happens in your town. When your family is separated.

On May 20, I rode out the EF5 tornado with my son, Conrad, a third-grader, and daughter Alexis, a first-grader, in a neighbor’s storm shelter.
My wife and our 4-year-old daughter Charis were on the other side of town and also were safe, though I didn’t know Charis’ fate for several agonizing hours after the storm.
When I heard Plaza Towers Elementary suffered a direct hit, my heart sank. Conrad attended pre-K and kindergarten there before a new school was built right by our neighborhood. Seven third-graders — including several Conrad once had shared a classroom with — were among the dead.

One of them, Christopher Legg, was Conrad’s best friend in kindergarten. Christopher’s father attended Oklahoma Christian University with me, and his mother and my wife had become friends, brought together by their sons.
Christopher and Conrad had so much fun together — birthday parties, a trip to the circus, Nerf gun battles. Conrad doesn’t cry much, but tears flowed when we told him about Christopher.
Conrad served as an honorary pallbearer at the funeral, at which Christopher was remembered as a boy who loved pizza and popcorn and Saturday morning cartoons and who overcame physical ailments (including cancer) to play football and baseball.
Conrad usually squirms a lot during church services, but he paid close attention at his friend’s funeral.
Many of the kids who attended the



CORY YOUNG / TULSA WORLD

Murray and Conrad Evans view photos of Plaza Towers Elementary School in Moore, Okla.

service left a trinket as they filed by Christopher’s casket. Conrad chose one of the Nerf gun bullets he and Christopher used to play with. Their soft hearts reminded me of why Jesus said that we must become like children to enter the kingdom of heaven.
Christopher had a perpetual smile on his face and a kind heart — right up to his last moments on Earth. As the tornado approached, a friend of his was scared, and Christopher went to offer comfort, putting himself in harm’s way. That was the Christopher I knew.
Christopher’s family — like so many others in Moore and south Oklahoma City — lost their homes in the tornado. But folks here still have our faith, and we are determined to come out stronger on the other side from this tragedy.
Our drive to our church’s building in south Oklahoma City takes us through some heavily damaged areas. After our family worked a shift at our church’s relief center on the Sunday after the tornado, our 4-year-old daughter asked us, “Why did the tornado knock down all the houses?”
I told her that a lot of grown-ups have the same question, but that no matter what the answer, Jesus would want us to help the people who are hurting and struggling right now.
So that’s what we will try to do.

MURRAY EVANS is Oklahoma Christian University’s assistant athletic director for media relations. He and his family attend the Oakcrest Church of Christ.



Sunlight shines through the ceiling of Jeff and Jamie Dugger's tornado-damaged home in Cleburne, Texas. The longtime members of the Westhill Church of Christ hid behind kitchen cabinets during the storm.



A Cleburne, Texas, police officer leaves a home damaged by a tornado after visiting with the residents, who were salvaging belongings.

TEXAS: Tornado 'blew in a 2-foot layer of love'

FROM PAGE 1

mass volume of people away from the command center and get them processed."

More than 1,000 volunteers and contractors flocked to the Westhill family life center, where they filled out paperwork and received permits to enter the disaster zone.

Cleburne Fire Chief Clint Ishmael — a Westhill member — said the 500-member congregation has endeavored to improve its hospitality toward the community.

"This fit right into that ... to take care of our people here in Cleburne," Ishmael said.

The family life center became a launching point, too, for feeding victims and filled up quickly with donated groceries, bottled water and paper products.

Working with Disaster Assistance CoC, a mobile feeding ministry sponsored by the Lake Jackson Church of Christ in Texas, Westhill members distributed more than 200 bagged lunches a day.

One victim — his voice



PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

Victim Jamie Dugger, center, hugs minister's wife Carolon Nelson.

choked with tears — called to express thanks for the food, youth and family minister Gary Albritton told the congregation.

"Just consider it from Jesus, because that's why we do what we do," Albritton told the man.

About 30 miles northwest of Cleburne, the Granbury Church of Christ fellowship hall also served as the disaster assistance center for its community.

Insurance companies and charities such as the Red Cross,

the Salvation Army and Mission Granbury set up booths inside the church facility, where hundreds of victims lined up to register for assistance.

Many victims accepted emergency food boxes provided by Nashville, Tenn.-based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, which dispatched a tractor-trailer to Granbury.

"The church here has an excellent reputation for just being benevolent and just reaching out in all kinds of ways," said John Knox, Granbury's preaching minister. "I think that really showed."

Besides his work with the 750-member church, Knox also serves as Granbury's police chaplain. In that role, he helped notify the relatives of six tornado victims who died.

Knox also ministered to the city's first responders — including dispatchers, firefighters and police officers.

"Some of it's as simple as stopping at Sonic and bringing our dispatchers a drink," he said. "Just talking and listen-

ing, that goes a long way. Later, we'll do some formal critical incident debriefings, but they're not ready for that yet."

The church plans to be involved in the long-term recovery effort, said Knox, who also serves as president of the Lake Granbury Ministerial Alliance.

Much of that recovery work will occur through the congregation's Christian Service Center, which provides a food pantry, furniture, clothes and other services to the needy.

"We feel like this is going to be at least a yearlong process," Knox said.

No Granbury members suffered injuries or lost homes.

Likewise, all Westhill members escaped the storm physically unscathed.

But the homes of 15 to 20 Westhill families sustained damages — and some were total losses, Jerry Nelson said.

Longtime Westhill members Jeff and Jamie Dugger hid behind kitchen cabinets as the tornado roared overhead.

"It just lasted forever," said

Jeff Dugger, whose ears popped from the pressure. "That's when our roof started lifting off and our walls started lifting up."

Insulation from the attic fell on them and glass swirled. But they survived, he said, with "not a bruise, not a scratch."

In the storm's aftermath, fellow Christians showed up at the Duggers' place to clear debris and pick up broken limbs.

The couple "soaked up the love and the groceries" at a different friend's house each night, Jeff Dugger said.

"The storm hit, and it left a lot in its wake," he said. "But it blew in a 2-foot layer of love that's all over this town. You can't see it, but you can feel it."

Jamie Dugger said the outpouring of love has affirmed her faith in God.

"How everybody has helped has just been the most incredible," the mother of four said, her voice trailing off as she grasped for the right word. "I'm just so grateful."

Once again, church relief ministry's trucks roll

BY TED PARKS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The list of places receiving shipments from Nashville-based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort over the past five months reads like a roll call of U.S. catastrophes.

Still bouncing back from Superstorm Sandy, New York got food, water, beds and appliances. New Orleans received canned goods and dried fruit to facilitate recovery from last fall's Hurricane Isaac. More recently, the West Church of Christ in Texas received food and other supplies following the lethal explosion of the town's fertilizer plant.

Oklahoma was the most recent addition to the list.

At press time, trucks had rolled from Nashville to Shawnee, Norman, Moore and Oklahoma City. Six tractor-trailers alone took supplies to people affected by the deadly Moore tornado.

"This has the possibility of being the largest thing that we've ever undertaken," executive director Joe Dudney said of the Oklahoma relief effort.

As is the case wherever the ministry responds, the commitment to the

Sooner State will be long term.

"We don't walk away," Dudney said. "We try to stay until the job is finished."

Launched in 1990, CCDRE responds to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other disasters with shipments of relief supplies from its 85,000-square-foot Nashville warehouse. With a full-time staff of 13, the ministry relies on volunteers to box goods for shipment, its 12 truck drivers also donating their time.

"We stay ready to go at the drop of your hat," Dudney said. "That's the beauty of having this warehouse. ...

We don't have to pass the hat and get the money and go buy the supplies."

The first truck for Moore left one day after the killer tornado, according to the ministry's shipping log.

The next day, 300 volunteers stuffed more supply boxes, Dudney said.

On Friday of the same week, CCDRE put together \$68,500 worth of frozen dinners bound for the Oakcrest

Church of Christ in Oklahoma City to aid storm victims. Pallets of the frozen meals — with menus including Salisbury steak, barbecue and chicken — backed up to the doors of a CCDRE refrigerated trailer about to head west.



TED PARKS

In Nashville, Tenn., John Baylor arranges cracker boxes in the warehouse of Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

In Moore, Okla., volunteers prepare relief supplies, including family food boxes from Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, for distribution at the Central Church of Christ.

Family food boxes — packed by volunteers stationed on both sides of a long metal conveyor — are a staple of CCDRE shipments. The contents run the gamut of supplies needed when the comfort and convenience of home vanish — items such as dry milk, cereal bars, chili, peanut butter, napkins, even razors.

Last on the boxes' packing list is "Bible & Note," each box including a New Testament.



Dudney

John Baylor, who attends Nashville's West End Church of Christ, has volunteered with CCDRE for five or six years.

"I love it," Baylor said. "I'm helping somebody that really needs the help. ... I might not be able to give them cash, but I can give them time."

Dudney, who recently turned 90, has dedicated the past two decades to the ministry, he said, "for the love of the Lord and to help people that are in need."

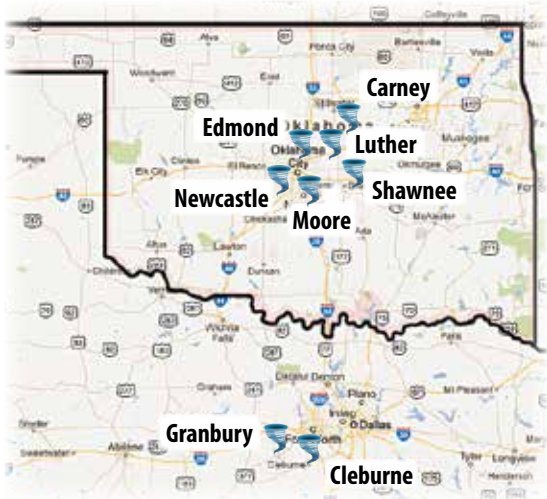
"We look at it as being a mission work. It brings people to the Lord," he added. "Everywhere we go, you open doors."

REBUILDING THE HEARTLAND: Churches and ministries collect funds, coordinate cleanup

The recent outbreak of severe weather across Texas and Oklahoma claimed 32 lives, destroyed hundreds of homes and caused billions of dollars in damage. Churches of Christ across the region have collected special contributions for relief efforts.

Working alongside church-supported relief ministries, Christians are helping victims through the recovery process.

The list at right represents a sampling of churches and ministries among the hundreds providing relief. Contact them to learn how to contribute to the effort.



CHURCHES:

- Central Church of Christ** • www.moorecentral.org • 411 S.W. 4th St., Moore, OK 73153 • (405) 794-4493
- Oakcrest Church of Christ** • www.oakcrestchurch.com • 1111 S.W. 89th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73139 • (405) 631-5534
- Memorial Road Church of Christ** • www.mrrcc.org • 2221 E. Memorial Road, Edmond, OK 73013 • (405) 478-0166
- Alameda Church of Christ** • www.alamedacocf.org • 801 E. Alameda St., Norman, OK 73071 • (405) 321-0788
- Granbury Church of Christ** • granburycoc.net • 1905 W. Pearl St., Granbury, TX 76048 • (817) 573-2613
- Westhill Church of Christ** • www.westhillchurchofchrist.org • 3400 W. Highway 22, Corsicana, TX 75110 • (903) 872-5696

MINISTRIES:

- Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort Inc.** • www.disasterreliefeffort.org • (888) 541-2848
- Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team** • www.churchesofchristdrt.org • (937) 308-2259
- Disaster Assistance Mission** • www.disasterassistancecoc.com • (281) 881-1876
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See www.christianchronicle.org/blog for updates

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JULY 2013

BY JAMES BUCE | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Emily and Lindsay Pace can't wait for camp. The sisters, ages 9 and 8, remember the fun they had last summer at Round Lake Christian Camp in rural Oregon. They also remember the challenge their counselors gave them — to use whatever gifts and skills they have to make a difference in their community and the world.

For the past year, that's exactly what they've done — sewing more than 60 dresses from pillowcases for the impoverished children of Africa.

This year, they'll tell their fellow campers how the experience has changed them.

The girls, who attend the Nile Street Church of Christ in Klamath Falls, Ore., were learning to sew when they got the challenge at camp. Making dresses for girls who couldn't afford them was an easy choice.

To put it simply, "I like to wear dresses because they make me feel fancy," Emily Pace said. "I like to wear them all the time."

With the help of their mother, Kristin, the girls started sewing pillowcase dresses. Kristin Pace contacted church-supported ministries that work in Africa, hoping to find somewhere to send the dresses. The response was greater than expected. The Village of Hope in Ghana, Namwianga Mission in Zambia and The Malawi Project all welcomed the idea.

"Most of the young women in rural areas of Zambia have never owned a new dress," said K.B. Massingill, president and chairman of the Zambia Mission Fund, which supports Namwianga. Though many organizations focus on the needs for food and shelter among Africa's poor, "the gift of a dress, especially a new dress, will be a powerful and meaningful way to demonstrate God's love."

Dick and Suzi Stephens, coordinators of the Malawi Project, have seen the faces



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

In Malawi and in many parts of rural Africa, children dress in donated shirts and wrap themselves in whatever material their parents can afford. The Sew'n Hope ministry plans to send boxes of new dresses for girls in Africa.

Sew in love

TWO GIRLS' PILLOWCASE DRESSES show African children 'that they are important.'



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Emily Pace, left, sews dresses that she and her sister, Lindsay, will send to Africa. Some girls in Malawi have received similar dresses in the past, as shown in the center photo. At right, Lindsay Pace models a finished dress.

of girls light up when they get new dresses.

"They show them to families and friends with such pride," Dick Stephens said. "You can just see their feelings of self-value spring to life."

Upon hearing about the girls'

project, the Sanyu Foundation of Uganda contacted the family and requested dresses. Suddenly, the Pace girls had large orders to fill.

The family dubbed the effort "Sew'n Hope" and began asking for donations of fabric

and any help they could get.

Family and friends all across the nation joined in. Volunteers from Texas to Ohio sewed the dresses and sent the family donations to help them make more. Travis Pace, the girls' 11-year-old brother, organized

donations. Their father, Neal Pace, is minister for the Nile Street church. He and members of the congregation agreed to oversee the work.

This summer the girls hope to send 63 dresses to the Village of Hope — and additional shipments of 63 to each of the other ministries throughout the summer and fall.

"When the project started, there were 63 days to June," their mother explained. "And the girls wanted to make one dress per day." Each dress takes about three to four hours to make, and the girls are determined to reach their goal.

At first, the girls saw the project as a way to develop a skill and use it to help children who are less fortunate.

Dick Stephens sees their work as something more — a genuine statement of Christian love. For girls in Malawi, "these dresses are much more than a piece of cloth," he said. "They are a testament that someone, someplace in the world cares about them — that they are important and they have a value."

In Uganda, "a new dress puts a smile on our little girls' faces," said Baker Nnyombi, coordinator of the Sanyu Foundation.

"Most of the children we support are orphans who lost their parents to HIV/AIDS, (and) some due to domestic violence," Nnyombi said.

The Pace sisters aren't just sending clothes to those who badly need them, they're sending "hope, happiness and joy," he added.

The sisters are learning that through their efforts, "we are giving hope to others," Emily Pace said.

Her sister put it a bit more simply.

"We are helping people and learning how to sew," Lindsay Pace said. "Sewing is fun."

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to contribute, see www.facebook.com/SewnHope or contact sewnhope@yahoo.com.

Goats, fish and hope in the Philippines

THROUGH LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS, *Christian leaders find the sustainable income they need to minister locally.*

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

KINAWAHAN, Philippines

Why would anyone want to leave Heaven's View? That's the nickname Edgar Demecillo gave his small swath of paradise in this southeast Asian nation. Here, on a quiet mountaintop, overlooking the island of Cebu, he raises goats, weaves baskets from coconut palm fronds and preaches the Gospel to a church of 15 souls. Life is hard, despite the beauty. There's no electricity, and it's a half-mile, treacherous walk downhill to fetch water. The climate is arid, and raising crops is difficult.

"It's a sacrifice. It's hard work," says Demecillo, 33.

But "for me, it is very important." Even in the harshest environments, Christians must work to "capture the soul of every man for our Lord," he says. "I must proclaim to other people so that they can obtain salvation."

For smart, industrious Filipinos such as Demecillo, the pressure to leave impoverished communities is high, says Salvador Cariaga, an evangelist who preaches Jesus and sustainable agriculture at nearby Arapal Christian Camp.

Potential ministers and community leaders often move to the island's cities to make a living, earning \$5 to \$10 per day.

"When they do that, communities like this have no hope of ever breaking the cycle of poverty," Cariaga says.

Demecillo, who was baptized 13 years ago, became a disciple of sustainable farming in 2009. He learned to raise goats and maximize profits, working with Cariaga and church-supported ministries including Give A Goat and Bread for a Hungry World. The ministries loaned him goats and allowed him to keep their offspring. It wasn't easy — especially after

a drought killed many of the kids produced by the loaned goats. But he persevered, remembering 1 Corinthians 15:58, *"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

"Now I am preaching the word of God here and in neighboring places,"

he says, "and developing their livelihood, increasing their ability to raise goats."

"And I'm planting fruits."

As a result, the members of the small Church of Christ that meets in Heaven's View used their own money, plus a little support from two nearby congregations, to build a meeting place.

More importantly, Cariaga says, when Demecillo decided to stay, "this community regained its leader, and this church here regained its hope."

'WE DON'T JUST GIVE THEM A FISH'

Another Filipino Christian, Marilyn Jumao-as, succumbed to the temptation to move to the big city — Fort Worth,

Texas, to be precise.

In need of funds to pay a debt, she could find no other way to raise the money locally. So she left her home and family in Compostela, a community in Cebu City, and earned income taking care of an elderly Christian couple in Texas.

Though she loved the couple — and the Church of Christ in Texas that treated her like family — she missed her family back home. When she returned, she looked for a way that Filipino women could earn money without crossing an ocean.

Now she teaches women to fish — or, more accurately, to make fish bracelets.

Using old magazine pages, she and about 20 women gather at the Compostela Church of Christ on Saturdays to produce colorful handbags, change purses and bracelets that resemble the Christian ichthus — or fish — symbol.

Give A Goat sells the products, along with soap produced from goat's milk, and provides the women with supplemental income.

"We don't just give them a fish," Jumao-as says. "We teach them to trust in God."

Loretta Canen loved the women she met at the church but lacked the manual dexterity to make bracelets or goat soap. She became the designated childcare coordinator, leading Bible songs and devotionals for the children as their mothers make products to sell. The women pay her for her time. One year ago, she was baptized.

"I love my time with the kids," Canen says, meaning the human ones, not the goats. "I think it's my ministry."

Other women have found their calling through the program, Jumao-as says.

"I'm so grateful to God for giving me these ladies," she says, brushing back tears. "Money cannot buy the happiness they have now with God."

WEBSITE: www.giveagoatnow.com



Bobby Moore, right, works alongside Chris Swinney, rebuilding a house in the Philippines.

Giving Bread: Nonprofit stresses partnership — not ownership — as it serves around the globe

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Bobby Moore looks comfortable doing just about anything.

On a recent mission trip to the Philippines, he hammered nails and dodged falling geckos as he and a group of students from a Christian school in Texas rebuilt a family's home. He hacked through underbrush to make room for new crops at Arapal Christian Camp. Days later, he preached a Sunday morning sermon for the Talamban Church of Christ.

About the only thing he's not comfortable doing is taking credit.

Moore, a former youth minister, is director of Bread for a Hungry World, a Texas-based nonprofit that seeks to meet physical and spiritual needs of hurting people worldwide. Church members launched the nonprofit in 1984. Jon Jones served as its director for 18 years.

The nonprofit, supported by members of Churches of Christ, helps communities in countries around the globe — including the Philippines, Cuba, Honduras, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Russia — by providing the means to a more self-sufficient life.

None of the efforts "belong" exclusively to the ministry. Instead, Bread for a Hungry World partners with already-existing works, including Mision Para Cristo in Nicaragua and the Christian Relief Fund in Kenya.

"I could care less if anybody on the

ground — in any country we work with — knows the name 'Bread' or not," Moore said. "Bread" only needs to be known in the U.S. as a fundraising source for these organizations on the ground, to help them share the name of Jesus."

The nonprofit has little overhead and only two employees — Moore and

administrative assistant Gayle Biggers. When seeking ministry partners, they ask, "Who's doing this, and who's doing it well?" Moore says. "Are they trustworthy? What type of program are they doing that helps build self worth

in people — not just handing out food?"

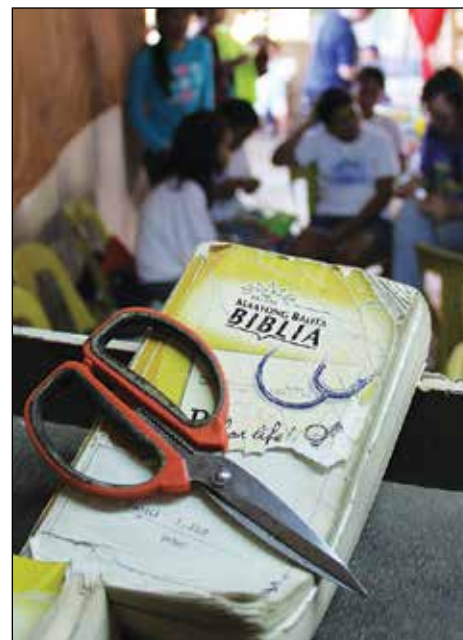
A cornerstone of the ministry's work is the Tree of Life program, a child sponsorship effort in the Philippines and Honduras. The program provides children from impoverished communities with nutrition and education. The first children sponsored by the program are now enrolling in college, Moore said.

Watching the children thrive — and seeing Christians "come alive and take ownership of the projects" — is the most rewarding part of Moore's job, he said. "That's the type of work I've always wanted to do," he added. "I've never been happier."

WEBSITE: givebread.org



Edgar Demecillo descends from a coconut tree — using only his hands and bare feet — after harvesting some of its fruit in Kinawahan, on a mountaintop on the island of Cebu.



At the Compostela Church of Christ, women cut the pages of magazines into thin strips to produce fish bracelets and handbags.



Edgar Demecillo stands behind the pulpit where he preaches on Sundays. The 15-member Church of Christ that meets in Kinawahan, which he calls "Heaven's View," built its meeting place from the wood of coconut trees — without assistance from outside the Philippines.



Christians at the Compostela church pour goat soap into molds. Ministries including Give A Goat sell the soap.



Christian ministries sell handbags, purses and bracelets to help Christian women earn supplemental income.



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Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, a private Christian law school located in Montgomery, Alabama, invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the School of Law. Established in 1928 in honor of former governor and federal judge Thomas Goode Jones, the author of America's first code of legal ethics, the law school is part of Faulkner University and is one of only two law schools affiliated with the churches of Christ.

The law school's chief academic and administrative officer, the Dean reports directly to the President of the University and is a member of the President's Administrative Cabinet. Applicants for Dean should be accomplished leaders who are committed to building a vibrant Christian intellectual community dedicated to excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service. Candidates should have a strategic vision for enhancing the law school's regional and academic profile, and the ability to develop the financial resources necessary for building the law school's professional reputation. A successful candidate should be a skilled administrator and a dedicated leader who can direct the long-term growth and development of the law school.

Candidates should have a juris doctor or equivalent degree and a strong record of accomplishments warranting appointment as a full professor with tenure at the law school. Candidates must demonstrate a capacity for effective administration, fundraising, and intellectual leadership in a legal academic setting. Candidates should also be able to build and maintain relationships with a variety of constituencies, including donors, alumni, and members of national and regional legal communities. Given the law school's Christian mission and affiliation, members of the churches of Christ are strongly preferred as candidates for dean.

The law school anticipates the new dean assuming his or her responsibilities in the early summer of 2014. Interested persons should send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and list of references, by regular or electronic mail to:

Prof. Donald W. Garner
Chair, Dean Search Committee
Faulkner University, Jones School of Law
5345 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36109-3390
(334) 386-7210
deansearchcommittee@faulkner.edu

Applications should be received by July 15, 2013. Although finalists will be subject to customary reference and other background checks, all applications, inquiries, and expressions of interest will be handled confidentially.

For more information, please visit www.faulkner.edu/jsl/dsc.

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Shelby McMillon, like millions of other teens this spring, graduates from high school and heads for college in August. With growing concern about today's teens and their connection with the church, *The Christian Chronicle* takes this opportunity to ask for a teenager's perspective.

Shelby is active in her youth group at the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. In addition to high school and a concurrent college class, she volunteers each Thursday evening at an inner-city mission church in Oklahoma City. Each year at spring break she travels with a group to build houses for Habitat for Humanity in San Antonio. Last summer, she did campaign work in Honduras and plans the same again this summer.

While attending Memorial High School in Edmond, Okla., McMillon sang in the choir, lettered in cross-country, was a member of National Honor Society and helped with a district-wide charity fundraising drive that collected nearly a half-million dollars.

Her hobbies are reading, running and hanging out with friends. She lives with her parents, Jeff and Sydney, and her younger sister, Savannah. She plans to attend Oklahoma Christian University in the fall.

Note: If the last name looks familiar, there's a reason: Shelby McMillon is the granddaughter of *Christian Chronicle* editor Lynn McMillon and his wife, Joy.

How do you express your faith in Jesus?

I generally express my belief in Jesus by being open about my faith. Being in high school, I often have people ask me why I believe what I believe and wonder why I don't participate in activities that they do.

Personally, these types of questions do not upset me because it gives me an opportunity to share my faith. I generally am very open about my faith and the way I live because I have a Father in heaven that loves me no matter how many times I've messed up. Even though I'm not anywhere close to perfect, I try to live for him and treat people the way I know Jesus would have treated them.



JANA HILL PHOTOGRAPHY

Shelby McMillon has participated in foreign and domestic mission trips during high school.

A conversation with Shelby McMillon

COLLEGE-BOUND TEEN discusses dreams for the future and reaching others for Christ

How do you hope to fulfill your Christian mission in life?

Going to college next year, I plan to continue growing in my walk with God. Even though I've always been a go-with-the-flow kind of person, I've been sure of the fact that I need to keep up with my spiritual discipline, and I feel pretty passionate about that. I love talking to people, whether I know them well or not. I hope, as I get older, I will meet people that I can be a mentor to as I've also been blessed by many people that I can model my faith after.

I'm very involved at an inner-city mission church in Oklahoma City, and I hope to continue to build relationships with kids down there and minister the love of Jesus to them. It's also really important to me to find a good Christian guy that will challenge me to be a better Christian every day. In those ways, I hope I can successfully fulfill my mission as a Christian.

How can young people your age be reached for Jesus?

I think that kids my age view Christians as judgmental hypocrites and generally try to stay away from the church for fear of not being accepted. I've had several friends complain that this is the reason they don't come or have stopped coming. This discourages me. I think one way that we can help this is by talking to people outside of our comfort zones. I think that if we, as a Christian family, step away from what we're comfortable with and see things from an outsider's view, it will be easier to reach out to young people.

What are you and your friends looking for in religion?

Growing up in the church, I've always been blessed with solid Christian friends. Something we've always strived to do is not to gossip and to see everyone in a good light. This is difficult, especially for many teenage girls. Although we aren't

always perfect about it, my friends and I discuss how we should be trying to break the stereotype and see and treat all people without judgment or criticism.

Are your non-Christian friends interested in becoming Christians?

I come into contact with friends at school that have never experienced what it's like to be a Christian. It's often difficult to convince them to come to church because they aren't comfortable with it.

However, that doesn't mean they aren't interested in what I have to say and potentially coming. So it is important to me to keep talking to them because of the chance that they will change their mind and come with me and check it out!

What most discourages you and your Christian friends?

The thing that probably discourages my friends and me the most is when we see people that we care about make bad choices. It's hard especially when we know that the people involved are people that know what's right and do the wrong thing regardless. It's also discouraging when people don't want any help from us because we want so desperately for them to experience the walk we enjoy. But we have to remember that God is in control, not us, and that he will look after them and be there waiting for them to come to him when they're ready.

How can Christian teens be kept from leaving the church?

This is a question that my youth group often wrestles with. Something that I think I will practice next year when I'm on my own at college is accountability, especially with my close Christian friends and peers. It would also be helpful for adults to hold students, ones that they've watched grow up or have a personal connection with, accountable for attending church and being faithful.

I think that a big way of stopping teens from leaving the church is by being warm and welcoming when they do come to church and making them feel like they belong in the church family. Reach out to them and maybe invite them to dinner at your house.

Growing up as a minister's daughter, we've always had kids come over, and I know that it helps make people feel welcome, and they're more likely to stay involved with their church.

See McMILLON, Page 22



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**McMILLON: 'God loves
me despite my struggles
and mistakes.'**

FROM PAGE 21

**What most challenges your
Christian walk?**

The thing that most challenges me in my Christian walk is probably my tendency to get distracted. At school I am involved in many activities and this often results in my forgetting to talk to God or to read my Bible throughout the day. I know this is something that I am constantly struggling with and something that I am always trying to improve. I also struggle with remembering that God loves me despite my struggles and mistakes and lack of communication with him.

However, when I do stop for a moment in my busy days, I remind myself that the God who created the earth and everything in it wants to have a relationship with me, which is awesome.

**Why do you plan to attend a
Christian university?**

I want to go to a Christian university because it is very important to me to be surrounded by Christian friends who will not only have a good influence on me, but will also help me in my faith.

Even though there are always selections of these kinds of friends at any school you go to, I believe that I will have the most success in finding them at a Christian university. Also, one of the most important things to me is finding a good Christian man to marry, and I have a strong belief that a Christian campus is a perfect place to find one.

Lastly, where a state school wouldn't require it, Oklahoma Christian provides education in Bible, which is also very important.

**What is your favorite Scripture?
Why?**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me. — Psalm 51:10-12

This verse reminds me to ask God for strength, willingness and desire to pursue and follow him, which is ultimately the most important thing to me.

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donna.taylor@LCU.edu



LUBBOCK
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

CONSTITUTIONAL: Public schools may accommodate religious instruction

FROM PAGE 3

Nationwide, such programs serve an estimated 300,000 to 350,000 students in 32 states, according to School Ministries, a Released Time advocacy group based in Columbia, S.C. “My first response was, ‘Is this legal?’” said Mary Beth Christy, a Holland Park member and program volunteer. “Yes, praise God, it is legal.

“My feeling is that this program is a tiny opening of the door that was shut in 1962,” Christy added, referring to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that banned teacher-led prayer in public schools.

Decades ago, religious instruction occurred on public school grounds themselves, said Charles C. Haynes, director of the Religious Freedom Education Program in Washington, D.C.

“Kids would go to a class taught by a religious leader, depending on their choice,” Haynes told *The Christian Chronicle*. “It might be a priest, minister or rabbi. That was not uncommon in American public schools for a period of time.” But in 1948 — in the case *McCollum v. Board of Education* — the Supreme Court ruled that religious groups and school officials had cooperated unconstitutionally to provide religious instruction.

“Here not only are the State’s tax-supported public school buildings used for the dissemination of religious doctrines,”

Justice Hugo Black wrote. “The State also affords sectarian groups an invaluable aid in that it helps provide pupils for their religion classes through use of the state’s compulsory public school machinery. This is not separation of Church and State.”

Four years later, however, the 1952 case *Zorach v. Clauson* set the legal precedent that still governs Released Time.

In that case, the high court ruled specifically on the constitutionality of off-campus, Released Time programs, emphasizing the difference between schools supporting religious indoctrination and merely accommodating children’s religious needs.

“We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being,” Justice William O. Douglas wrote in the landmark decision.

“When the State encourages religious instruction or cooperates with religious authorities by adjusting the schedule of public events to sectarian needs, it then follows the best of our traditions, for it then respects the religious nature of our people and accommodates the public services to their spiritual needs.”

The decision allows schools to permit Released Time, but it does not require them to do so, legal experts said.

Last year, the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Spartanburg, S.C., program that lets high school students



Elementary school girls answer questions about the Ten Commandments during a Released Time class in Greenville County, S.C. Pictured at the back are Holland Park church members Mary Beth Christy and Janice Butler.

earn elective credit through off-campus religious courses.

“Although we hear threats, there are no major Released Time cases pending right now,” said Lori Windham, senior counsel with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty in Washington. “I think that decision (by the Fourth Circuit) sent a strong message that Released Time is here to stay,” added Windham, a member of the Fairfax Church of Christ in Virginia and a graduate of Abilene Christian University in Texas.

‘ALL ABOUT TEACHING THE WORD’

Here in Greenville County — where the state’s largest school district serves 70,000 students — churches from a variety of denominations cooperate to offer Released Time instruction.

Christian Learning Centers buses transport students between schools and nearby churches that host the program.

All participating churches must sign a basic statement of Christian belief — including belief in one God, Jesus as Lord and the Old and New Testaments as “God-breathed.”

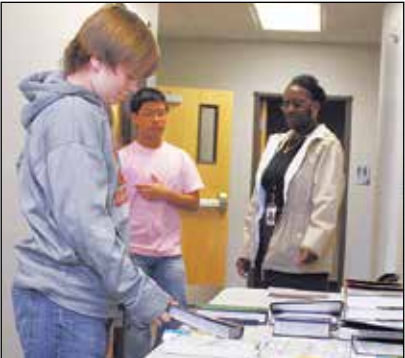
In the Bible lessons taught to students, the individual churches must leave out their distinctive doctrines, “the ones that cause all of us to be different,” director Butler said. “As a result, you have a lot of people from a lot of different church affiliations able to work together well and not bicker about their differences of interpretations of the Scriptures and

stuff like that,” she said.

“It’s not about that,” she added. “It’s all about God. It’s all about Jesus. It’s all about teaching the Word, so that young people can get to know

God and Jesus better, to help them understand that they need a Savior.” Don Taylor, a Holland Park elder, said the congregation southeast of Greenville considered the potential drawbacks of working with other churches.

“There was some question of, ‘Are people going to start evangelizing? Are we going to teach them the right way to get salvation?’” Taylor said. “But then we



At the Holland Park church, a student picks out a new Bible to take home.



Students at Mauldin Middle School in Simpsonville, S.C., board a bus taking them to Released Time Bible class at the Holland Park church.

got to thinking and said, ‘Look, all we’re doing here is teaching the kids the Bible.’”

Once a week, elementary and middle school students leave an elective class such as art or music for Released Time.

High school participants attend for-credit Bible classes daily.

The Holland Park church has developed a relationship with the middle school across the street — and an elementary school next door — beyond the released time program.

Members tutor students. They adopt school families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. They provide needy children with backpacks full of non-perishable foods each Friday — an undertaking dubbed “Mission Backpack.”

After bowing to pray, volunteer Mays’ class turns to the

first chapter of the Gospel of John.

“How was Jesus there at the beginning of creation if he wasn’t born until the New Testament?” 13-year-old Brooke Evans asks after reading the first few verses.

“He was there, but he came to Earth to be in the form of a human,” Mays explains.

Today’s class is the last released time of the school year, so all the students pick out a brand-new Bible to take home.

Then they enjoy a juice box and a snack before boarding the bus back to school.

“I like learning about Jesus and all that stuff,” Brooke, an eighth-grader, tells the *Chronicle*, “because we don’t do that at our school since we go to public school.

“That’s why I like coming here.”

Christian education program takes director back to her roots

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

GREENVILLE, S.C.

Janice Butler has a passion for teaching children about Jesus. The executive director of the Christian Learning Centers of Greenville County traces that passion to her own hardscrabble upbringing.

“A lot of times we didn’t have the things that we needed, just bare necessities,” the Greenville native said.

Despite not growing up in a Christian home, Butler came to know the Lord.

The Holland Park Church of Christ member looks back and sees the seeds planted in her life: a faithful aunt and uncle who made God seem special; Christian university students who came to her low-income community and told Bible stories on her porch; a neighbor lady who invited her to church and demonstrated a special zeal for the Bible.

Later, a Church of Christ preacher named James W. Kennedy studied with Butler’s grandmother, Carrie Davis, and converted her.

Fred Turner, a young man who worked with the teens at Kennedy’s church, took a special interest in Butler and began taking her to tent meetings.

At age 13, she responded to the invitation and was baptized for the remission of her sins.

All the seeds planted — all the people with whom God put her in contact — played a role, she said.

“They all had something to do with my decision when the time came for God to give the increase by having me come to him,” said Butler, who is married to Nathaniel and has two sons, Scott, 43, and David, 37.

A NEW CALLING

As a young adult, Butler taught children’s Bible classes at her home congregation and shared Jesus in low-income neighborhoods like the one where she grew up.

She worked 30 years as an administrative assistant for Bell South before retiring and earning a teaching degree from Clemson University.

In the mid-1990s, as she contemplated a second career in education, she learned about the concept of “Released Time” religious instruction. She discovered a new calling organizing off-campus Bible studies for public school students.

Christian Learning Centers — the nonprofit organization she leads — serves more than 1,800 students from 20 elementary, middle and high schools.

“She’s a superb leader. God has given her a vision for this ministry,”

Jeff Payne, Holland Park’s senior minister, said of Butler. “In a big way, our role as her church family has been to keep encouraging her and giving her confidence to step forward.”

Lorraine Angel, Christian Learning Centers’ high school education supervisor, describes Butler as “a force.”

“She’s only got one goal,” Angel said of Butler’s desire to expose students to

God’s word. “She’s truly Paul’s woman. She’s got that finish line in sight, and she’s heading for it. And you better get on and go with it.”

SOWING-AND-WATERING MINISTRY

Butler — who oversees a \$240,000 annual budget raised through donations — deflects attention from herself, noting that the program involves 43 churches and 250 volunteers.

Her goal: to persuade more and more churches to sponsor released time education.

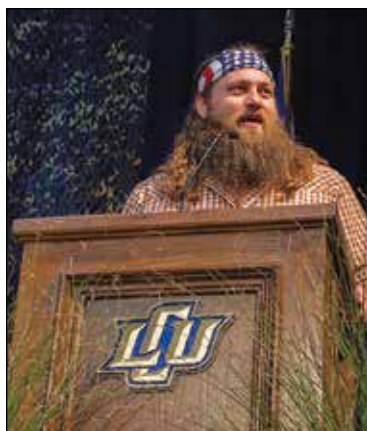
“There are a lot of children who have already been taught some biblical principles,” Butler said. “We’re just watering that.

“There are a lot of children who don’t go to church — like I didn’t when I was little — and we’re sowing the seed,” she added. “We will probably not see them all come to the point of being saved or coming to Christ. But we know that what’s done, God is going to use for his glory.”

WEBSITE: www.clcofgreenville.org



BOBBY ROSS JR.



BRANDON GRACE



ASHEL PARSONS



KRISTI JONES



BECKY WILLIS

At LCU, Harding and Lipscomb events, 'Duck Dynasty' family shares faith, insight, humor

The Robertson family — stars of the hit reality series "Duck Dynasty" and active members of the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La. — keep sharing their faith, insight and humor across the nation.

In the top left photo, Duck Commander CEO Willie Robertson speaks at a "Dynasty of Faith" event in Midland, Texas. The Lubbock Christian University Foundation hosted the event.

In the second photo, Willie Robertson visits with business students at Harding University

in Searcy, Ark. The third photo shows Phil, Kay, Si and Al Robertson in Nashville, Tenn., discussing their life journey with Lipscomb University athletic director Philip Hutcheson. The Robertsons were featured at Lipscomb's fifth annual Don Meyer Evening of Excellence.

In the fourth photo, cast member John Godwin, also a White's Ferry Road member, poses with Braden Massey while appearing at a 4-H program benefit event in Dyer County, Tenn. The program is directed by Becky Willis, a member of the Bishop Street Church of Christ in Union City, Tenn.

EVANGELISM

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

CEDAR PARK, Texas — "*Aprenda acerca de la Biblia gratis.*" That's Spanish for "Study the Bible for Free."

World Bible School, a Bible correspondence ministry supported by Churches of Christ, has launched a Spanish-language version of its website, www.escuelabiblicamundial.org, for spiritual seekers in the U.S. and around the globe. The ministry seeks Spanish-speaking teachers to correspond with the students. For more information, see the "Become a Teacher" link at www.worldbibleschool.net.

HIGHER EDUCATION

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

ABILENE, Texas — ACU's 8,048-page, 1,094-pound Waynai Bible, said to be the largest book of its kind in the world, is on loan for display in Colorado Springs, Colo., as part of the Green Collection's traveling exhibit at Passages, an interactive Bible showcase.

"The Green Collection and its exhibitions of biblical artifacts exist so that people can experience the creation of a book that has altered history, shaped cultures, inspired minds and changed lives," said John B. Weaver, dean of the

ACU library. For more information, see www.explorepassages.com.

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — Does Jesus exist?

Ralph Gilmore, professor of Bible and philosophy at Freed-Hardeman, believes deeply that he does. With assistance from fellow professor Doug Burleson,



Gilmore

Gilmore argued for the historicity of Jesus in a dialogue sponsored by the Warren Apologetics Center in Vienna, W.Va.

The discussion also involved Roy A. Varghese, who gave a historical view of Jesus consistent with Catholicism, and Robert M. Price, author of "Deconstructing Christ," who promoted the view that Jesus never existed.

"We were extremely well-prepared, with an arsenal of research," Gilmore said. View a webcast of the debate at warrenapologeticscenter.org.

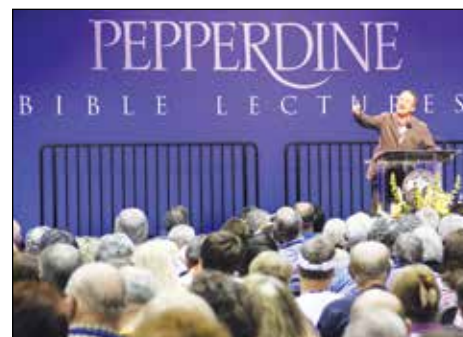
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

MALIBU, Calif. — Christians sang, studied and prayed for rain during the recent Pepperdine Bible Lectures.

As the 70th annual lectures concluded, a 28,000-acre wildfire raged a few miles west of the university's campus in Ventura County. The prayers

were answered, as roaring Santa Ana winds calmed and light rain fell in the days after the lectures, allowing fire-fighters to contain the blaze.

The Bible lectures, the first under the direction of Mike Cope, brought together thousands of church members from around the globe. "Can I Get a Witness: Faithfully Following the Lamb in Revelation" was the theme.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Mike Cope delivers a keynote at Pepperdine.

MEDIA MINISTRY

WORLD CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING

ANCHOR POINT, Alaska — Faith-based broadcasts have traveled from this remote northern city to short-wave radios around the world for 30 years, thanks to World Christian Broadcasting.

Workers with the church-supported,

Franklin, Tenn.-based ministry celebrate the milestone as they wait for approval of transmitters for a short-wave antenna on the island of Madagascar.

The ministry daily broadcasts 10 hours of programming in Mandarin Chinese, five hours in Russian and five hours in English. The ministry plans to broadcast in additional languages from Madagascar, including Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese.

SCOUTING

CHURCHES OF CHRIST FOR SCOUTING

ABILENE, Texas — The board of trustees of Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting vehemently opposed the recent decision by the Boy Scouts of America to allow openly gay boys into its ranks.

However, the national association urges church-sponsored Scout units to "stay the course" rather than leave the organization.

"We are perplexed by the decision that was rendered, but we are confident that God is in control and that we can continue to be a positive witness for Christ throughout the world of Scouting," the Church of Christ association said in a letter to member units.

See the full statement at www.christianchronicle.org/blog. Search for "scouting."



The Conference Center at Quaker Hill

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Richmond, IN 47374
info@qhcc.org • 765-962-5741
www.qhcc.org



Terry Rush “Awaken to God’s Wonder!”

Sept. 6th & 7th, 2013

Join us for a special weekend with Terry.
See website for more information - www.qhcc.org

Join us as we celebrate 50 years as a church family!

SUNDAY, JULY 7

CLASS 8:45 A.M. | WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.
LUNCH TO FOLLOW



Full-Time Pulpit Preacher/Evangelist

Full time pulpit preacher/evangelist wanted for a congregation located 25 miles south of our nation's capital in a county of ~150,000 people. We have a Sunday morning attendance of 50-60 and we're looking for someone to accept the challenge of growing the church in this area. Some outside support may be needed. College degree or formal preacher training is preferred. Prior pulpit minister/evangelist experience required. Please send resume with references, photo, and two sample sermons on a DVD/CD to:

Waldorf church of Christ
30 Village St., Waldorf, MD 20602
Attn: Preacher Search Committee
Or email: cocw@comcast.net
Website: <http://waldorfchurchofchrist.org/>



Faulkner University

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Faulkner University continually seeks talented, high energy individuals to help us succeed in these times of growth and we are excited to announce the following open positions.

Multiple Faculty Positions – Available Fall 2013

All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to Christ-centered Liberal Arts education and Christian service.

College of Arts and Sciences

Counseling
eCampus Faculty

College of Business

Accounting
Business Information Systems
Marketing

College of Education

Chair

Jones School of Law

Law Faculty

INDIVIDUAL? COUPLE? TEAM?

SUPPORTED AND LOOKING FOR A MISSION FIELD?

Rawlins, Wyoming could be the place for **you!!**

Tiny congregation (10 members), needs help to rebuild in area of 10,000+ population.

In past, it has been as many as 50 + members. Our congregation has a building and residence and, we're debt free!

If interested, please call **307-321-2812** for more info.

Wanted: Faithful man of God

The **Northwest Church of Christ** is seeking a Minister to preach, teach and equip the saints here to serve the Lord!

Sunday morning attendance avg. 100 with Elders and Deacons.

Submit your resume with three sermons (audio and /or video) to:

Northwest Church of Christ,
5151 Oakman Blvd., Detroit, MI 48204
nwchurchofchrist@sbcglobal.net
Shelia Wright, 313-834-0562

100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO GOD!

Saturday, July 13th

Lobster Valley church of Christ will be celebrating their **100th anniversary** in the Oregon Coast Range.

The theme: Psalm 61:5
“You have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.”

For details, contact minister:
Brian Leavitt by e-mail:
save1life@peak.org



Academic rank for faculty positions will be based upon education and experiential qualifications according to University policy. These positions are full-time, 9 or 12-months. The candidates selected must be available to assume the duties of the positions Summer or Fall of 2013. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. The review of applications will begin immediately. Employment is conditional upon a satisfactory background check and verification of work authorization through E-Verify.

Additional details regarding these positions, including application requirements, are available on Faulkner’s website:
www.faulkner.edu

Faulkner University • 5345 Atlanta Hwy • Montgomery, AL • 36109

FULL-TIME EVANGELIST/MISSIONARY

The **Lewistown Church of Christ** is searching for a full-time Faithful Family of God to teach & equip the saints for service. Lewistown is a blue-collar town of 12,000, in the very center of **Pennsylvania’s rural country side**.

Experience required, & formal preacher training or college Bible degree preferred. Please submit your resume with references, photo & 2 sample sermons (audio and/or video) to:

Search Committee
Lewistown Church of Christ
301 South Pine Street, Lewistown, Pa 17044
Or email: bill@meekerequipment.com
Website: <http://lewistownchurchofchrist.com>

TAHOE FAMILY ENCAMPMENT

Date: **July 20-26, 2013**
 Theme: **"God's Way Is Best"**
 Location: **Tahoe Valley Campground**
 1175 Melba Dr., S. Lake Tahoe, CA
Come enjoy a week of Christian fellowship, family, fun and inspiring speakers and classes at one of the most beautiful mountain lakes in the world.
 For camping reservations, contact the campground at (530) 541-2222.
Mention TFE for a 20% discount.
 Full Information At Our Website:
www.tahoefamilyencampment.com

Congregations all over the world are using eBibleStudy.org for their Bible Classes!

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OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Go to
www.eBibleStudy.org

College Minister

Collegeside church of Christ in Cookeville, TN is seeking a college minister for its University Christian Student Center (UCSC) ministry.

The UCSC minister serves as the evangelistic leader to students on the campus of **Tennessee Tech University**.

See a complete job description at Collegeside.org.

Please submit resumes no later than **June 14th** via email to collegesideupdate@gmail.com or via mail to:

Collegeside church of Christ
 Attn: UCSC Minister
 252 East 9th Street
 Cookeville, TN 38501

The **2nd and Adams Church of Christ in Elk City, OK** is searching for a married Family/Youth Minister.

Some specialized education and family/youth ministry experience is preferred, but other applicants will be considered.

Send resume to:

Elders,

2nd and Adams Church of Christ
 PO Box 1609, Elk City, OK
 73648-1609

Full-Time Minister
 The **Enterprise Boulevard Church of Christ** is searching for a full-time minister.

Send Resumes to:

2801 Enterprise Boulevard
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Fax: 337-430-0093

office@blvdchurchofchrist.org
www.blvdchurchofchrist.org

Minister Needed

The **Broadview Church of Christ** in Parma, OH (Cleveland suburb) is now seeking a full-time minister. Current minister is retiring after 15 years.

Congregation is long-established and self-supporting. BA degree, evangelistic preaching and youth work interest required.

Contact:

Search Committee Chairman
Roger Pace at 216-741-4456

Send Resumes to:

brcofc.preachersearch@gmail.com



BECOMING
 ONE IN THE ONE

37th Annual National Christian Singles Seminar

Hosted by: North Las Vegas Church of Christ

August 30th - September 2nd

www.churchofchristnccs.com

Chief Executive Officer Needed

Church of Christ Care Center, a continuum of care retirement community, is now seeking a Chief Executive Officer for the skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility and 52 HUD subsidized senior living apartments located in Clinton Township, Michigan.

Qualified candidates will possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree in health care administration and 7-10 years of experience in health care administration, preferably long term care. A master's degree and/or NHA license is also preferred. Qualified candidates should email their resume and salary history to:

Ms. Caren Kehrer
 Director Of Human Resources
 Church of Christ Care Center
ckehrer@cofccc.org
 (586) 791-2475

The deadline to apply for this position is **June 30, 2013.**



Orlando, FL

Celebrating 50 years
 of worshipping together on
 Concord Street

August 11, 2013

Following morning worship, join us for a day of food and fellowship.

Lunch will be served at
 Central Florida Bible Camp.

Former members, friends, and visitors are invited to this historical celebration.

For more information:
 Halo Fernandez
hrfern12@earthlink.net

June 3-7 Missionary Renewal Retreat.

Hosted by Missions Resource Network.

Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn.

Contact (888) 641-2229 or www.mrnet.org.

June 3-14 Tabernacle Experience.

Hosted by Park Plaza Church of Christ in

Tulsa, Okla. Contact (918) 627-3201 or

www.parkplaza.org.

June 6-9 Quest Retreat (Spanish).

Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp. Contact Fernando Diaz at

(847) 445-5870 or www.wcyc.org.

June 12-14 40th Prison/Jail Ministry Workshop.

Heritage Christian University, Florence, Ala. Contact William Dean,

director@nationalprisonworkshop.org or

www.nationalprisonworkshop.org.

June 15-16 50th Anniversary,

Eastwood church in El Paso, Texas.

Contact (915) 593-2772 or www.eastwoodchurchofchrist.org.

June 17-21 Missionary Renewal Retreat.

Hosted by Missions Resource Network. Lake Texoma, Texas. Contact

(888) 641-2229 or www.mrnet.org.

June 22-23 Niceville, Fla., Church of Christ Homecoming.

Contact (850)

678-2911 or www.nicevillechurchofchrist.org.

June 23-28 Ozark Christian Camp.

Camp Paron, Ark. Contact (479) 521-6809,

lsgage129@cs.com or www.ozarkchristiancamp.org.

June 30-July 2 Summer Celebration.

Lipscomb University, Nashville,

Tenn. Contact www.lipscomb.edu/summercelebration.

July 5-7 100th Anniversary, 16th and Decatur church in Washington, D.C.

"Building on the Foundation that Will Last.

Contact (202) 882-4711 or www.coc16th.org.

July 7 50th Anniversary, Memorial Road church in Edmond, Okla.

Contact

www.mrcc.org or (405) 478-0166.

July 7 50th Anniversary, Park Plaza church in Tulsa, Okla.

"Love. Live. Lead."

Contact www.parkplaza.org.

July 13 100th Anniversary, Lobster Valley church in Alsea, Ore.

Contact Brian

Leavitt at save1life@peak.org.

July 13-19 80th Anniversary, Lewis Street church in Little Rock, Ark.

Contact (501) 666-2074.

July 19-20 11th Annual Central Texas Bible Teachers Workshop.

Hosted by

Cameron Road church in Austin, Texas.

Contact (513) 452-0639 or www.crccaustin.org/ctbtw.

July 20-26 Tahoe Family Encampment.

"God's Way is Best." Tahoe Valley

Campground, Lake Tahoe, Calif. Contact

www.tahoefamilyencampment.com or

(916) 989-4885.

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Neika Stephens and Bill Wright to the board of directors of World Christian Broadcasting in Franklin, Tenn. Stephens attended Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., and has enjoyed a professional career in advertising and television programming and sales. Wright is from Hendersonville, Tenn. where he is an attorney. Harding University in Searcy, Ark., named **Zach Neal** assistant vice president for student life and dean of students, **Kathy Allen** director of residence life and **Loretta Gregersen** assistant director of residence life.



Stephens



Neal

AWARDED: Lipscomb Academy Elementary School in Nashville, Tenn., is a winner in the National Energy Education Development Project. The school was named Primary Level School of the Year by a national awards review panel representing various aspects of the energy industry and education sector. The school also was named a 2013 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School.



WWW.LIPSCOMB.EDU/ELEMENTARY

Children pray at Lipscomb Elementary.

NEW ELDERS: Stan Stout and Keith Vail, Johnson Avenue Church of Christ, La Mesa, Calif. Ray Castleberry, Pat Mullen and Gerald Stuckey, Evergreen Church of Christ, Evergreen, Ala.

ANNIVERSARIES: 73rd: Don and Lucile Chamberlain, Laton, Calif.

BIRTHDAYS: 103rd: Betty Reasonover, Kemp, Texas. **100th:** Cleo C. Vaughn Heath, Paragould, Ark. **98th:** Katie Long, Altus, Okla.; Mary Frances McHam, Bryan, Texas. **96th:** Frances Reasonover, Kemp, Texas. **94th:** Grace Dempsey, Altus, Okla. **80th:** Mary Proffitt, Waterford, Mich.

PASSAGES: William Owen Cochran, 85, March 25, Stamford, Conn.

Milestones

a paid service of The Christian Chronicle

Graduations

Thomas Reed

Congratulations, Thomas, on your graduation from Glasgow High School in Newark, Del. Thomas is a faithful Christian who attends Cedars Church of Christ in Wilmington, Del. He was a three-year varsity lacrosse defenseman and co-captain this past season. He was a member of marching, concert, jazz, steel drum bands and percussion ensemble. Thomas will be attending Messiah College in the fall on an academic scholarship. His proud parents and brother are Boyd, Lisa and Ethan Reed.



Achievements

Anna Campbell

Vienna, W.Va. — Anna Campbell, a biochemistry senior at Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., was recently selected for the American Chemistry Society Regional Student Award for Best General/Organic Chemistry. Anna's professor, Dr. Stephen Opoku-Duah, nominated her for the award. Anna has earned a 4.0 GPA not only in chemistry, but in all her subjects at OVU. Besides excelling in academics, she also serves as the captain of the girls' soccer team. Anna plans to further her study of science by applying for Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies programs.



Allen and Robin Dutton

Congratulations to Allen and Robin Dutton and their children, Tyler and Laura, who celebrated 20 years of mission work in Campinas, Brazil, on May 26. When they arrived, there was one congregation of about 50. Today there are four churches

with about 380 in attendance. Three church buildings have also been built. Allen is an ophthalmologist/missionary who uses a medical clinic and theology classes to spread the gospel.

Birthdays

Dorothy Mullins Wesley — 103 years
Alfred Mullins — 93 years

A notable brother-sister duo recently celebrated birthdays. Mr. Alfred Mullins of Chicago turned 93 on May 23, and Mrs. Dorothy Mullins Wesley of Detroit turned 103 on May 3, 2013. The Mullins family, originally from Tuscumbia, Ala, trace their Church of Christ roots to the end of slavery. Their great-grandfather George Ricks became the first African-American Church of Christ minister in Alabama in 1865.

Brother Mullins was baptized in 1937 under the leadership of Brother Duel Gant at the Michigan Avenue Church of Christ in Chicago. In the intervening years, he has worshipped at the Stony Island and Chatham-Avalon Churches of Christ. Sister Wesley obeyed the gospel in the 1920's under the leadership of Brother Hannon. Eventually, she moved to Detroit, Mich., and is currently a member of the Conant Garden Church of Christ.

Anniversaries



Al and Mary Jolly — 65 years
Hilltop Lakes, Texas

Dear Mary,
When we were dating in 1947, "A-N-G-E-L spells Mary" was popular. I cherish the sentiment of that song because you have been my angel for 65 years, encouraging and helping me during my 57 years of preaching. Before we married we promised to never consider divorce, and we never have. When I was converted and you were recommitted to Christ, we began our side-by-side walk with Jesus. Thank God, and we aren't through yet!

Love, Al



Keith and Carlene Renoud - 70 years
Barry, Ill.

On June 5, Keith and Carlene Renoud of Barry, Ill. celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. They are the parents of Carla (Gary) Furniss of Barry, Randall (Myrna) Renoud of Ottawa, Kan. and Ken D. (Dorothy) Renoud of Pleasant Hill, Ill. They have seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. In the early 1950s, the Church of Christ met at their home before moving into the current building. Keith has held many positions in the church: led singing, preaching, bus driver, and currently an elder. Carlene owned a flower shop, yet was able to have several gospel preachers stay in their home. She is a member of Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Carlene held several office positions at the state and national level, and attended several conventions.

Ministry notes

FROM WOUNDED TO WONDERFUL
The Memorial Drive Church of Christ in Tulsa experienced healing from a thirty-six year wound on Memorial weekend. That many years ago Wayne Monroe was abruptly fired as a contest between him and the elders was turbulent. Too, thirty-six years from this Memorial weekend I was introduced as the new preacher on board.



Sunday morning Wayne and I preached in tandem — he from all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28) and I that our purpose from the cross is found in being wounded that others may be healed (1 Peter 2:21-25). He and I discussed how we had both injured and been injured. Because we are learners, it goes both ways in church life. When Shane Coffman and the worship team then sang "Heal Me," it seemed that God did. Healing takes place when we are focused upon Jesus. Indeed it did for Wayne, for this congregation and for me. Troubles teach. Maturity develops. Endurance inspires. Never quit.

— Terry Rush

Share your milestones. Email us at milestones@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5071.



'Love greater than any storm'

AARON TUTTLE.

Meteorologist Aaron Tuttle captured this image of a May 19 tornado, framed against a cross on Interstate 35 in Edmond, Okla. One day later, another tornado devastated Moore.

Once again, we devote pages of *The Christian Chronicle* to tragedy. This time it isn't a tsunami in Southeast Asia, a famine in Kenya, an earthquake in Haiti. This time, it's close to home.

Here in Tornado Alley, violent storms are a fact of life — something for which we prepare, drill, anticipate and pray for the strength to endure.

We know Paul's teaching in Romans 8, that the earth groans in anticipation of the day when "creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay." But that reality does little to ease the sense of loss.

We find comfort in the messages of concern and encouragement we have received from around the globe. Believers who grew up in war-torn nations, enduring unimaginable strife,

have called to make sure we're OK.

We are OK. This is our home. We will mourn the losses and celebrate the heroes among us — friends who lived out their faith by valuing others above themselves. We will salvage, weep and ask God, "Why?" And we will rebuild.

Our friend Glenn Pemberton wrote a prayer — a psalm, really — just after the Moore, Okla., tornado. When he lived here in Oklahoma, Pemberton and his family lost their home to fire.

Now a professor of Old Testament at Abilene Christian University in Texas, he has endured chronic pain that has confined him to a wheelchair.

His journey inspired him to author "Hurting with God: Learning to Lament with the Psalms." We offer this prayer to all of those hurting, everywhere.

*Oh God, hear us;
Lord, have mercy!*

*All we can see are
hook echoes,
velocity signatures,
and debris balls.*

*And now, trees uprooted,
crumpled buildings,
cars tossed like toys,
empty foundations,
fire and smoke,
damage everywhere,
everywhere — nothing.*

*Schools collapsed.
Children, dear God,
Our children.
Oh God, help us!*

*God have mercy
on parents and children.
God have mercy
on first responders.
God have mercy
on doctors, nurses.
God have mercy
on those injured.
God have mercy
on those still in danger.*

*God have mercy tonight
on those waiting to hear
from family and friends;
Oh God, bring good news.*

*Prove that your grace is
larger
than a mile-wide
tornado,
your love greater than
any storm.*

*Oh God, hear us;
Lord, have mercy!*

— Glenn Pemberton

SEE ADDITIONAL PRAYERS at www.facebook.com/HurtingWithGod



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Hard teaching: Amid fear and division, what does it mean to love our Muslim neighbors?

Dr. Amir Arain is a good friend of mine. We've worked together on several projects during the four years I've lived in Nashville, Tenn.

Amir is a top neurologist at Vanderbilt Medical Center and a leading professor at Vanderbilt University. He also happens to be the spokesman on matters of faith and culture for the Nashville Islamic Center.

While Amir is from Pakistan, he became a U.S. citizen. He is dedicated to his adopted country and is as devout to his faith and family as I am to mine. The same is true of my immediate neighbors: Baha, Nima, Arin and Alan Hassan.

In Dearborn, Mich. — just 20 minutes from where I grew up — U.S. citizens make up the single largest concentration of Arabs in the world outside of the Middle East. These Muslim leaders are doctors, teachers, military servants and spiritual directors. They are part of the fabric of our nation.

I immediately thought of my Muslim neighbors — Amir, the Hassan family and the people of Dearborn — when the Islamic religious affiliation of the two brothers accused of bombing the Boston Marathon emerged.

We can't make sense of the horrific and despicable actions allegedly carried out by brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev. But neither should we conclude that most Muslims are hateful, violent and vengeful people.

Let me be clear: The Wahhabi segments of Islam and other militant groups committed to terrorism, violence and radical jihad are a major problem.

As Eboo Patel, an American Muslim and founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, notes, "The most successful youth group in the world are al Qaeda, and they are successful because they target extremely poor teenage boys with a message of purpose, a definable enemy, a place to live and food for their stomach."

I believe that radical Islam is intolerable, just as I believe that anyone who professes faith and resorts to violence destroys the essence of that faith.

Today, Muslims and Christians make

up nearly half the world's total population. Eighty percent of Muslims around the world do not live in the Middle East and do not speak Arabic. Islam is as diverse a religion as we have on Planet Earth.

Views



Josh Graves

Consider this for a moment: There's a profound connection between Jews and Samaritans of the first century and Christians and Muslims of the 21st century. Jesus consistently spoke, taught and embodied a way for Jews to see, engage and share life with Samaritans. It's all over the gospels.

In the U.S., political and religious leaders are divided on their approach to Islam. Some tell Christians to fear Muslims, to not trust "them" because "those people" only want to kill, harm and destroy Christianity and Western Civilization.

Others insist that all religions — including Christianity and Islam — are the same, that we are all "traveling the same mountain, taking different paths."

Frankly, neither view is helpful. We've tried both options for the last half-century, and they are not working.

Fear and division only make things worse. At the same time, Judaism, Islam and Christianity are not the same. Pretending as if they are doesn't help matters. The Quran, the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament are very different texts.

Jesus teaches that we are to love our enemies; we are to engage with those the world deems "other" even if that makes us uncomfortable.

Too often we interpret Luke 10:25-37 — the Good Samaritan parable — merely to mean that we should change the tire of someone stranded on the side of the road.

Recently, while walking the sacred

steps of the 9/11 Memorial at Ground Zero in Manhattan, I felt my spirit drawn back to St. Paul's Chapel, immediately across the street from the site of one of the greatest human disasters in U.S. history.

The chapel is a wonderful example of healing, care, courage and love — all willing to suffer for the sake of others.

While praying in the cemetery of St. Paul's, my mind went back to the story of the Merciful Samaritan Story in Luke's gospel. How difficult that story must have been for Jews to hear as Jesus challenged them in how they saw their hated enemies, the Samaritans. How challenging it must have been to go along with the notion that Samaritans were capable of honor, courage and integrity.

I don't call Amir Arain my brother in the faith, but that doesn't make him any less my neighbor. According to Jesus, everyone is a neighbor, and there's no one who's not my neighbor.

Yes, I disagree with Amir on the precise meaning of Jesus' life. Because of this — not in spite of — I believe that the real test of my disagreement with Amir is in the depth of my commitment to love Amir as Jesus has loved both of us.

It's easy for me to love my brothers and sisters in the faith. Jesus wants to know if I know how to love my neighbors.

Jesus says, at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, that those who seek peace in a violent world are the ones whom God deems sons and daughters.

This is really hard teaching. I pray that God will give us ears to hear.

JOSH GRAVES, minister for the Otter Creek Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., is the author of "Tearing Down the Walls: a Guide for Muslims and Christians in North America." His doctoral studies focused on the relationship between Christianity and Islam in the U.S. He also authored "The Feast" and "Heaven on Earth." He blogs at joshuagraves.com. Follow him on Twitter at @joshgraves.

LETTERS

Readers are praising and fundraising

What a great issue the June issue was! From the West, Texas, story on the fertilizer plant (Page 1) to the gospel preaching in Jamaica (Page 13), the "Gospel of Goats" (Page 17) and the congregation with the prison ministry (Page 3), I couldn't put it down once I sat down with it. I don't mean to say that the regular issues fall short in any way, but this one was really special in the gamut of stories and how each dealt so well with the people involved.

Gary Moore | Woodland Hills, Calif.

I love *The Christian Chronicle*. I share my copy with my church friends. I came up with a good idea (with regard to increasing postage rates, see Editorial, Page 29, January).

If all 250,000 readers would set aside \$2 per month, they could send \$24 at the end of the year. That would be \$6 million. I'm going to start doing that myself on June 1.

I encourage others to try it.
Bill Boyd | Mariposa, Calif.

Learning to ask for help

This month's Views ("On a mission to learn," Page 31, June) brings to mind a comment I heard in a Bible class almost 25 years ago. The topic was letting fellow Christians know when we need help or encouragement. A young single man (a military officer) commented, "Well, I don't consider my needs to be as important because if I focus on them, I cannot focus on ministering to others."

The reply from a brand new widow: "Well, if you don't let your needs be made known, you deprive us of the chance to help you."

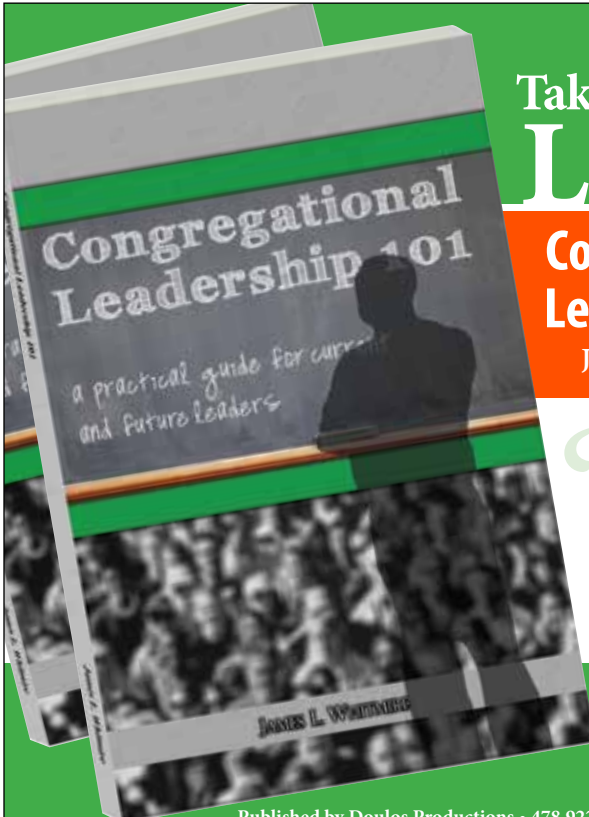
Russ Sharp | Edmond, Okla.

Must churches be 'mega'?

There seems to be an assumption that, to be a growing church, one must be or become a megachurch. (See Reviews, Page 32, June.)

However, do not neglect the intentionally small organic churches — for example, house churches and cell churches.

Darryl Willis | Ennis, Texas



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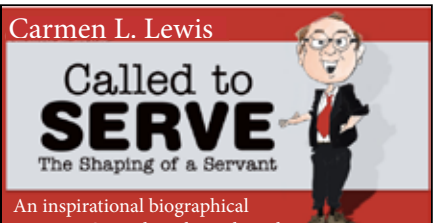
James L. Whitmire

...There is a shortage of qualified elders who are fully accomplishing their work in congregations. This book, if used, will go a long way to fixing that problem...

~Aaron Cozart

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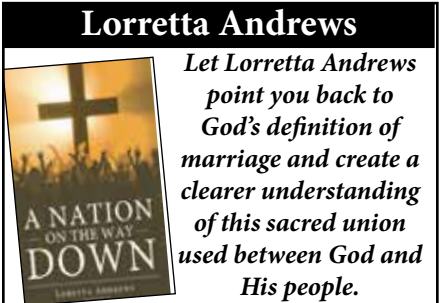
Carmen L. Lewis

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The Shaping of a Servant

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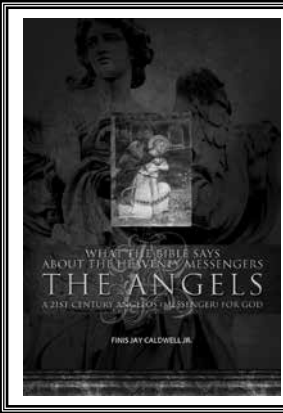
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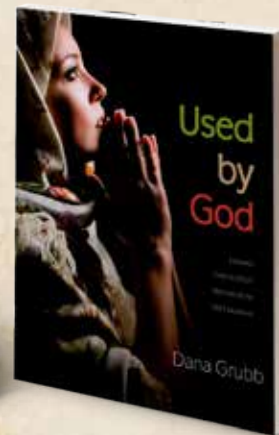
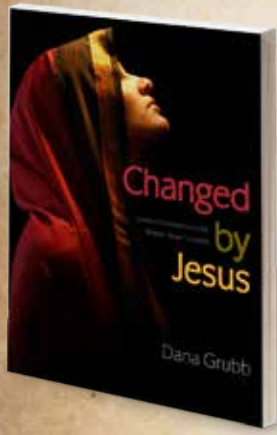
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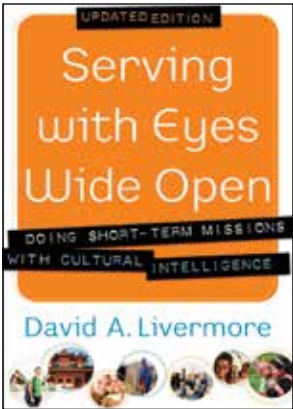
Short-term missions: Service or Christian tourism?

BY DANIEL MCGRAW | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Summer mission trips have become a rite of passage for Christian teenagers today. About 4 million North Americans travel internationally for mission trips each year, and 29 percent of high school teens have participated in cross-cultural service projects, according to recent studies by Princeton and Notre Dame universities. So common are short-term missions that they've acquired their own acronym — STMs. We must question, however, the overall effectiveness of these ministry experiences. Do these trips have a positive impact on the participants and the recipients, or could this effort, energy and money be put to better use?

Two recent books seek to explore the effectiveness of short-term efforts. They also call us to be more intentional in our designing, training and reporting about these trips.

In an updated version of his book **"Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-Term Missions with Cultural Intelligence,"** David A. Livermore, executive director of the Global Learning Center at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, argues for short-term mission work but maintains that the preparation and training of those going is of utmost importance. From a conversation with an indigenous church leader, Livermore realized that most workers have prepared "just enough to make them dangerous."



★★★★★
David A. Livermore, **Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-Term Missions with Cultural Intelligence** (updated edition). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2013. 190 pages. \$13.99.

Livermore contends that short-term mission work is most effective when participants serve with cultural intelligence, or "CQ" — "the ability to adjust how we think and behave in various cultural situations." He breaks down CQ into four components:

drive, knowledge, strategy and action. He develops each of these in terms of why they're necessary and how to train mission participants in each area before departure. This book provides a catalyst for discussion during training. In chapter 13, "The Heart of the Matter," Livermore gives practical guides for trip preparation, team training and CQ application while on the field. This would be a wonderful book to help leaders train short-term teams.

Brian Howell, professor of anthropology at Wheaton College, discusses the "how" and "why" of such trips in **"Short-Term Mission: An Ethnography of Christian Travel Narrative and Experience."** He argues that short-term trips provide "shared narratives" that are valuable. Yet he also is concerned that these experiences do not have the impact on the participants or the host culture that we believe.

In order to be more effective in our efforts, Howell argues that our preparation must focus on three areas — training before the trip, debriefing after the trip and narrating our experiences during the trip and after we return home.

Ultimately, Howell wants to move our understanding of short-term missions beyond what we get out of it or the

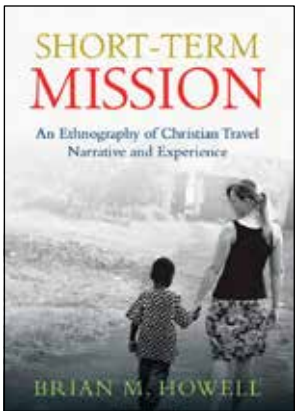
effect that our work has. Instead, he calls us to reframe our experiences as "short-term learning opportunities," a chance to simply be present in a new culture "with no other agenda than to be with (them)."

We are not called to completely change their world, Howell says. We are not called simply to "Christian tourism." Instead, we are called to an intentional practice of shared growth and learning — both spiritually and culturally.

Howell's book would be an excellent catalyst for conversation in a college class or among members of a missions committee. But the information he provides is often overly technical for the typical youth group or short-term mission leader.

Short-term mission works can have an enormous impact on the lives of the participants, but they must be approached with humility, cultural intelligence and intentional training if they are to be more effective than just "Christian tourism."

DANIEL MCGRAW is community minister for the West University Church of Christ in Houston and a former missionary intern for the Caballito Church of Christ in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



★★★★★
Brian M. Howell. **Short-Term Mission: An Ethnography of Christian Travel Narrative and Experience.** Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2012. 254 pages. \$20.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

FICTION

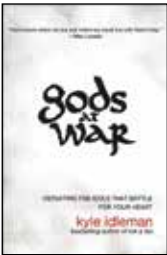
Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley. **The Dance.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Revell Books, 2013. 352 pages. \$14.99.



This is the first collaboration of bestselling Christian novelist Walsh and well-known speaker Smalley. The story uses the emotion and detail of Walsh — often compared to Nicholas Sparks — and the counseling expertise of Smalley to paint a picture of a husband and wife who don't love each other enough to make their marriage work.

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Kyle Idleman. **Gods at War: Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2013. 240 pages. \$14.99.



This young preacher is "Not a Fan" of Christianity that is less than fully committed, as he wrote in his 2011 book. In this follow-up, he attacks the one commandment that is often ignored but is the root of many sins — idolatry. He steps on many toes as he breaks down the gods of pleasure, power and love.

FOR MOMS

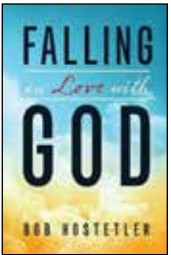
Susan Merrill. **The Passionate Mom: Dare to Parent in Today's World.** Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2013. 256 pages. \$16.99.



Using the book of Nehemiah as an unlikely parenting guide, this mother of five teens and young adults gives an overarching theory on being a good mom. Many examples from her experience provide illustrations. Merrill also directs the popular website iMom.com.

BIBLE STUDY

Bob Hostetler. **Falling in Love with God.** Leafwood Publishers, 2013. 224 pages. \$14.99.



This in-depth study of the book of Hosea is designed to bring readers to a full understanding of God's deep and abiding love for his people — in the hope that they will reciprocate that love. Titles of popular songs about love provide section headers. The author uses personal and pop culture examples from love stories to supplement Scriptures.

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As he battles disease, W.L. Fletcher keeps his humor, spirit and devotion to God

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In the 1980s, when the *Chronicle* first came to Oklahoma Christian University, President Terry Johnson, Chancellor James Baird and Editor Howard Norton began selecting church leaders from all around the nation to serve on the National Council, a support group to advise and finance the paper.

From Southern California, they enlisted W.L. Fletcher.

In those early days, Fletcher was a lively participant in the discussions of how the *Chronicle* could reach more people. His positive spirit set the tone for the meetings — and for establishing clear policies to cover the broad perspectives of Churches of Christ.

His wonderful sense of humor often helped reduce the tension in dealing with difficult issues and topics.

When I became the editor of the paper in 1996, Fletcher called to congratulate me. When I asked for his counsel, he urged me to keep holding to the ideals of Christian service taught in the New Testament — and to be open to different ways believers were expressing those ideals.

He is a friend and supporter of the *Chronicle*. Lynn McMillon, who now serves as editor, says that Fletcher "has long had a clear vision for the *Chronicle's* positive role among Churches of Christ. He has supported and encouraged the *Chronicle* for many years and has helped in the development of the current board of trustees."

Fletcher also served as a regent of Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. In 2000, at the annual Bible Lectures, he was presented an award for his outstanding service.

"If there is a kinder, gentler man, I have not met him," said Andrew Benton, the Pepperdine's president. "His love for

the Lord is apparent and profound. His example and courageous leadership has changed lives, including mine."

Like many energetic and creative people, Fletcher's life has been full. He retired from the Navy as a captain and remained in the Reserves for years. He was a successful insurance executive.

He was the original moderator of the "Know Your Bible" television program. The early program was live, and he commuted from Santa Barbara, Calif., to San Diego by bus for a couple of years to perform his duties. He helped launch the San Diego Christian Foundation, which he chaired from 1972 to 2000.

He served as an elder of the El Cajon Boulevard Church of Christ (1972-2000) and the Northern Hills Church of Christ (2000-2010). In both congregations, Marilyn Fletcher was just as active as her husband.

Recently, W.L. Fletcher was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). The progression of the disease has necessitated a feeding tube, which has also prompted the couple to move to Ohio to be near one of their daughters and the Cleveland Clinic.

Before the move, the Northern Hills church honored the Fletchers for their many services to the Kingdom.

Although W.L. Fletcher was not able to speak, he had a pad where he wrote notes in response to what was going on. His sense of humor was still active, as was his responsiveness to people.

W.L. and Marilyn Fletcher are shining examples of Christ's spirit. Their daughter, Cynthia Alston, observed about her dad: "He is a lifelong learner. He wears pain incredibly well and has a terrific attitude and will to live. Foremost in my mind is that my father is a servant."

Insight



Bailey McBride



PHOTO PROVIDED

Marilyn and W.L. Fletcher

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We are a congregation of 400 members located on the west side of the Phoenix, AZ. metro area. We are seeking a Family Life Minister to develop and maintain a ministry which includes supporting parents in their primary responsibilities in developing spiritual growth and Christian character in their children.

General Requirements: The ideal candidate should be a married man with at least five years of experience. He should be of strong personal faith and be doctrinally sound and well grounded in the Scriptures. He should also have an evangelistic heart to share the Gospel with those who are lost.

Principal Responsibilities: Responsibilities of this position include teaching, working with our youth and families, preparing and presenting sermons when asked or needed. *He will also preach when the pulpit minister is unavailable.* He will also be active in the worship and fellowship activities and fully participate in the life of our church family here at West Olive.

How to Apply: Those interested in applying should mail a copy of their resume with a picture, a DVD of at least two recent sermons and three references. Mail or e-mail to the attention of:

Elders, West Olive Church of Christ
 10935 W. Olive Ave, Peoria, AZ 85345
elders@westolive.com

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After the tornadoes

In Oklahoma and Texas, Christians share survival tales, help with relief. **1**



Upstate faith

Diverse congregation sees a mission field in its home state — New York. **6**



Sew'n Hope

In Oregon, two sisters sew pillowcase dresses for Africa. **17**

Teaching Bible during the school day *is* constitutional, Page 3 | www.christianchronicle.org | (405) 425-5070



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We are Oklahoma Strong. We're honored that our home is a place where strangers become friends who help those in need. At **Oklahoma Christian University**, we've seen that spirit over and over after the nearby tornadoes. And we're blessed by brothers and sisters throughout the world who have embraced our state with love, support, and prayer. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for loving your neighbors.