

Explosion rocks Texas church

AFTER A DEADLY BLAST at a fertilizer plant owned by a church elder, West Church of Christ members rely on faith, prayer and fellow Christians.

BOBBY ROSS JR.

A U.S. flag hangs between two fire truck ladders in West, Texas, as firefighters pay tribute to comrades who lost their lives in the April 17 explosion at the West Fertilizer Co. plant.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

WEST, Texas

The auditorium lights flickered. The glass doors flew open. West Church of Christ minister Ernie Albrecht was sharing Wednesday night devotional thoughts — focused on Ezekiel and the need for Christians to stand up and be strong in their faith — when a loud boom rocked the pews.

“For a moment, I thought, ‘Man, Jesus is coming!’” Albrecht said later. “It was a scary moment because it was like, ‘This may be it.’”

Albrecht finished his remarks, and deacon Shorty Harkins — who brushed off the noise as thunder — stood to lead the invitation song, “There Is Power in the Blood.”

Harkins had asked elder Donald

Adair, an 83-year-old farmer and owner of the West Fertilizer Co., to say the closing prayer.

But in the dark auditorium, Harkins did not realize Adair had received a phone call a few minutes earlier and quickly left. Unknown to the congregation, Adair had learned that the fertilizer plant had caught fire.



Albrecht

“Oh, no!” a few members had heard Adair’s wife, Wanda, mutter on the way out.

Outside the church building, a giant plume of smoke filled the still-bright sky — the result of a massive explosion at Adair’s fertilizer plant that killed 14 people and wounded more than 200.

“It kind of looked like a mushroom cloud,” said Harkins, a longtime resi-

dent of this north-central Texas town of 2,800, known for its Czech culture and kolache pastry shops. “It was about a mile and a half over there to it.”

A law enforcement officer had stopped the Adairs on their way to check on the fire, so they escaped without injury when the plant exploded about 7:50 p.m. April 17. Volunteer firefighters, first responders and at least one plant employee were among the dead.

In the immediate aftermath, Albrecht had no way of knowing the full extent of the tragedy — or that his family’s home and those of several other members were among dozens of buildings shredded by the blast. Total estimated damage exceeded \$100 million, according to the Insurance Council of Texas.

The disaster’s cause remained under investigation at press time, even as

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BRIAN FICKE

Smoke rises after the explosion at the West Fertilizer Co. plant. The cause of the blast remains under investigation.



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Sin, snoring and sermons: What to say to the preacher

In a 1963 episode of “The Andy Griffith Show,” a visiting preacher from New York fills the pulpit in Mayberry.

The guest minister, Harrison Everett Breen, tells the town to relax and enjoy the simple pleasures of

life. Deputy Barney Fife takes the message a bit too literally: He can’t keep his eyes open during the sermon.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

“Oh, Dr. Breen,” Aunt Bee tells the preacher

after the service, “your sermon had such a wonderful lesson for us.”

“Yes, sir, you really hit the nail right on the head there,” Sheriff Andy Taylor chimes in.

“Yes, sir,” Barney adds with a nervous grin, “that’s one subject you just can’t talk enough about — sin.”

Oops.

Of course, Barney isn’t the first worshiper ever to doze through a sermon and then compliment it afterward.

“Really appreciated your sermon,” Adam Gonnerman, a member of the Central Jersey Church of Christ in New Jersey, remembers a man telling him after he preached at age 19.

The only problem: The man had snored throughout the entire message.

Eric Dishongh, minister for the Hickory Knoll Church of Christ in Harahan, La., recalls an older woman confessing, “Eric, when I have

See **SERMONS**, Page 4

A convicted church

IN RURAL OKLAHOMA, congregation finds its calling in prison ministry.

BY DAVID CHENAULT AND ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE



East of Muskogee, Okla., on Highway 62, a sign points travelers to the Church of Christ in Fort Gibson — the oldest town in Oklahoma, established in 1824.

FORT GIBSON, Okla.

Mark Seabolt left his prison cell wearing someone else’s clothes.

He hated the hiking boots, and neither the pants nor the shirt fit very well. He was

angry, empty, broke and alone.

To the members of the Fort Gibson Church of Christ, he was perfect.

In two years and 10 days of incarceration — for assault and battery and attempting to manufacture methamphetamines — Seabolt received one visitor and two pieces of mail. One was a picture of the church’s building with directions. His curiosity won out, and he tracked down the building a day after leaving prison.

Gingerly, he walked into the church’s office, “looking different, smelling different and talking different” than a typical

churchgoer, he said. The staff’s reaction was shocking. They welcomed him — even hugged him — and invited him back for Bible study that night.

These people are crazy, he thought. Don’t they know what I’ve done?

“I was definitely not going,”

Seabolt said of their invitation, but “somehow, at 7 p.m.,

I was walking through those doors.” He met more Christians at the Bible study. The next day, one of them took him shopping.

“I don’t know what it’s like to get a new Corvette,” Seabolt said. Swallowing hard, he added,

“But I know what it’s like to get new clothes when you have none.”

Another church member hired Seabolt to paint a kitchen.

“He left money and a set of keys to the house,” Seabolt recalled. “He said, ‘we’ll see



Second in a series



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Mark Seabolt stands in front of a bulletin board for the alternative sentencing program he coordinates — and a sign that notes recent baptisms.

you on Monday,’ and left for the weekend.”

It seemed like a reckless degree of trust — even to Seabolt.

But at the Fort Gibson church, it’s typical. “There is an atmosphere here of accepting people where they are,” said Dan Rouse, the church’s preaching minister.

As a result, Seabolt has hardly missed

See **CONVICTED**, Page 24

Boston minister pays tribute to slain MIT officer

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Robert Randolph, longtime minister for the Brookline Church of Christ in the heart of Boston and chaplain for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, delivered the invocation at slain MIT police officer Sean Collier’s memorial service.

Collier, 27, was shot to death in his patrol car April 18 in a slaying linked to Boston Marathon bombing suspects Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

About 10,000 mourners, including Vice President Joe Biden, gathered for Collier’s

April 24 service at MIT.

“We say thank you for Sean, for his gifts, his compassion, his energy, his sense of right and wrong,” Randolph said in his prayer. “We hold him in memory, and we pray that we might see him again. ... We live emboldened by the virtues he exemplified.”

The Boston plot that killed three people and injured more than 260 “reminds everybody how vulnerable we are,” Randolph



Randolph

told *The Christian Chronicle*.

When the bombs exploded April 15, Randolph was providing an energy drink for his daughter Margaret Randolph, who was a few miles from the marathon’s finish line. She had sprained her ankle and was running behind her normal pace, her father said.

Otherwise, “we would have been at the finish line when the bombs went off,” Robert Randolph said.

TO READ A FIRST-PERSON piece by Robert Randolph on making sense of the Boston tragedy, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for “MIT.”

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SERMONS: Predictable praise not preferred

FROM PAGE 3

trouble sleeping at night, I just put in one of your sermon tapes, and I go right to sleep."

She meant it as a compliment.

One of Don Middleton's favorite compliments came from a dear friend who has gone to be with the Lord.

The friend told Middleton, minister for the Cross Timbers Church of Christ in Stephenville, Texas: "Don, if I ever go to sleep during one of your sermons, please understand that I do so knowing full well that you are not going to preach anything false or misleading."

A member took a different tack with Eric Greer, associate minister for the Westgate Church of Christ in Dothan, Ala., saying, "Eric, that sure was a great presentation. I don't know if it was Scriptural, but it sure was good."

Most of the time, the people in the pews can get away with a quick "Terrific sermon, brother!" even if their mind wandered. A few preachers, though, enjoy asking a follow-up question.

"What part did you like about the sermon?" Ricardo Barrera, minister for the Elgin Church of Christ, a Spanish-speaking congregation near Chicago, asked a woman who praised his lesson.

"I don't remember," she replied. "But it was a great message."

He couldn't help but chuckle.

"It's the people that every week say 'nice sermon' that frustrate me," said Peter Horne, minister for the Lawson Road Church of Christ in Rochester, N.Y. "I don't think I've ever planned to preach a 'nice' sermon. Motivate, inspire and convict? Yes. But nice? No."

Many can't resist mentioning the sermon length — in jest or not.

"You missed several good stopping points" is a favorite line of Shaun Casey, a member of the Fairfax Church of Christ in Virginia.

"You're not paid by the hour," Larry Killebrew, a member of the Pauls Valley Church of Christ in Oklahoma, said he

has suggested from time to time.

"I could have listened to you all morning," a woman told Danny Holman, minister for the South Main Church of Christ in Greenville, Miss.

"But Mom, we almost did," her little boy interjected.

Others seem to prefer non-critical criticisms, such as "You're going to make a fine preacher someday."

"Don't worry, you'll get better," an elder used to tell Drew Chapados, minister for the West Side Church of Christ in Windsor, Ontario.

So what *would* the preacher like to hear after putting his heart and soul into a sermon?

"The best thing is when people speak to me and interact with my sermon by recalling something I said or asking a question," said K. Rex Butts, minister for the Columbia Church of Christ in Maryland. "I know then that they were listening and are now thinking, which hopefully transcends to the way they live their faith out."

Bill Denton, minister for the Rodenberg Church of Christ in Biloxi, Miss., said a woman in his congregation takes lots of sermon notes.

"She reminded me of a series of sermons I preached from the Psalms," Denton said. "That was 30 years ago."

James Nored, minister for the Grapevine Church of Christ in Texas, said he loves it when people tell him God spoke directly to them through his sermon.

As Nored sees it, preaching is a divine act in which God takes a minister's feeble efforts and touches people's hearts through the proclamation of his Word.

"When people can hear God, and not us, through the message," Nored said, "well, that is an incredible and humbling thing."

Amen.

Great point, brother.

CONTACT bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

JUNE 2013

COLORADO

GREELEY — Rich Mazur believes the U.S. desperately needs prayers.

Mazur, a member of the Columbine Church of Christ, and the church's preacher, Paul McWilliams, have launched a campaign called "Prayer for America 2013."

They are asking other Christians to join the effort and to set aside the first Sunday evening of each month to pray for the nation. For more details, see www.columbinecoc.org.

STERLING — Dan Kafka, one of three chaplains at the Sterling Correctional Facility, volunteers 20 hours a week at the prison.

The Holyoke Church of Christ prison ministry's mission is to spread the message of Christ to 2,500 offenders. Kafka, a member of the Holyoke church, is under the spiritual supervision of the church's men.

Throwing the Bible at prisoners like a stick of dynamite is not the way Kafka likes to work. He "door-knocks" in the administrative segregation unit and gives offenders biblical reading material. Visits with inmates in the yard, chow hall and his office occupy most of Kafka's time.

About 100 men were served the Lord's Supper for the first time in years through the ministry, Kafka said. He describes a cappella singing, baptisms in the cattle trough and Bible studies with inmates as the highlights of his week.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE — Minister Cliff Holladay, who was paralyzed in a beach accident last year, died April 13. He was 62.

Holladay, who preached for the Westside Church of Christ in Baltimore, was featured in a *Christian Chronicle* story earlier this year.

"He inspired many of us with his determination following his accident," said Steve Mahoney, minister for the Newark Church of Christ in Delaware.

Holladay's wife, Becky, and son,



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Kid President meets the U.S. president

President Barack Obama lets "Kid President" Robby Novak, who attends the Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tenn., try out his seat in the Oval Office. Novak first dressed up as Kid President last year to promote a Freed-Hardeman University benefit dinner. But with help from his grownup brother-in-law Brad Montague, the 9-year-old became an Internet sensation. His videos at KidPresident.com promote "the simple belief that kids have voices worth listening to."

Caleb, were with him when he died. The church earlier established a fund to help the family. Tax-deductible checks can be sent to the Westside church at 7009 Johnnycake Road, Baltimore, MD 21244.

SOUTH CAROLINA

SUMMERVILLE — A group of 23 Hilltoppers — as the senior members of the Summerville Church of Christ are known — found a little "providence" on a bus trip to see a Bible exhibit in Charlotte, N.C. Nearly 200 miles from home, the seniors were stranded by a malfunctioning alternator.

But then a group member remembered that one Hilltopper's son serves as an elder for the Providence Road Church of Christ in Charlotte. A few calls were made, and Lee Thrasher, the Providence Road church's executive minister, arrived with a bus to take the

group to its destination.

"And, since parts to repair the Summerville bus would not be available until the following week, the Hilltoppers returned home in the aptly named Providence Road bus," member Dave Mathis said. They "praised the Lord for all that had happened."

TENNESSEE

MURFREESBORO — Nearly 500 families at the North Boulevard Church of Christ have pledged \$5.8 million to support a vision set forth by church leaders.

That amount exceeds the \$3.6 million requested by the leaders, who said the church hopes to spark a worldwide spiritual awakening.

Those leaders said the vision is designed to accomplish six key challenges: plant churches around the world; open a School of Christian Thought

SPOTLIGHT**Senior servants**

LA GRANDE, Ore. — Glen and Verla Henry enjoy preparing and delivering box lunches to shut-ins.

So what if these Meals on Wheels volunteers are both in their 90s and have been married for 73 years?

"Glen is also our top songleader and has served all his life in the church," said Doug Edmonds, minister for the La Grande Church of Christ. "Until the last few years, Glenn went sledding with the youth group ... and did most of the repairs to our church building."

"Glen never ceases to amaze me, and Verla is very special, too, as she tries to participate in things she was able to do when she was younger," Edmonds added. "The church in La Grande loves this couple, and what an inspiration they are to all who know them."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DOUG EDMONDS

The Henrys prepare Meals on Wheels.

within the congregation; launch a television program; align all the church's ministries around the single purpose of maturing disciples; actively integrate the church's leadership team racially and ethnically; and build a full-fledged widows ministry "for the purpose of praying the congregation through its mission."

To see a video related to the plans, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for "Murfreessboro."

TEXAS

NACOGDOCHES — A 15-year-old Boy Scout was deemed a hero and recognized as an honorary firefighter at a recent Nacogdoches City Council meeting.

Ketavian Oliphant was attending an Eagle Scout ceremony at the North Street Church of Christ when he found the kitchen filled with smoke and located an extinguisher to put out the fire.



Worshippers sing during the Women Walking With God conference. The ZOE Group led in worship. Attendees enjoyed performances by motivational humorist Lisa Smartt and soloist Danielle Herrington and a skit by Kathy Bishop.

Women Walking With God

PHOTOS BY MARK DIETSCH | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The Northside Church of Christ in Wichita, Kan., hosted the recent seventh annual Women Walking With God conference. The sold-out conference drew more than 900 women from 225 congregations. "Confidence in Christ" was the theme.



Kara Peavey-McDonough provides American Sign Language interpretation for the hearing impaired during the conference.



Attendees pray during the conference, which involved more than 200 volunteers, including the "Men in Black" crew.



The conference provides a means for women to draw closer to God and each other and to strengthen relationships.



Directors Amy Dopps and Kristen Weber welcome the sold-out crowd to the Women Walking With God conference. Lynn Jones with Marriage Matters served as the keynote speaker and was joined by Nika Maples and Deborah Houston. The conference theme, "Confidence in Christ," was based on Jeremiah 17:7: "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him."

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MARK MATSON

Jack Pope, center, acknowledges the applause of Texas officials marking his 100th birthday.

Texas officials honor longtime church member, ACU graduate Jack Pope on his 100th birthday

AUSTIN, Texas — Retired Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Jack Pope, a longtime member of the University Avenue Church of Christ in Austin, celebrated his recent 100th birthday in style.

State officials — led by state Rep. Dan Branch, an elder of the Preston Road Church of Christ in Dallas — honored Pope in a ceremony on the House floor.

"His profound reputation for judicial integrity and principled decision-making prompted former Supreme Court colleague Thomas M. Reavley to call Chief Justice Pope the greatest jurist with whom he has served," Branch, who served as a law clerk for Pope, said in a

concurrent resolution read during the April 18 ceremony.

Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson said: "This occasion is a milestone, for Chief Justice Pope and for Texas. But this is more than a birthday celebration. This is an event to honor one of the country's great legal legends."

Pope is a 1934 graduate of Abilene Christian University, where he served as student president. He attended the University of Texas Law School.

Branch described Pope as one of ACU's staunchest supporters.

Branch's resolution noted that Pope also served as president of *The Christian Chronicle's* National Council, an advisory body that preceded the newspaper's current national governing board.

"Judge Jack Pope is a dedicated Christian and longtime supporter of the *Chronicle*," said Lynn McMillon, the paper's editor, president and CEO. "He is greatly loved and respected."

University Avenue minister Eddie Sharp said Pope has been a faithful member of the congregation for decades. "He's in church in his seat every Sunday," Sharp said. "He is bright and dearly loved."

Pope retired in 1985. His 38-year tenure as a Texas jurist was notable for his lasting imprint on state water rights, for accomplishing formal judicial education for Texas judges, for advocating a voluntary judicial-ethics code when judges had none and for succeeding in making that code mandatory and enforceable, and for streamlining and simplifying how cases are pleaded and tried, judicial officials said.



Jack Pope, left, makes his way into the Texas House chamber for the birthday event.

Army suspends Church of Christ worship assembly

LAWTON, Okla. — For 35 years, the Northwest Church of Christ conducted a weekly assembly for soldiers at Fort Sill. But just before Christmas, the U.S. Army post's chaplain suspended the services, "taking away the religious freedom of our soldiers," said Northwest member Don Cherry, who had led the ministry for 10 years.

"The Armed Forces Chaplain Board (AFCB) has mistakenly categorized the Churches of Christ as a Protestant denomination," Cherry said in an e-mail. "By lumping us with Protestants, the Army may utilize chaplains of Protestant denominations to



Cherry conduct our services. We consider ourselves as a 'distinctive faith group.'" Cherry said the services averaged about 80 soldiers and two baptisms every Sunday. The assemblies tended to spiritual needs, he said, with singing, communion and gospel preaching. The soldiers are trainees unable to leave the post for worship, he said.

Johnny Sandmann, military and veterans affair caseworker for U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., contacted the Army on the church's behalf.

In a letter to Sandmann, U.S. Army Col. Paul Hossenlopp defended suspending the assembly after three-plus decades. The Army prefers for Army chaplains to provide religious services to soldiers, Hossenlopp said.

"This allows soldiers to bond with the religious leader who will be with their unit while deployed and who has a special relationship to their command. However, when there is a need for services that the assigned Army chaplains cannot meet, civilians may volunteer to provide those services as Distinctive Faith Group Leaders (DFGL)."

At press time, the Liberty Legal Institute, which handles religious liberty cases, had a meeting scheduled with the Northwest church's elders.



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The **Department of Marriage and Family Studies** invites applications for a tenure-track position as associate professor of marriage and family therapy and program director with a specialization in medical family therapy, beginning Fall 2013. A new master's program with a focus on medical family therapy is being launched in Dallas, Texas, with ACU at CitySquare, and the program director will be expected to reside and work primarily in Dallas. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy with significant training, research and/or clinical experience in medical family therapy; exhibit significant

administrative skills, competence as a classroom teacher and researcher, eligibility for LMFT licensure in the State of Texas; and be a Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor with the AAMFT. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/mft and information about ACU at CitySquare is available at blogs.acu.edu/citysquare.

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The **School of Information Technology and Computing** invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant, associate or full professor of computer science, effective Aug. 1, 2013. Applicants should have an earned graduate degree in computer science, software engineering or a related field. A doctoral degree is preferred. (Outstanding ABD candidates will be considered as well.) Information about the school is available at acu.edu/sitc.

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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BURUNDI

BUJUMBURA — Christians in this tiny East African nation send the Gospel across the region over radio waves. “Broadcasts are heard by many people in Bujumbura, the provinces of Burundi and into the neighboring countries of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Rwanda,” said evangelist Amou Akembe. The radio programs, broadcast in French, Swahili and Kirundi, have resulted in new contacts for Bible studies. World Radio Gospel Broadcasts, based in West Monroe, La., supports the work.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

CHARLESTOWN — Ministers and church leaders gathered to discuss soul-winning among the eastern islands of the Caribbean at the 15th annual Caribbean Leadership Workshop. The Government Road Church of Christ, one of two congregations on the island of Nevis, hosted the event.

Presenters were Ulric Allyne of Trinidad and Tobago, Cornelius George of Antigua, Albert Isaac of Anguilla, Gregory Mathurin of St. Croix, Jonathan Servanie of Aruba and Francis Yorke, deputy director of the Jamaica School of Preaching.

Yorke, who was baptized on the island of St. Vincent, spoke on topics including “Getting Elders in God’s Kingdom.” Though Churches of Christ have spread throughout the Caribbean, few congregations have appointed elders, he said.

SOUTH SUDAN

BOR — Five United Nations peacekeepers from India and seven civilians were shot dead during an attack on a convoy in this East African nation, Fox News reported. A military spokesman blamed the attack on anti-government militants.

Five of the victims were members of a company hired to create a water well for a Christian vocational boarding school in the town of Bor. The school is a work of the Starfish Foundation, a nonprofit organized by Church of Christ members in Texas.

Dennis Cady and Chuck Dennis are supervising the work. The governor of South Sudan’s Jonglei State requested the school, Cady said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JUSTIN REEGER

‘Superhero’ mission team paints and plays in Ecuador

Christian youths from Texas straddle the girders and smile as they show off the mural they painted at an elementary school in Tabacundo, Ecuador. The team renovated the school’s courtyard, put a fresh coat of paint on its exterior and constructed a new roof for a gate house at Camp Bellevue, a ministry for Churches of Christ in the South American nation.

“They pulled all this off in half-days,” missionary Justin Reeger said, “because they ran ‘Superheroes of the Bible’ every afternoon for our 90 community children and youth in our after-school program.”

The students represented the Buffs for Christ campus ministry at West Texas A&M University and the University Church of Christ, both in Canyon, and the Rams for Christ campus ministry at Angelo State University in San Angelo. Another mission team, from Lubbock Christian University’s education program, demonstrated dynamic interactive learning styles at another local school.

Dennis asked Christians worldwide to pray for the families of those killed.

“Among those who strive for peace — and to help others with their physical needs — there is no way to comprehend the actions that take innocent lives,” he said.

SRI LANKA

COLOMBO — A minister on this teardrop-shaped island, south of India, recently baptized an 83-year-old woman, her son-in-law and her granddaughter.



Darla

“This was my first time helping three generations at one time enter into Christ,” said Asee Darla. The grandmother told the minister that in recent years she had lost her husband and several of her brothers, sisters and friends.

“Several times I wondered, ‘Why am I not taken?’” she told the minister. “Today I got the answer.”

SPOTLIGHT

‘Soul prints’ in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya — “Jipe moyo” is a Swahili phrase that means “Take heart.”

This year those words had special meaning for Charlotte Hackett, longtime missionary to Kenya, as she attended the 13th annual Jipe Moyo Women’s Seminar, hosted by the Nairobi Church of Christ, Eastleigh.

Hackett’s husband, Berkeley, died of a heart attack in Nairobi May 21, 2012. He was 70.

Charlotte Hackett continues the work.

The theme of the seminar was “A Woman After God’s Own Heart.” More than 100 women attended from rural communities in Kenya. Men from the host church prepared eight meals and two evening teas that included doughy fried bread called mandazi.

“I thought about Berkeley a lot during the seminar,” Charlotte Hackett said. “He was always behind the scenes, taking care of so many things, but for me, at least, he is always there. I see his soul prints everywhere.”



Hackett



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHARLOTTE HACKETT

“Amazing Grace” was the title of Kenyan Christian Rebecca’s lesson at the seminar.

THAILAND

KHON KAEN — Nearly 450 Christians, from 36 Churches of Christ across Thailand and neighboring Laos braved temperatures in excess of 107 degrees Fahrenheit for a recent family camp.

“The lessons from the preachers were great, and all the Bible classes for every age were good,” said Khon Kaen missionary Kim Voraritskul. “I did not hear any complaints — even about the hot weather or the muddy river.”

“We thank God for one baptism.”

FAULKNERLAW

Dean Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law

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.



TOMMY CHIA

Mosharakini Arulandu's family — physical and spiritual — mourns at her memorial service.

Goodbye Mosha: In Malaysia, church remembers dedicated 'hero in the faith'

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

She always had a smile. She was a gracious host, dedicated teacher of Bible classes for women and a constant encourager — ready to share a Scripture of hope at a moment's notice.

Even when cancer had weakened her body to the point that she could barely walk, Mosharakini Arulandu still attended services at the Seremban Church of Christ in Malaysia.

Arulandu, known to church members across Southeast Asia as Mosha, died March 30 after a three-year battle with peritoneal cancer. She was 49.

Baptized in 1976, she attended Four Seas College of Bible and Missions in Singapore. Her husband, Vikraman, converted from Hinduism to Christianity 19 years after they were married. He preached the Sunday

morning sermon on Feb. 10, the last time she was able to attend worship. The couple has three sons.

She participated in two mission trips to Nias island in Indonesia after the 2004 tsunami devastated the island, said Ong Kok Bin, a member of the Seremban congregation. She was a modern-day Barnabas, an encourager of the church, he added.

Robert Reagan, a missionary in Thailand, called her "a hero in the faith for so many of us."

Dennis Cady, a former missionary in Malaysia, called her "cousin."

"In the history of Churches of Christ in Malaysia, there may not have been a lady who touched as many in such a positive way as did Mosha," he said.



Arulandu

African missionaries pray in troubled lands

Christians who left their homes in the West African nation of Ghana to plant churches and spread the Gospel in the unreached lands of their continent are praying for peace and stability.

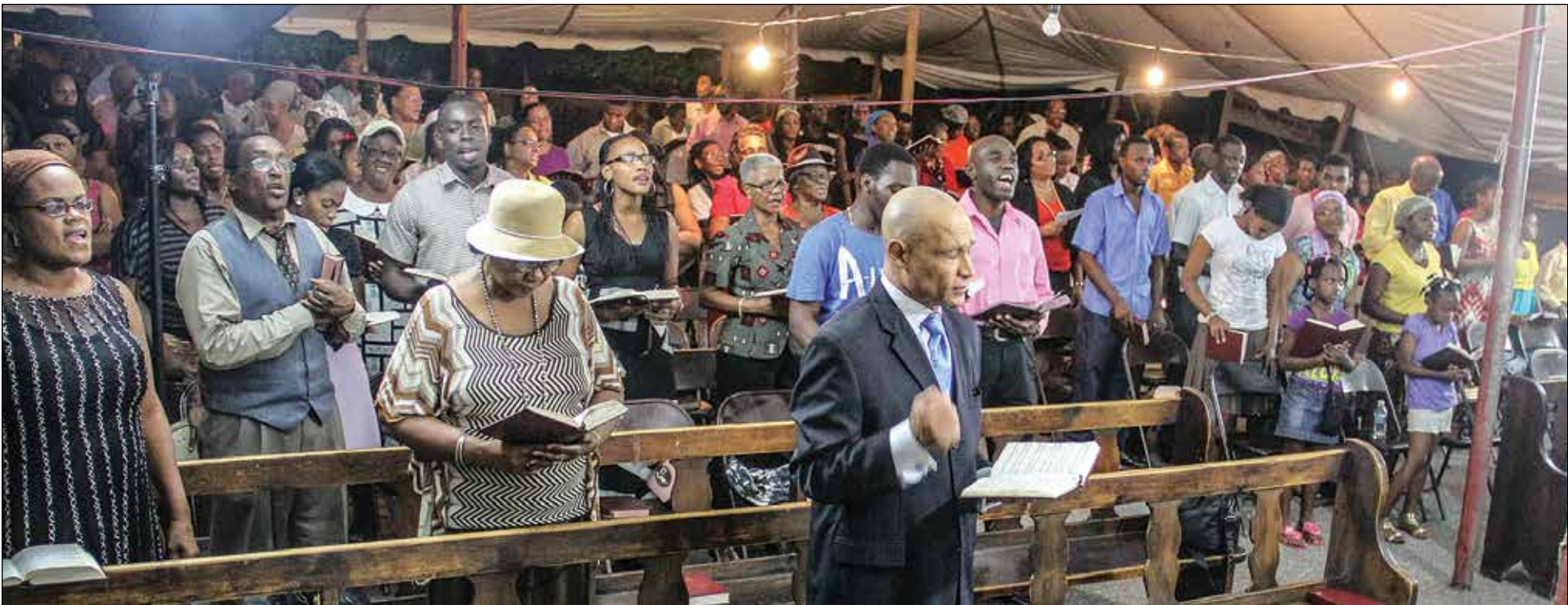
In Mali, a nation of nearly 16 million people — 95 percent of whom claim Islam as their faith — Peter Ofori works with seven Churches of Christ. Relative stability has returned to the nation, Ofori said, after a military coup

and insurgency by Tuareg rebels in the northern part of the country.

Rebels in the Central African Republic have seized control of the government. Missionaries Worlanyo and Edith Bor came face to face with rebel soldiers.

"We are saved," Worlanyo Bor said, "after they've taken away our personal belongings, threatening to kill me."

SEE UPDATES at www.christianchronicle.org/blog.



More than 100 people, including members of 10 Churches of Christ in Jamaica, sing hymns under a tent during a two-week gospel meeting, hosted by the Patrick Gardens Church of Christ.

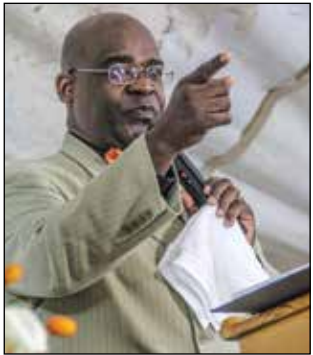
Two weeks of gospel preaching in Jamaica

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

KINGSTON, Jamaica — “You don’t leave from under this tent without knowing the facts,” promised Darrell Holt. The 56-year-old evangelist said he once preached at a church for two hours and 55 minutes until they got the message. (That’s when the church’s leaders rose and asked for a hammer so they could remove the sign from their building and replace it with the words “Church of Christ,” he said.)

In this Caribbean capital, Holt clocked in at a mere 90 minutes during the first night of a two-week gospel campaign, hosted by the Patrick Gardens Church of Christ. More than 100 souls sang, swayed and sweated together under a massive white tent outside the church’s building.

It was the third trip to Jamaica for Holt, a native of Mississippi and an evangelist for the Figueroa Church of Christ in Los Angeles. He’s also a missionary



Darrell Holt preaches on “Christ the Inevitable, the Inescapable” in Kingston.

— speaking at gospel meetings in the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and the African nation of Ethiopia.

“Sent preacher, not a ‘went’ preacher” may be a better description of Holt, who pounded the pulpit as he distinguished between the two. Christians, sent by God, must share their faith boldly, using no authority but the Bible, he said.

“He’s a very effective preacher — and absolutely accurate in the Greek,” said Junior Cole, minister for the Elletson Road Church of Christ in Kingston.

The service ended after 10 p.m. Many of the attendees were up early the next morning for door-knocking evangelism.

Elaine Mattison, a member of the Patrick Gardens church, said she didn’t mind the lack of sleep. “Yeah mon!” she exclaimed when asked if she planned to attend each night. “I’ll be here till it’s finished.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Churches of Christ in Jamaica, see www.churchofchristjamaica.org.



As Darrell Holt speaks during the first night of a two-week gospel meeting, members of the Patrick Gardens Church of Christ record his words and prepare audio CDs for distribution immediately after the service. Visitors received free copies of each night’s message.

WEST: Churches reach out to help after explosion



OLAF GROWALD

A man walks his dog past a damaged house in the aftermath of the West Fertilizer Co. explosion. West is in north-central Texas, about 70 miles south of Dallas-Fort Worth.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A truck passes underneath a U.S. flag hanging between two fire ladders in West, Texas, in recognition of firefighters killed in the April 17 fertilizer plant explosion.



SHANE TORGERSON

Piles of burnt rubble and scorched earth mark the site of the West Fertilizer Co. explosion in this aerial photo. President Barack Obama viewed the damage from a helicopter while in the area to speak at an April 25 memorial service honoring victims.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

West Church of Christ member Anna Roberts helps with the disaster relief effort.

FROM PAGE 1

national media and political scrutiny focused on whether the government adequately monitors such plants.

Most West residents interviewed by news reporters did not fault Adair for operating the plant so close to a residential area or for storing large quantities of the hazardous materials ammonium nitrate and anhydrous ammonia.

“The town was built around that plant,” Anna Roberts, 70, a longtime West church member whose two sons worked at the plant, told *The Christian Chronicle*. “There was nothing but fields — farmland — around that plant when they built it in 1962.”

CHURCH ELDER ‘BROKEN WITH GRIEF’

When Adair bought the floundering fertilizer company in 2004, his neighbors were grateful he had saved them from driving extra miles to Waco or Hillsboro to buy fertilizer, feed and tools, Reuters reported.

Adair issued a statement saying he is “broken with grief for the tragic losses to so many families in our community.” “My family and I can’t express enough our deep appreciation for the loving service and selfless sacrifice

from within and around our community responding to the urgent needs of those affected,” the elder added. “I am proud to be associated with West Church of Christ, which has opened its doors to the State of Texas to provide grief counseling services. My family and I will continue to assist in relief efforts through our church family.”

Already, the explosion has spawned at least six lawsuits, including one from the family of a volunteer firefighter killed.

In his statement, Adair pledged “to do everything we can to understand what happened to ensure nothing like this ever happens again in any community.”

Albrecht described Adair, whom he said has heart problems, as “the kind of guy who’d do anything for anybody.”

“He’s old enough that he talks about how he picked cotton with Willie Nelson,” the minister said, “and about how when he was young, he was out there with his mom, pulling up his diaper and picking cotton.

“But he does so much for the community,” Albrecht added. “It’s just sad because he never, ever could have imagined this to happen. ... He’s all broken up. I just hope he makes it alive out of this situation.”

BLOOD ON THE STREETS

Fearing casualties, about 20 members and visitors formed a circle in the church parking lot and prayed that Wednesday night.

Afterward, Albrecht and his three daughters — Bianca, 12; Eliana, 10; and Gabriela, 7 — loaded into the family van to head home.

The preacher’s wife, Amanda, and son, Malachi, 9, got into the family’s other car to take an older member home.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ERNIE ALBRECHT

Ernie and Amanda Albrecht, with Eliana, 10; Gabriela, 7; Malachi, 9; and Bianca, 12.

As the minister drove toward the church parsonage — two miles from the building — the disaster scene unfolded.

“We started seeing many garages that were sucked in like a tin can, and we saw windows just blown out,” Albrecht said. “There was so much pressure that built up, the glass didn’t just blow — the frames of the windows blew.

“There were people bleeding all up and down the streets,” he added. “Just crazy stuff.”

His daughters burst into tears — worried about Albrecht’s brother, Josh, who lives with the family, and about their pets, including a parrot named Kiwi and a German shepherd named Portia.

The parsonage’s ceiling and back brick wall collapsed.

However, the minister’s brother escaped with a small bump on his head.

“He had a little piece of glass in his arm,” Albrecht said. “But other than that, he was fine.”

The pets were nowhere to be found.

‘NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS’

To make ends meet and provide health insurance for his family, Albrecht worked five nights a week as a nurse at West Rest Haven.

The explosion flattened the 133-resident nursing home.

In the chaotic scene that night, Albrecht ran into fellow nurse Sunze Rae Lewis at the end of his street.

“She was bleeding from top to bottom,” he said. “She had glass in her eyeball. ... She got blown out the window at the nursing home. ... It was just so eerie and freaky.”

The minister ushered his distraught colleague into his van.

He did not leave the emergency room until about 2 a.m. the next morning.

West elder Tom Kissinger and his wife, Peggy, welcomed the preacher’s family into their home.

Many displaced victims gathered at the West Church of Christ, recounting what they had seen and voicing concerns about the fate of friends, relatives and neighbors.

West church members Len and Peggy Martin took in an elderly couple who lost their home, said their son Dan Martin, a deacon of the 8th and Harrison Church of Christ in Harlingen, Texas.

“That’s just one of many, many examples of neighbors helping neighbors,” Dan Martin said.

BLESSINGS AMID TRAGEDY

In the days that followed, Albrecht’s cell and church phones rang constantly.

From Churches of Christ near and far, offers to send money, supplies and disaster relief volunteers piled in.

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

Nashville, Tenn.-based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort dispatched a tractor-trailer rig full of emergency food boxes. Disaster Assistance CoC, sponsored by the Lake Jackson Church of Christ in Texas, set up its mobile

feeding headquarters.

Christians from West and nearby communities erected tents to serve victims. In the afternoon sun, Jackie Swift sorted boxes of shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant.

“I decided to come over here and see what I could do,” said Swift, a member of the Robinson Church of Christ, about 25 miles south of West.

The New Road Church of Christ in Waco — along with a number of other area congregations — helped coordinate relief efforts.

In less than two weeks after the explosion, New Road leaders delivered

\$125,000 in checks and gift cards to the West church.

“As donations come in, we’re trying to get them out as fast as we can to help people,” Albrecht said. “It doesn’t matter who they are, we want to show that the church cares.”

As for Albrecht, he joked that he and his wife are like newlyweds again — starting all over after 15 years.

His children lost impossible-to-replace keepsakes like his 12-year-old daughter’s stuffed animal horse Commonwealth, he said.

But on the bright side, the family found its pet bird, dogs and even its bearded dragon at the local humane society three days after the blast.

Rather than focus on what his family has lost, the minister chooses to thank God for the opportunity gained.

“In our ministries, all of us say, ‘God, give me the opportunity to touch people’s lives,’” Albrecht said. “We never see it like this. But yet, it’s at our feet right now to do something amazing and good.”

TO DONATE to the relief effort, send checks to the West Church of Christ, P.O. Box 246, West, TX 76691. For expanded coverage and breaking news updates, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for “fertilizer plant.”



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Christians from near and far sort donated goods under tents outside the West Church of Christ. Area congregations and national ministries are helping respond to people’s needs.

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A gospel of goats

IN THE PHILIPPINES, *a determined minister fights for self-sustainable agriculture to bring his people to prosperity – and salvation.*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

At Arapal Christian Camp, on the island of Cebu in the Philippines, Christians raise goats, plant vegetables and worship under a wooden pavilion — the meeting place of a Church of Christ.

ANONANG SUR, Philippines

Salvador Cariaga is furious. The Filipino evangelist carefully places three bottles of liquor across a blacksmith's anvil, their glass bottoms clinking as rain pours from the thatched roof over his head.

Quietly, he asks their owner, Bebe, to stand on the other side, facing him.

For an eternal moment, raindrops make the only sound.

Normally, Cariaga is all smiles as he touts to anyone who will listen the virtues of goat milk, earthworms and coconut vinegar — all part of life here at Arapal Christian Camp, a sustainable agriculture community he oversees on the island of Cebu.

Just over the hill, a mission team of Texas high school students has finished tearing down Bebe's ramshackle house and building it back, stronger than before.

Bebe, who struggles with alcoholism, smiled as she stripped wood alongside the students the previous day, making thatch for her new roof.

She helped two of the girls from the group make candy from coconuts.

Minutes ago, as Cariaga drove back to camp with supplies, he passed Bebe's 10-year-old son, carrying the three bottles of whiskey.

Standing across the anvil from Bebe, Cariaga speaks slowly, deliberately in Binisaya, the local language.

"Look at me," he tells her, lifting one of the bottles. "This cannot be here."

He smashes it on the anvil.

"You can't handle this."

He smashes the next.

"This causes war."

And the last.

Bebe watches the fetid liquid run down the anvil and pool on the ground.

"Go," he tells her.

She walks away in silence.

WEAPONS TO FIGHT POVERTY

"I don't usually do that," Cariaga says, wiping his hands with a rag, lamenting the fact that, for the rest of the day, he's going to smell like booze.

Next to him, the blacksmith methodically works the wooden bellows — as he's done throughout the confrontation with Bebe. Nearby, in the flames, old, worn plow sweeps turn from black to bright red.

The blacksmith pulls them from the fire and hammers them into "Stegall bolos," — machetes named after the

CONTINUED



First of two parts



Evangelist Salvador Cariaga shows earthworms used in composting as a goat watches.

A gospel of goats



A beekeeper inspects a hive, recently purchased by workers at Arapal Christian Camp to pollinate crops and produce honey.



Angela Abeno, a 9-year-old participant in the Give A Goat program, shows off Princess, who won first place in a goat show.



Anna Collins, a senior at Southwest Christian School, shucks a coconut to make candy during a mission trip to Arapal Christian Camp.



Slogans stand among the vegetable gardens of Arapal Christian Camp, a demonstration farm and sustainable agriculture community on the island of Cebu. “We want them to bloom where they’re born, grow where they’re planted,” says Salvador Cariaga, a Christian minister who oversees the work. Through the camp’s agriculture initiatives and livelihood programs, “one home at a time, we’re reclaiming the people of this place,” Cariaga says.

‘We teach them the composting of waste from goats for vegetables, (but) our mission, of course, is to bring them to Christ. We share God.’
— **Elmer Palacio**, a minister who teaches sustainable farming and goat raising at Arapal Christian Camp in the Philippines.



Salvador Cariaga and students from Southwest Christian School pray for Bebe. The students and Bobby Moore, director of the nonprofit Bread for a Hungry World, tore down and rebuilt Bebe’s home during a mission trip to the Philippines, where the nonprofit supports multiple works.

CONTINUED
Christian farmer in Hollis, Okla., who donated the blades. The Filipinos use them to hack through their island’s dense foliage, clearing land for gardens, goat pens and new houses.
“Here, we beat plowshares into swords,” Cariaga jokes. “The fight against poverty is a battle. No, it’s a war.”

‘THE LORD WANTS US TO BE PRODUCTIVE’
Too many of his countrymen have given up that fight, says Cariaga, who grew up in the Philippines, a nation of nearly 95 million souls, spread across 7,107 islands, southeast of China.
His father, Roman Cariaga, is president of Sunrise Christian College, one of at least 20 ministry training schools that prepare preachers and leaders for the nearly 1,000 Churches of Christ on the islands — more than any other nation in the region.
Salvador Cariaga earned a degree from Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City. He married a Texan and raised a family in Fort Worth.
“Very few Filipinos like me ever go back,” he says, noting the pristine, gated homes built near Arapal Christian Camp,

all with foreign money. “Most are content to send home the money they have earned but do not return and share the knowledge they have learned. ... Brain drain has exhausted the pool of talent.”
Cariaga splits his time between Texas and the Philippines, where he helps orphans, distributes relief after earthquakes and hurricanes and assists a Christian elementary school.
He’s frustrated by the cyclical, generational poverty he sees here. Families pull their children from school to work in the fields. They use expensive, chemical fertilizers that yield humble harvests and, ultimately, damage the soil.
With little money, little education and little to do, groups of young men sit alongside the island’s roadways, gambling and drinking.
“The Lord wants us to be productive,” Cariaga says, citing a Bible verse from 2 Thessalonians: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”
Jesus’ teachings “are practical and real,” he says. “They picture a sustainable Christian community — where generous giving is made possible by God’s grace through abundant harvest.”
He talked to non-governmental organi-

zations and attended sustainable agriculture classes — looking for a low-cost way to help his people earn their own money. He found goats.
‘WE DON’T HAVE TO BE POOR’
It’s a short walk — albeit a torturous one, over jagged, porous limestone — from the blacksmith’s shop to the pens where Linda Sumbi keeps her goats.
Her arms are loaded with the branches



Linda Sumbi takes an armful of moringa to feed her goats, provided by Give A Goat. The goats provided funds for a life-saving operation.

of a moringa tree, and she’s covered with tiny, green leaves. The husky goats chomp away as she forces the stalks through the slats of the pen, made from tree branches. The vitamin-loaded plant increases milk production, Cariaga says.
Sumbi takes pride in her goats and realizes their value.
After all, goats saved her life, she says. She lived here before the Christians came. Life was hard. They had to walk miles for water. Many worked as day laborers in other people’s fields.
In 2006, Cariaga and a group of fellow Church of Christ members purchased nearly 100 acres here, including the land on which Sumbi and her neighbors live.
They didn’t do what most wealthy Filipinos do when they buy land — force Sumbi and the other “squatters” to vacate.
Instead, they launched the Give A Goat program. Christians and concerned people overseas provided funds to loan Sumbi two goats, male and female.
She fed them and bred them and was allowed to keep the female and the offspring. The goats could easily navigate the rugged terrain of Arapal Christian Camp — and ate just about anything.

They produced milk, manure and more goats — all of which have value.
About a year ago, Sumbi fell ill. Doctors discovered a baseball-sized tumor in her abdomen. She sold all of her goats to pay for the operation to have it removed.
As she recovered, Give A Goat loaned her new goats. The goats reproduced quickly, thanks in part to the skills and experience Sumbi had acquired.
“Four of the kids now belong to her, if they all survive,” Cariaga says.
Stories like Sumbi’s abound at the camp, which, though tropically humid, gets less rainfall than much of the Philippines. (Downpours, such as the one at the blacksmith hut, seldom last, Cariaga says.)
Despite the weather, the campsite now is carpeted with vegetable gardens.
Speaking through an interpreter, Sumbi says she’s thankful to God for the gifts she has received. A baptized Christian, she spends her Sundays worshiping with the Arapal Church of Christ — under a pavilion at the camp that bears a tiny, wooden cross.
“People here, they now grasp what we have,” says Elmer Palacio, another Filipino preacher who works at the camp. “They see the love of God.”

Trained as a minister at Sunrise Christian College, Palacio grew up on a farm.
“That’s why my heart is here,” he says. “We teach them the composting of waste from goats for vegetables, (but) our mission, of course, is to bring them to Christ. We share God.”
Word of the region’s newfound prosperity has spread. Government workers come here to learn about farming, Palacio says.
Recently, a Filipino businessman visited the camp. He wanted to raise goats and learned on the Internet that Arapal was the place to get them. He bought a breeding pair for \$260 and loaded them into the back of his sport-utility vehicle.
Cariaga wants more people to know about what God is doing at Arapal, where “the poorest community in the country, with the worst weather and agricultural conditions” is becoming “a bread basket.” He wants to increase the camp’s size to 500 acres and “build a sprawling Christian community,” complete with a hospital, university, and agribusiness center. Through radio,



Palacio

Internet and word of mouth, he plans to “preach a message of hope.”
“We don’t have to be poor,” he says. “Our children do not have to be hungry. We live in a rich country.”
‘AM I MAKING A DIFFERENCE?’
A day after the downpour, the students from Southwest Christian School in Fort Worth, Texas, gather around Bebe’s newly completed home.
The students spent three days milking goats, clearing brush with the Stegall bolos and building Bebe’s house. They attended a “goat show,” sampling vinegar made from coconuts and judging goats raised by children in the Give A Goat program. Categories included “bulkiness,” “showmanship” and “audience impact.”
Soon, the students will leave the camp to see other works on the island supported by Bread for a Hungry World. The Texas-based nonprofit provides funds for Give A Goat, sponsors the education of orphans and funds self-sustainable works here.
Before they leave, the students and Cariaga gather in a circle around Bebe. Chris Swinney, a teacher at the school, places his hand on her shoulder as they

pray for her to overcome her addictions, to be a good mother for her children and for God to give her strength.
Weeks later, Bobby Moore, director of Bread for a Hungry World and a member of The Hills Church of Christ in North Richland Hills, Texas, shares a text message he has received from Cariaga.
“Bebe has been attending worship since you rebuilt her hut,” Cariaga reports. “She was very remorseful about what happened ... and vowed not to drink again.”
One of the goat raisers at the camp is mentoring her, Cariaga says, and she is showing considerable skill as a gardener.
And, just before midnight on a recent Saturday, she was baptized.
“There are many days you wonder, ‘Am I making a difference?’” Moore says. “Then you get stories like these.”
Cariaga invites Moore and the students to return next year.
“I hope you will see that Bebe’s garden is just as good as the others around her,” he says.
“Already, her garden is very promising.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see www.giveagoatnow.com, and givebread.org.



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A conversation with Nobie Stone

RETIRED NASA SCIENTIST, *once an agnostic, sees faith-affirming, Bible-based truths in the cosmos.*

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

What does the ionospheric wake of an orbiting spacecraft have to do with the existence of God?

Everything, says astrophysicist Nobie Stone, whose research on the subject is studied by scientists around the world.

The laws of thermodynamics — which Stone relied on heavily during his years with NASA — fit hand-in-glove with the biblical creation account, he says. Stars grow old and die. The universe is expanding. It clearly had a beginning, but the Big Bang theory, which proposes that something came from nothing, violates these “sacred” scientific laws.

The creation account, meanwhile, allows for “input from outside of nature,” Stone says.

Stone, who earned a doctorate from the University of Alabama-Huntsville and worked at NASA’s Space Sciences Laboratory at Marshall Space Flight Center, served as mission scientist for two Space Shuttle missions. He has flown science experiments on eight space missions. Now retired, he serves as a deacon and adult Bible class teacher for the Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville.

He conducts seminars, titled “A Reasonable Answer for the Hope that we Have,” for young people from high school to early career-starters and parents.

“Interestingly, I have had older adults tell me that the material strengthened their faith or provided answers to questions that had troubled them,” he says. “Apparently, doubt has no age limit.”

What, in your formative years, contributed to your agnosticism?

My family was very religious. We attended church every time the doors were open and had a family devotion every night.

But there was a problem — Bible

lessons at church were shallow, and “irreverent” questions (such as, “How do we know the Bible is true?”) were not welcome at home.

I left for college with many unanswered questions — and new questions arose during my undergraduate years.

In history, we studied the ancient Egyptians and their gods, the Greeks and their gods, the Romans and their gods and the Hebrews and their God. I had to ask, “What’s the difference?” Clearly, the many were false, but the one I was to accept. Why?

I had no idea. I had no clue where to go for answers — or if they even existed. By the time I graduated, the questions had matured into full-fledged doubts.

What brought you back to faith?

It was the absence of God.

By this time, I had earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in an advanced engineering science curriculum and was working at NASA on the Apollo program — preparing to send a man to the moon.

I should have been on top of the world. Yet something was missing. I would lay awake at night pondering the meaning of life and what I should accomplish. I felt a gnawing emptiness.

Solomon was right. Life without God is empty and meaningless — and no human endeavor, no matter how grandiose, can change that.

And so began my search for God — enabled by the untiring efforts of a Christian mentor, Clyde Jones, who patiently endured my many questions. If he didn’t have an answer, he would bring me a recorded lecture or something to read. Finally, I owe a great deal to the loving influence of a Christian wife.

How has your scientific and technical training affected your faith?

Science trains one to be a good observer, to gather and evaluate evidence, to construct logical conclusions and follow where they lead. This process served me well in evaluating doubts.

My career also has given me an inside

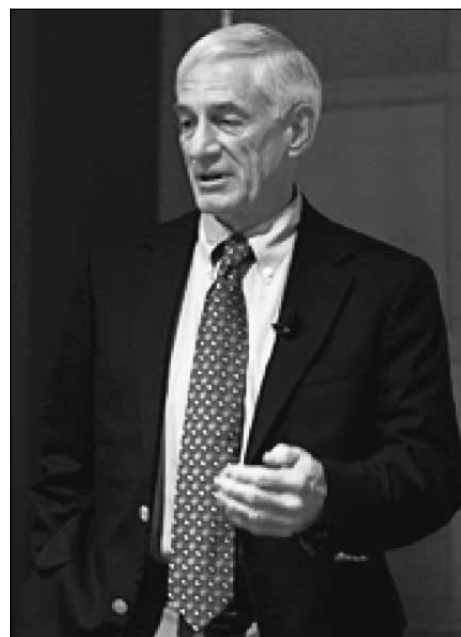


PHOTO PROVIDED

Nobie Stone speaks about faith at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.

‘Science is not a worldview but a tool with which to understand the world. The great classical scientists ... believed that they were, through science, viewing how God created the universe.’

Nobie Stone

view of scientific thought and findings. A primary academic motivation for space exploration was the question, “Are we alone?” Many were convinced that we would find life elsewhere in our solar system. Yet the most outstanding find from four decades of space exploration is the very special nature of Earth.

How do you see science and the Bible relating to each other?

Some have taken a theological position that religion and science operate in two separate spheres and have no logical contact. This position is simply

untenable in today’s secular world — and inadmissible if we believe God to be the almighty Creator.

My personal view is that God is the architect, creator and sustainer of all nature. Since he also is the author of revelation, then revelation and nature are both products of the same author and, therefore, must be mutually consistent. If they are not, then we have misinterpreted our scientific observations or misunderstood revelation — examples of both exist in history.

So I do not see science (the study of nature) and the Bible in conflict. I do see inconsistencies between some scientific theories and revelation.

What do young people need to know about science?

Science should be an objective, rational search for an understanding of how nature (the material universe) works. It deals exclusively with phenomena that can either be observed with our senses (sight, touch, hearing, for example) or logically extrapolated from those sensory observations.

As a result, science has limitations. It cannot address questions of “Why?” in terms of intelligent motivation, since these types of questions are not physical. And it does not work well with single-occurrence phenomena (beginnings, miracles) since they, by definition, are not repeatable and, therefore, cannot be studied under controlled conditions.

Science is not a worldview but a tool with which to understand the world. The great classical scientists — Newton, Galileo, Kepler — believed that they were, through science, viewing how God created the universe.

Scientism, as opposed to science, is a worldview. It claims that nothing exists beyond the material universe and its laws (materialism) and that any question worth discussing can be answered by the scientific method. It is faith in science. As a result, science is given sway in areas far beyond its logical boundaries.

See **STONE**, Page 22



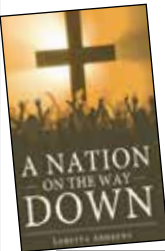
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STONE: Youths must be allowed to question faith

FROM PAGE 21
What fields, other than science, have you found important to faith?

God has revealed himself to mankind in three ways — through his creation, revelation and visitation (Jesus, who was God incarnate).

Therefore, we find evidence in three primary areas: in science — as we unfold how God created the universe; in history — the life, death, and resurrection of Christ are historically documented events; and in Scripture — its content and consistency.

Scripture contains understanding and knowledge that is virtually impossible for a people, living some 3,500 years ago, to have developed. Moreover, it was written on three continents over a period of some 1,500 years by people ranging from former slaves to kings.

Yet there is an incredible consistency and correlation between the Old and New Testaments (Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac and God's sacrifice of his Son, the deliverance of the Israelites from physical bondage through the waters of the Red Sea and our deliverance from spiritual bondage through the waters of baptism).

It is obvious that there has been orchestration. Yet considering the facts of their origin, who could possibly have done this?

How can we better prepare young people for life in our secular world?

There appear to be three primary reasons why young people abandon faith. Firstly, speaking for myself, it was a prohibition on questions and an almost total void of answers. Secondly, many young people did not see real dedication to faith at home in their formative years. Thirdly, adolescence is a time of uncertainty and poor self-esteem for many young people. It is critical that they feel accepted and a part of something. Regrettably, they often are shunned and ostracized by their peers at church.

We should, therefore, provide an atmosphere where absolutely no earnest question is considered irreverent or unacceptable. And rational answers must be given. Educate parents concerning their critical modeling role. Perhaps this will strengthen teenagers' faith — and ensure that every teen feels at home in church.



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CONVICTED: Rural church has ‘found our niche’ in prison ministry

FROM PAGE 3
a Wednesday — or Sunday — since his first visit in 2004. He shares the love he found with other former convicts through the Faith Based Therapeutic Community Corporation, an alternative sentencing program he oversees that stresses community service, job skills training and church attendance. In 2012, the church experienced 42 baptisms through the program and other outreach efforts, Rouse said. And, through its ministry at a women’s prison in nearby Taft, Okla., the church baptized an additional 162 inmates. “I don’t think there has been a recent year that we haven’t had at least 120 baptisms out there,” Rouse said. “It’s the fact that our people are out there every week. It’s obvious to the prisoners that we care about them.”

NOT CONTENT TO SIT AND WAIT
For a little country congregation, the Fort Gibson Church of Christ is huge. Its meeting place looms over a hillside in Oklahoma’s oldest town — the site of a military outpost established in 1824. In 1855, J.J. Trott, a missionary from Tennessee, preached the Gospel here. A half-century later — yet still two years before Oklahoma became the 47th state — more than 300 people gathered for “The Big Meeting — Fort Gibson Indian Territory,” a revival that birthed the church. Now big-rig trucks speed eastward from the city of Muskogee on Highway 62, past a newly opened Cherokee casino and a sign that points to the church building on South Lee Street. It’s nearly as big as the casino, complete with circle drive, tall steeple and a lighted marquee sign that invites pass-



Atop a hillside in northeastern Oklahoma, the Fort Gibson Church of Christ invites passers-by — including former inmates — to worship.



Participants in the Faith Based Therapeutic Community Corporation sing alongside Fort Gibson church members on a Wednesday night.

ersby to visit. On Sundays, 350 to 400 people gather here for worship. The church benefits from its location, said Budo Perry, one of the congregation’s five elders. Though Fort Gibson boasts a mere 4,155 residents, according to census figures, the surrounding area has become a bedroom community for Muskogee, just across the Arkansas River, and Tulsa, about 45 minutes northwest on the Muskogee Turnpike. The church could sit in its building and wait for worshipers to come. But for nearly three decades, the congregation’s leaders have challenged members to take the Good News to people who need it desperately — the more than 25,000 prison inmates in Oklahoma.



Perry

Bob Young, who ministered for the church in the mid-1990s, helped introduce the members to New Life Behavior Ministries, a faith-based curriculum developed by H.M. Motsinger, a Church of Christ member and family therapist in Dallas. Using the Bible, the program tackles substance abuse and other demons that haunt inmates as it seeks to reconcile them with their families and their Creator. In recent years, Churches of Christ in Africa have launched affiliates of the Texas-based ministry. In Fort Gibson, church members began teaching the curriculum at the Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center,

a minimum-security women’s prison in Taft, 19 miles east of the church. Twice per month, church members conduct Sunday worship at the prison. The church helped finance construction of a chapel for the inmates. “Because of our participation, our members were involved in the design of the building,” Perry said, “and that meant the builders included a baptistery.”

‘WE’VE FOUND OUR MINISTRY’
Since the chapel’s dedication in 2010, church members have performed nearly 400 baptisms there. About two dozen members teach the New Life Behavior curriculum to classes of 100 to 125 women on Friday mornings. Other members grade lessons and communicate with inmates — male and female — across the state through the church’s correspondence ministry. Getting church members to talk about their involvement is difficult. Each points to someone else in the congregation who has worked with the program longer or goes to the services more frequently. Betty Martin, 77, makes regular trips to the prison. She’s seen fellow members get a little skittish when she asks them to join her.

When they do go, “they realize how rewarding it is,” she said. “You can see in the girls’ faces their change of attitude. ... They just thank us all the time.” Working behind bars also has changed the congregation — even the way Rouse preaches, the minister said.

“It has opened doors and opened a lot of people’s hearts,” Rouse said. The church “sees itself as a hospital for sick people.” When members see the results of sin sickness on a regular basis, “the three-piece-suit righteousness is tossed out the window.” By serving convicts, “we’ve found our niche, we’ve found our ministry,” Martin said. Instead of lamenting the state of the world, “we feel like we’re doing something.”

FRUSTRATION AND REHABILITATION
Inmates are “thirsty for someone to come and teach them the truth — consistently,” Perry said. But helping new Christians maintain their faith after baptism is difficult. The state forbids contact between inmates and volunteers for six months after the inmate’s release. Neither may church members contact the inmates’ families. “It’s my greatest frustration,” Rouse said. “I think it stinks, but we’ll lose our privileges if we follow up.” The 180-day rule is designed to keep personal relationships from interfering with the professional duties of the corrections officers who work with inmates after their release, said Jerry Massie, public information officer for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. The rule applies to volunteers and prison employees who work with inmates during incarceration. Though church members can’t do follow-up themselves, “we do encourage



A photo on the prison ministry bulletin board at the Fort Gibson Church of Christ shows volunteers at the construction site of a prison chapel in Taft, Okla.

the inmates to look up local congregations when they get out,” Rouse said. “But we just don’t know what happens.” The church also sends Bible class invitations to inmates — including the one that led Seabolt to their doorstep in 2004. After experiencing the reckless trust and love of the church, Seabolt was baptized and founded the Faith Based Therapeutic Community Corporation. Men in the alternative sentencing program do community service projects, attend church services and mentor each other as they reintegrate into society. These days, Seabolt’s cell phone rings almost constantly, as government agencies line up to get help from the program. “Anything that needs to be done, they do it,” said Lyle Tolbert, longtime member of the church. After completing the program, several graduates have moved to the area and are active church members. “The people are very respectful,” said Tolbert’s wife, Joyce. “They join us in our singing. It’s very satisfying.”



Rouse

‘YOU’RE STUCK WITH ME’
On another Wednesday night, nearly nine years after Seabolt’s first visit, church members mingle in the foyer with men from the program — many with tattoos on their necks, some holding hands with their wives and

carrying infants in car seats. Rouse leads them through the first chapter of Revelation, a letter written by another prisoner — John, in exile on the island of Patmos because of his faith. The letter, despite its seemingly bizarre visions of beasts and angels, is a message of encouragement for Christians, Rouse explains. As they experience trials and tribulation, John tells his fellow believers, “I understand. I’m there too.” At the end of announcements, Seabolt shouts, “Wait! We have a graduation!” Jordan Parks — who attempted two other sentencing programs before completing this one — walks to the front of the auditorium. “Look at that smile!” one of the men shouts. Another hollers, “Speech!” “It took me four years to get one of these,” says Parks, 22, holding his diploma. “It’s amazing how much — when you clear your eyes — how much you have to be thankful for.” Parks, who was baptized recently, tells the congregation that he has moved to Fort Gibson and will continue to work with the program and attend church. “You’re stuck with me,” he says with a grin. Though the Bible studies help, it’s seeing Christians live out the faith they profess that transforms lives, Seabolt says. “They loved us when we were unlovable, prayed for us when we couldn’t pray, trusted us when we couldn’t trust ourselves,” he says. “I think I read that in some book somewhere. Pretty crazy!”



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Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting (MCCS) serves as a liaison between scouting organizations and Churches of Christ.

Recently, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) released a proposed resolution that would change their membership standards to allow open or avowed homosexual youth members. The trustees of MCCS have expressed their strong opposition to this policy change.

On May 24th, BSA is scheduled to vote on this change. BSA, scout leaders and youth all need the prayers of Christians during this process. We encourage you to voice your opinion at:

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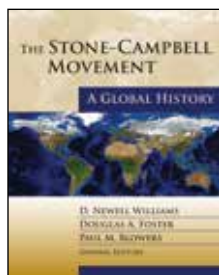
On the roller coaster of life, a drama team from the Memorial Church of Christ in Houston faces the loop of lust, the dip of deceit, the curve of cheating and the tunnel of temptation during

the recent Leadership Training for Christ conference in Dallas. "Some of the riders opted not to wear their safety belts — the Bible — and fell off the ride," youth minister Mike Avery said.

HIGHER EDUCATION

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

ABILENE, Texas — In partnership with 13 other scholars, Doug Foster, professor of history in ACU's Graduate School of Theology and director of the Center for Restoration History, has recently published "The Stone-Campbell Movement: A Global History."



"This is the first attempt in history by authors to write the inclusive history and narrative of the Stone-Campbell Movement that documents all its streams and locations, which is pretty daunting," Foster said.

The Chalice Press book explores the world history of the Stone-Campbell Movement. The movement began in the early 19th century as an effort to unify all Christians by restoring the simple teachings and practices of the New Testament as the standard of Christian fellowship.

CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE

PARAGOULD, Ark. — Crowley's Ridge's recent 13th annual Bible Lectureship drew nearly 1,600 participants from nine states.

The lectureship was the first major event hosted in the college's newly renovated and recently air-conditioned Carter Activities Center.

The theme was "James: Lessons in Practical Christianity."

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Faulkner is launching the new Kearley Graduate School of Theology in the V.P. Black College of Biblical Studies.

The late F. Furman Kearley was a biblical scholar and a strong proponent of Faulkner and Christian higher education.

Beginning this fall, the Kearley school will administer Faulkner's Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degree and all future graduate programs.

"The Kearley Graduate School of Theology will seek to excel in biblical scholarship and Christian ministry in order to instill in students a balance between truth and deeds, faith and

works and knowledge and wisdom," said G. Scott Gleaves, who will direct the program temporarily.

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — Dan Williams, longtime minister for the College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado, Ark., will become Harding's new vice president for church relations.

Williams will succeed Bruce McLarty, who assumes the university's presidency on June 1.

"Dr. Williams is already widely known throughout Churches of Christ because of his evangelistic curriculum for small-group Bible studies and his daily e-mail resources for ministers known as 'Preacher Stuff,'" McLarty said. "He will be an excellent addition to our administrative team."



Williams

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb is creating a new graduate degree program dubbed the "Global Hope MBA."

The Master of Business Administration program will provide five full-tuition scholarships each year to international students who pledge to return home and use their degree to make a difference in their country.

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OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian has a new "front door" — the Lou Phillips Welcome Center.

The facility, which will serve as a beginning point for campus guests, is named for a longtime university executive assistant who died in January. Philanthropist Jose Freede funded the venue.

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Submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to Dr. Ed Gray, professor, at egray@hst.edu.

May 9 Third Annual Spring Apologetics Lectures. Grand Pointe Conference and Reception Center, Vienna, W.Va. Contact (877) 350-9222 or office@warrenapologeticscenter.

May 9-11 The Ascending Voice III. Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif. Contact www.pepperdine.edu/ascendingvoice.

May 16-18 24th Annual Augusta, Montana Men's Retreat. "In Search of Balance." Sponsored by the Great Falls, Mont., church. Contact Bob Alfred at (406) 788-7599 or alfredfamily@hotmail.com.

May 24-26 Manna Global Ministries Conference. Hosted by the Fairfax, Va., church. Contact Mark Gibson at mgibson@fxcc.org or www.fxcc.org/missionsconference.

June 3-7 Missionary Renewal Retreat. Hosted by Missions Resource Network. Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. Contact (888) 641-2229 or www.mrnet.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.eastwood-churchofchrist.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 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, Park Plaza church in Tulsa, Okla. "Love. Live. Lead." Contact www.parkplaza.org.

July 19-20 11th Annual Central Texas Bible Teachers Workshop. Hosted by Cameron Road church in Austin, Texas. Contact (513) 452-0639 or www.crccastin.org/ctbtw/.

Websites for Churches

- Easy to maintain
- Very attractive to visitors
- Email members directly
- Post audio sermons
- Maintain member directory

Check out these three websites:

- bluerivercofc.org
- odessachurchofchrist.org
- chillicothechurchofchrist.org



PS Tech Group
682.587.7784 pstechgroup.org

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Toby Rogers has been named dean of the B. Ward Lane College of Professional Studies at Lubbock Christian University in Lubbock, Texas. Christian Home & Bible School in Mount Dora, Fla., has named **Dennis Cardoso** as its head football coach. Lipscomb University's 2013 Alumnus of the Year is **Jeff Whitehorn**. Whitehorn is chief executive officer of



Nashville's TriStar Summit Medical Center. He also serves as a deacon at the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn. Oklahoma Christian Academy in Edmond, Okla., has named **Robert Gregg** as its head boy's basketball coach. Gregg brings 13 years of coaching experience in various roles to the position.



HONORED: Essie Childers has been elected vice president of the Texas Community College Teachers Association. Childers attends the A&M Church of Christ in College Station, Texas. **Gerald Paden** was recognized for 41 years of teaching at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas.



AWARDED: Lipscomb University history chair and LIFE program founder **Richard Goode** has been awarded the Mary Morris Award for exemplary spirit of service to the community.

NEW ELDERS: Gil Allan and Anthony Rose, Victor Valley Church of Christ, Victorville, Calif. **Stan Stout** and **Keith Vail**, Johnson Avenue Church of Christ, El Cajon, Calif.

ANNIVERSARIES: 73rd: Don and Lucile Chamberlain, Laton, Calif. 64th: Lewis and Clara Knight, Dallas, Texas. 60th: Linzel and Joyce Hutson, Newport, Ark.

BIRTHDAYS: 100th: Bettye Kendrick, Lebanon, Tenn. 90th: Leonard M. Gray, West Monroe, La.; and Lewis Knight, Dallas, Texas.

PASSAGES: Doris Quay Chapman, 85, March 29, Altus, Okla. Kerry Wayne Metcalf, 48, March 29, Oklahoma City, Okla. Don Merrill Edwards, 73, March 15, Mobeetie, Texas. Willis Edward Kirk, 93, April 8, Waco, Texas. George H. Pledger, 82, April 5, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Milestones

a paid service of The Christian Chronicle

Birthdays

100th

Rensina (Rens) Bunt — Born in Amsterdam in 1913, Rens studied to be a nurse. She met her husband Tom during WW II, and they married in 1946. Rens is mother to Hilde, Elly, Mary and Michael. In 1952 the family moved to Australia and from there became missionaries in Papua New Guinea where Rens continued using her nursing skills. Rens and Tom currently live in Brisbane, Australia, and worship with the Point Church of Christ.



Achievements

Josef Alleyne and Billy McKinney Mount Dora, Fla. — Christian Home & Bible School seniors Josef Alleyne and Billy McKinney recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Billy supervised the building of a bat house to help with mosquito control in a park in Tavares, Fla. Josef designed, planted and supervised a prayer garden on the CHBS campus.



Chris Lough

Prattville, Ala. — Prattville Christian Academy seventh-grader Chris Lough has won the Geography Bee for the state of Alabama. He will be competing in the National Geographic Geographic Bee in Washington D.C. This bee will be hosted by Alex Trebeck and will air on National Geographic sometime after May 22. Congratulations, Chris!



Anniversaries

70th

Clarence and Maxine Cudd

Dear Mother and Daddy,
God says marriage is honorable. Your 70 years together epitomize an honorable marriage. This joyful journey began in your youth; you have gracefully advanced in years as one,



reflecting the sentiments of Psalm 34:3, "Oh, magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together!"

You have modeled for us the features of a Christian marriage — love, kindness, sweetness, loyalty, trust, respect and faithfulness. We thank you, we honor you, and we love you.

— Your Family

70th

Alfred C. and Velma M. Bradshaw — Married March 8, 1943, Alfred and Velma currently worship with the Brentwood Hills church in Nashville, Tenn. Alfred has previously served as an elder for Wingate church in Nashville and for Crosstown church in Tulsa, Okla. Alfred and Velma have enjoyed meeting wonderful Christians as they have traveled all across America.



Births

Zinnia Grace Tremblay

Zinnia Grace Tremblay was born on March 15, 2013, in Oklahoma City. She weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long. She is the sixth baby born to her parents, Mat and Natalie Tremblay of Guthrie, and their first girl. Her twin brothers David and Isaac went to be with our Lord in 2006, yet she is blessed by the love of her other brothers Kenron, 5; Axel, 3; and Ryker, 1.



Graduations

Hannah Scott

Dear Hannah — Congratulations on a job well done! You have worked really hard these past 18 years. You have turned your heart to our Lord, and He has been faithful thus far. With Christ as your example and your life fully devoted to God, the best is yet to come. We are excited about this new chapter and look forward to watching your journey unfold.

Happy Graduation!!

Love, Uncle Randy, Aunt Tonya, Chris & Ashley



Memorials

Barbara Goodnight

Edmond, Okla. — July 16, 1942 - April 7, 2013. She was reared in the Edmond, Okla., church of Christ where she met her husband of almost 50 years, Ronny Goodnight.



In addition to being the greatest Christian wife and mother anyone could ever have, Barbara was a fine elder's wife for 17 years. She taught at Sonshine School with her mother and sister for 32 years. Barbara is survived by her husband, Ron; children, David and Kim; sister, Arwanna Shotts; seven grandchildren; one great grandson; and many nieces and nephews.

Edgar Latham

Antelope, Calif. — Nov. 23, 1927 - Feb. 20, 2013. Ed preached in churches throughout California for more than 60 years and in later years served as an elder at the Roseville, Calif., church. Ed attributed much of his spiritual strength to the teaching and influence of strong Christian leaders at The Tipton Children's Home in Tipton, Okla., where he lived from ages 9-15. He leaves his wife, Sue, along with three children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Marti White

Edmond, Okla. — June 29, 1955 - April 9, 2013. Marti grew up in Cahokia, Ill. She met her husband, Chuck White, while attending Oklahoma Christian University. Marti and her family lived for 28 years in Midwest City, where Marti taught elementary school for more than 16 years.



She touched the lives of her students, parents and co-workers. She is survived by her husband, Chuck; their children, Colin, Aaron and Laini; daughters-in-law, Emily and Allison; grandchildren, Cason and Kendall; her mother, Ruth Bell; two brothers; and many other family members.

Share your milestones. Contact Tonya Patton at tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org or (405) 425-5071.

Awards bring recognition of our blessings

Every now and then something happens that makes the staff of *The Christian Chronicle* realize once again how blessed we are.

Recently, the *Chronicle* was named the top national/international newspaper in the annual "Best of the Christian Press" contest sponsored by the Associated Church Press.

The first-place award was presented at the religious press association's meeting in Indianapolis. The yearly competition draws more than 1,000 entries in 60 categories.

Describing the *Chronicle*, one of the contest judges wrote: "From great-looking layouts to powerful photography to its outstanding writing, *The Christian Chronicle* understands what is most important — that the people and their lives, and how those lives interconnect with readers, is the foundation for communication excellence."

Besides the top publication honor, the paper received five other awards for stories published in 2012. Individual first-place awards included:

- **"Fear and faith,"** a news story written by Erik Tryggestad during a reporting trip to Nairobi, Kenya. The story looks at the impact of Islamic terrorism on a Church of Christ in a Somali-dominated neighborhood.

- **"Is your church visitor-friendly?"** A package of articles by Bobby Ross Jr. won in the Personally Useful Article Category. Ross used his own experience visiting a church

during a reporting trip to highlight the need for congregations to be outsider-friendly. A sidebar by Tryggestad added an international angle to the package.

Judges were lavish in their praise for "clear, concise and compelling" writing.

Our journalists love finding captivating Christian stories to share. For them, it's a ministry, not a job. And your support and words of encouragement help make it all happen. We recognize that, and we also want to recognize you for your partnership in this endeavor.

Recognition by fellow journalists brings us to our knees in gratitude — first to our gracious Lord who makes this ministry possible and, secondly, to you, our readers who provide "the wind beneath our wings."

Into this office daily flow generous words of encouragement, appreciation and support from you. We are humbled and deeply grateful for these blessings.

You have seen our mission statement many times: to inform, inspire and unite. Accomplishing this often takes us into difficult and complex subjects as we try to put a face on the challenges of a life of faith. You have come

to expect and appreciate the fact that *The Christian Chronicle* takes you to where the news is happening. When you read our pages, we pray you will journey with us to Massachusetts, South Dakota or West, Texas. Or Latin America, Africa and the Philippines.

Sending reporters on these trips is costly. But when you read the *Chronicle*, you see the difference in reporting styles that are in-depth and balanced.

We want to keep telling these stories of news and faith in the future because you appreciate and expect them. Please help make this publication possible by joining hands with us to invest in this quality publication.

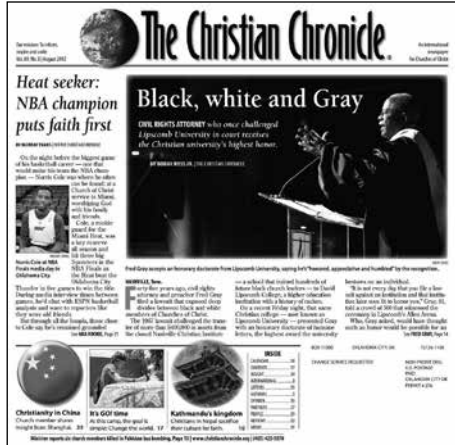
In a time when we are learning to cope with increased financial challenges by trusting in the Lord, we wanted to share with you this recent good news.

As a down-trodden lady once said to my wife, "If you look carefully, every day the Lord sends you a blessing."

Not only has he sent us the blessing of recognition for our hard work, but he also sends us, daily, many other blessings — including each of you.



Lynn McMillon



TO OUR READERS

Let the *Chronicle* help you honor and celebrate

Beginning with this issue of *The Christian Chronicle*, we launch a new paid service to help readers celebrate important "Milestones."

This new feature will allow readers to mark a birth — physical or spiritual — or a death.

Parents may choose to celebrate their children's wedding, and children may opt to mark their parents' anniversary.

Milestones will provide space for expanded obituaries and memorials of loved ones who still occupy special places in our hearts.

Others may wish to recognize a teen's Eagle Scout award or a senior saint's retirement.

Life's journey is sprinkled with "Milestones" that mark new chapters. Many of these points in life bring about an array of emotions.

Romans 12:15 instructs us to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. This new paid service is one more way that the *Chronicle* will go about doing that, while seeking a beneficial way to help meet our increased postage and printing costs.

As we continue to develop this new section, we'll be listening to the desires of our audience and prayerfully considering all options.

For more information and to inquire about rates, please contact Tonya Patton at (405) 425-5071 or tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org.



Our mission: To inform, inspire and unite

www.christianchronicle.org

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On a mission to learn: Asking for help lets those you're serving know they have value

Want to make an impact for the kingdom of God? Ask someone for advice.

I don't mean advice on evangelism or theology. I'm talking about advice on shopping, cooking, directions — just about anything.

Then, learn to be a learner. Let me explain. One Saturday afternoon my husband and I found ourselves in a simple, wooden house in the mountains, just outside the capital city of Honduras. We had arrived at the home of a fellow church member, led by several of her children up a winding, muddy trail.

The hardworking mother literally leapt with excitement as she saw us coming up the path. She proceeded to give us a tour of her property, naming the plants she was growing and showing us pictures of her family.

Her teenage daughter tried to teach me how to make tortillas (she makes hundreds of them every week) by gently smashing the dough between two pieces of wood.

Then she tried not to laugh when I failed at my attempts, time and time again.

When lunchtime came, the family handed us plates full of delicious food. The obvious amount of energy and care they had put in to making our time there so special was overwhelming, and we were humbled by the relatively large amount of money they had spent to feed us.

As we were leaving that day, a smile spread across the face of our host, and her eyes seemed to be filled with thankfulness.

I stood there confused. We were the ones who had just been showered with love and hospitality. Why did she seem so appreciative of us?

It was almost as if, in accepting the invitation to her house, in stumbling my way through a tortilla-making lesson and in listening to stories about her family, we had somehow given her a gift.

It seemed that, by openly receiving the blessings she wanted to offer and

the lessons she wanted to teach, we had in some way honored her.

After that memorable afternoon, I started asking myself a lot of questions about my work in Honduras. After all, I had come here to “serve God by serving people.”

But I began to wonder if the best type of service I could practice had less to do with the things I would share with Hondurans and more to do with how I would receive whatever they had to offer.

I realized that, if I was going to change the way I looked at my work here, it would also mean that I'd be changing my role. Instead of always giving, I would also receive, and instead of only being the teacher, I would also be a learner.

It turns out that being a learner does not always come easily for me. At its core, learning is a humble, open-minded attitude that one must intentionally choose to practice. It requires vulnerability, when I usually want to be in control. It requires time, when I'm usually in a hurry.

And it requires patience, when I usually want to solve the problem as quickly as possible.

But, as unnatural as it feels, I believe it's the best way to enter a foreign country, because it literally throws the doors wide open to opportunities for relationship.

In my experience, one of the easiest and most fruitful things someone can do in Honduras — which at least promises a lively conversation — is simply to ask a local for advice or for help.

I am constantly asking questions

Views



Melissa Dodson



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MELISSA DODSON

A trip to a home in rural Honduras taught Melissa Dodson a valuable lesson. Dodson came to serve, but she experienced the blessing of being served.

about the language, requesting pointers on cooking and needing help navigating certain aspects of the culture.

But through all my questions and advice-seeking I have found myself, over time, in situations of mutual sharing, mutual trust and the give-and-take that characterizes genuine friendship.

It sounds simple enough, but some things that appear extremely simple to us might actually mean a lot to others.

When we are willing to humbly receive whatever the locals have to share — be it a special skill, understanding of a certain subject or insight into a particular issue — we're acknowledging that we know we don't have all the answers and that we trust in their expertise.

In the end, the unspoken-yet-powerful message they're receiving is, “You have something important to offer.”

Mission efforts take many forms, but no matter what we plan to do, where we choose to go or how many times we've already been there, we can always strive to go with the attitude of a learner.

I thank God for giving me this chance to learn — through the culture and people of Honduras — more about him, about his kingdom, and about myself.

And I'll forever be grateful to the people here who have been my willing and exceptionally patient teachers.

MELISSA DODSON and her husband, Bart, have served as missionary apprentices in Honduras for three years through *Helpers in Missions*, a ministry of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. Follow them at dodsonsindhonduras.blogspot.com.

LETTERS

Reader responds to marriage editorial

Marriage, as practiced in today's church, does need to be re-examined, and a change in practice is called for; indeed. (See “A clarion call to fight for marriage,” Editorial, May).

Let the state do whatever it wishes for persons to enter into a contract having legal status and protections commonly afforded by the state. Call this mutual contract what you will — “civil marriage” or whatever.

And let the church teach men and women what it means to follow Christ, to be molded by him into his image, whether as single men and women or as married men and women. Let the church get out of the business of hosting weddings and get into the grit of leading a married man and woman into holiness.

Jon Paden | Juneau, Alaska

All about the building?

Did anyone catch the irony in the story of the New England Church Growth Conference? (See “Share Jesus outside the church walls, Christians urged,” Page 1, May.)

Ken Massey insinuated that not owning a building was the key to growth while using a brand-new \$3.2 million church building to get his message out.

Whereas some people think that having a building is the key to church growth, others think that not having a building is the key. To assume that church growth is about having or not having a building seems to me mistakes of exactly the same kind: It's all about the building.

Bob Weber | Chatham, N.J.

I have always maintained that one of Satan's greatest victories has been our perception of “church” as being connected to a physical place with four walls

Satan wins again if we are prone to think our “church” duties are completed if we faithfully attend two to four hours per week.

Church is not a place. Church is the body of Jesus Christ on Earth, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Jackie Barger | Nixa, Mo.

Megachurch insight for healthy growth

BY MARK PARKER | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Few would argue that Christianity is at a transition point in history. Churches across the religious spectrum are aging, shrinking and closing. Growing churches exist, but with a few exceptions, those growing churches do not have the name Church of Christ on the door.

It is easy to write off those churches: Not part of our history. Theologically suspect. Fluffy.

Authors Larry Osborne and Andy Stanley lead megachurches on opposite sides of the country. In their newest books, each offers insights from which Church of Christ leaders can learn. Osborne shows how Christians unwittingly sabotage their own efforts to be faithful. Stanley offers a church structure that can be both engaging and faithful.

In **"Accidental Pharisees: Avoiding Pride, Exclusivity, and the Dangers of Overzealous Faith,"** Osborne keenly diagnoses a significant roadblock to healthy churches: Christians who unknowingly resemble Pharisees more than Christ.

Pharisees don't produce healthy churches. And no one thinks he or she is a Pharisee. The dynamic between these two simple statements supplies the overarching message of the book.

Becoming a Pharisee does not happen with intention, but this mindset can develop when not intentionally kept in check. Osborne's goal is to help readers recognize and avoid Pharisee-like traits.

He does this by exploring six characteristics of accidental Pharisees: pride, exclusivity, legalism, idolizing the past, quest for uniformity and gift projection (valuing one's gift over the gifts of others).

Although the distinctions among these characteristics blur at times, Osborne's delineation and description of the char-

acteristics are helpful to anyone involved in church leadership or desiring personal self-examination. The author also gives tools for better understanding Pharisaical brothers and sisters without simply writing them off.

Osborne succeeds in writing about these people without vilifying them by identifying the Pharisaical tendencies in his own life and ministry. He avoids "us" and "them" thinking by making "them" into "all of us." In this way he is able to speak frankly about Christians and our shortcomings without becoming bitter.

The format of the book and the writing style are accessible to a wide audience. Scripture texts, for example, are in footnotes.

From San Diego, Osborne tells us to stop repelling people from our churches. From Atlanta, Stanley shows us how to build congregations that attract the unchurched.

It seems ironic that the son of well-known minister Charles Stanley and leader of the multi-site megachurch North Point Ministries,

would write a book that is critical of the seeker-sensitive model of church.

But **"Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend,"** does just that.

Stanley acknowledges, "The best performers usually build the biggest churches, but not necessarily the healthiest ones." The focus of his book is to offer an alternative to the mentality of many church models — either you're big (and shallow) or small (and narrow). The church must be both deep and wide, he argues.

A "wide" church is focused on the unchurched. Churches tend to start out this way, he writes. Over time, they turn inward, becoming a church "for church people."

"Deep" churches guide people to a stronger faith, Stanley writes. The spiritual formation discussion surrounding his five "faith-building dynamics" is worth the price of the book. He isn't

interested in fluff.

As for building a deep church, Stanley writes, "Our goal isn't to create an event unchurched people love to attend. We are creating churches."

This is an important departure from other seeker-sensitive models. Whereas both emphasize the role of the worship service as a place that is welcoming and comfortable for the unchurched, Stanley's model integrates spiritual formation.

"Deep and Wide" begins with the story of how Stanley's vision developed, then provides the theology grounding his model. Section three describes the spiritual formation process (deep) and section four, the process of building "irresistible environments" (wide), including tips for preachers. The final section addresses congregational change.

Stanley offers a very personal glimpse into his ministry and then explains how his church developed into its current expression. This is a strength. The issues he and his congregation have tackled will resonate with anyone in a context of ministry leadership.

At the same time, Stanley is blessed by the credibility of his father and the large church where both Stanleys ministered.

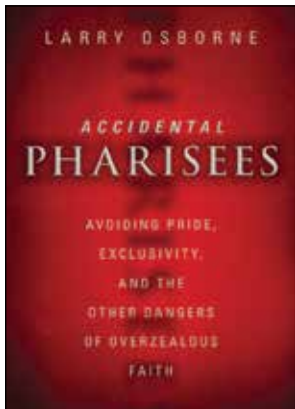
Having such momentum will seem idealistic to those in small churches or those without the financial and people resources available to a suburban Atlanta church.

It is easy to shoot at those who are not of our tribe, especially when they are such large, megachurch targets.

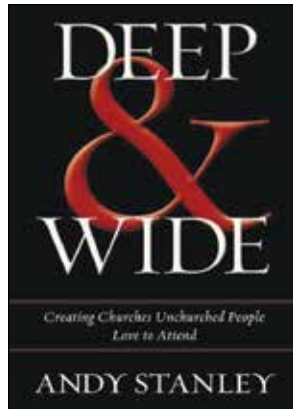
But both Osborne and Stanley are practical and bluntly explain what we in Churches of Christ least want to admit: When our kids leave our houses, they often leave our churches as well.

If they come back to church, they seek congregations that are intentionally both deep and wide and filled with people who are like Christ — not the Pharisees he condemned.

MARK PARKER is young adults minister for the Grand Central Church of Christ in Vienna, W.Va.



★★★★★
Larry W. Osborne.
Accidental Pharisees: Avoiding Pride, Exclusivity, and the Dangers of Overzealous Faith. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2012. 196 pages. \$14.99.



★★★★★
Andy Stanley. **Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2012. 350 pages. \$24.99.

NEW AND NOTeworthy

YOUNG ADULTS

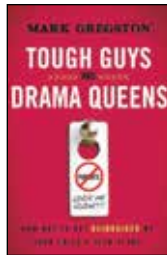
Ryan and Josh Shook. **Firsthand: Ditching Secondhand Religion for a Faith of Your Own.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: Waterbrook Press, 2013. 208 pages. \$17.99.



Written by two brothers, sons of a preacher, this book challenges nominal Christians to make their faith their own — not their parents', not their friends'. A free website, DVD series for sale and discussion questions with action points at the end of each chapter make it suitable for a college and young professionals study.

PARENTING

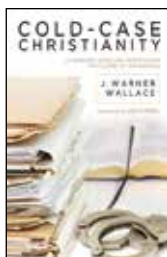
Mark Gregston. **Tough Guys and Drama Queens: How Not to Get Blindsided by Your Child's Teen Years.** Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2012. 240 pages. \$15.99.



Today's teen culture is radically different from the one in which parents came of age, argues Gregston, founder and director of a counseling center for teens. A new paradigm is needed — one that relies on communication and trust and fosters independence.

APOLOGETICS

J. Warner Wallace. **Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: David C. Cook, 2013. 288 pages. \$16.99.



Using 10 principles essential to cold-case investigations, Wallace leads readers on his journey from atheism by examining evidence for Jesus being the murdered and risen Son of God. His honest assessment led him to the conclusion that the Gospels are true.

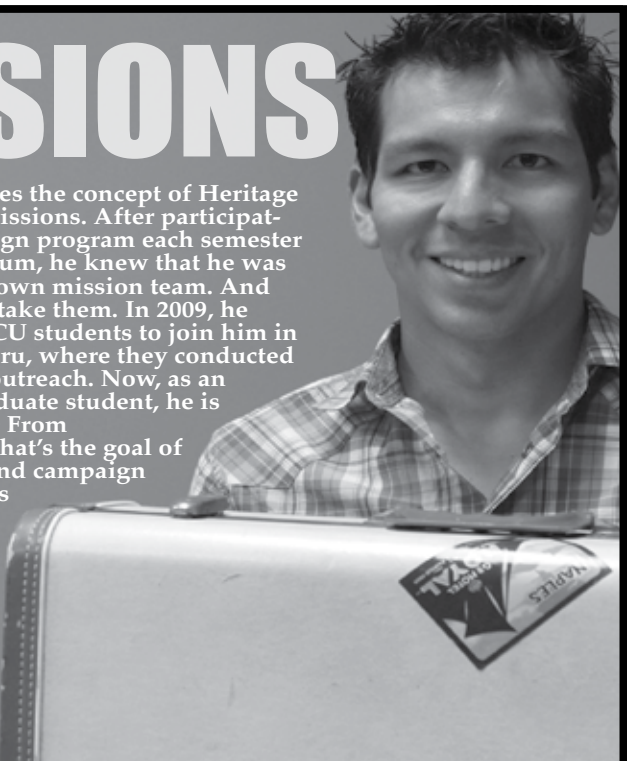
MISSIONS

Ramon Gonzalez defines the concept of Heritage Christian University missions. After participating in the HCU campaign program each semester as a part of his curriculum, he knew that he was capable of leading his own mission team. And he knew just where to take them. In 2009, he organized a team of HCU students to join him in his home country of Peru, where they conducted Bible studies and did outreach. Now, as an HCU alumnus and graduate student, he is planning a second trip. From being led to leading... that's the goal of the Christian Service and campaign programs. Ramon plans to return to Peru after graduation, but he will have left a legacy of leadership... and a dream in the hearts of other students. That's the type of missions experience you can expect from HCU. It's our focus.

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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

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/>

Wanted: Faithful man of God

The **Northwest Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time 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

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

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Blessed mourning: God's Word filters loss through prism of love and eternity

She was in her late 60s with 12 grown children, including five sons who had survived combat in World War II and more than 30 grandchildren.

Yet tears came to her eyes when she talked about Walter, her firstborn who had died 12 hours after he was born.

She remembered his blue eyes, his blond hair and a tiny birthmark on his neck. The child she lost had a large space in her heart — even 50 years and many births later.

She was my grandmother Carrie McBride. From her I learned that loved ones we have lost always linger in our memories, stirring emotions to mourn again what is beyond our grasp.

It was a long time before I made the connection between her feelings and Jesus' parables about the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son. In them, Jesus was teaching a fundamental truth about human nature. In Jesus' sweeping description of the human condition in the beatitudes, he recognizes mourning as one of the emotions connected to spiritual development and, paradoxically, the state of happiness.

Mourning accentuates feelings and heightens man's ability to see life more clearly. The ancient Greeks expected tragedy to purge the emotions by arousing pity and fear over a chain of events when a heroic character goes from joy to misery. Russian novelist Dostoevsky illustrated that man often becomes insensitive to pain and suffering, that is, dehumanized. He also taught that mourning draws out feelings and sensitivity that increase our connection with the rest of mankind.

Loss in a community usually draws the community closer together.

Recently, Americans have experienced the terrorist attack at the finish line of the Boston Marathon and the deadly explosion of the fertilizer plant in West, Texas. These events have made all Americans more thoughtful and apt to mourn.

In reality, I am not good at mourning. Our culture has few traditions to encourage mourning. Our "stiff upper lip" mindset encourages getting on with life and getting over it.

My response to mourning, like my response to most of life, is to find the words to describe circumstances graphically and then later to write more,

reflecting on the events and their meaning to me and others.

But after all that, I really have not mourned. I have not put the loss through the prism of love and eternity.

Often I wonder how we would feel

Insight

if we tore our clothes, dressed in sackcloth and sat in ashes as Job did.

Would removing creature comforts make us more conscious of the loss? Would deliberately making our bodies uncomfortable cause our spirits to be more open to God's comfort?

I want to learn how to deal more effectively with

loss and mourning. I don't want to avoid my feelings, especially if those feelings can link me closer to people and to God.

I have learned to work around all those childhood lessons about big boys not crying. Even when our hearts are broken, we have to put on a smile and meet the world. Life is so busy that we are forced to move on to meet obligations and fulfill our responsibilities. No matter how empty we feel or how significant the loss, modern life pushes us along.

The possessions of our lives make us comfortable, and the people in our lives increase every thought and feeling. Losing things disturbs us. Losing a person makes us uncertain about our existence and ourselves. One poet describes death — the most profound of losses — as offering "superb vistas." A modern novelist depicts the loneliness of being forever exiled from home, even a land of oppression and injustice. Jesus taught us to mourn over our sins and our failures to be all God prepares us to be.

Whatever we mourn has been mourned before. Philosophers and homespun observers offer many precepts for dealing with grief. But only the eternal perspective of God provides a valid view.

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

No easy answers exist, but when we grapple with loss in the presence of God, we change and grow to be people whose vision is so enlarged that we know the comfort of God.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org



Bailey McBride



Tennessee Children's Home Job Openings

Residential Counselor. *Couples needed for live-in positions as residential counselors, providing frontline treatment and care for up to eight adolescent males, ages 13-18. Good interpersonal, team, and conflict resolution skills are required. Must be willing to undergo extensive training in behavior management techniques in a therapeutic environment. Must be able to adapt to two-weeks-on-one-week-off schedule. Residential counselors are part of an interdisciplinary team consisting of case managers, credentialed counselors, and support staff.*

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



Dean, College of Education

Faulkner University is seeking a highly qualified individual to serve as Dean, College of Education. The individual selected must demonstrate a commitment to Christ-centered Liberal Arts education, Christian service, the mission of Faulkner University and the mission of the College of Education. This individual will serve as administrative head of the College of Education and will be responsible for planning, directing, organizing, and monitoring proper operation of the College as well as overseeing all aspects of the NCATE accreditation.

This is a full-time, 12-month position. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The review of applications will begin immediately. This position is funded and will begin as soon as the qualified candidate has been found. Employment is conditional upon a satisfactory background check and verification of work authorization through E-Verify.

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

Additional details regarding this position, including application requirements, are available on Faulkner's website: www.faulkner.edu

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

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 healthcare 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.

Wanted: Church Planter

North Boulevard Church of Christ is looking for an evangelistic entrepreneur to lead in the opening of a satellite campus for North Boulevard in a fast-growing area of Rutherford County, Tennessee.

This person will ultimately lead the satellite to full independence as a new church plant. He will also lead in planting other churches from the new church. North Boulevard will fully support the minister and the new church until it is mature and ready to stand on its own. This is an exciting opportunity for someone to join a church-planting renewal with the full support of a very large congregation committed to being used as a tool of God in a great world-wide spiritual awakening.

For more information, contact:

**Don Daniel at donaldgloria@comcast.net, Tony Holt at tholt@nblvd.org,
Bob Webb at bwebb@webbsrefreshments.com, David Young at dyoung@nblvd.org**

Family life /Evangelist Minister

We are seeking a family life /Evangelist Minister who has a heart for personal evangelism to work with our current Pulpit Minister and elders to spread the Gospel of Jesus to our community. We are a congregation of 450 members in a growing community west of Phoenix, AZ.

General Requirements:

The ideal candidate should be a married middle aged man with at least ten years of experience in evangelism and preaching. He should be of strong personal faith and be doctrinally sound and well grounded in the Scriptures. He should be very knowledgeable regarding educational materials suitable for the Church of Christ. 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, preaching, participating in the life of our church family here at West Olive. It also includes heading up our Education and Evangelism ministries and equipping others to serve.

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@qwestoffice.net**

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