



From Rhode Island to Liberia, with love

IMMIGRANT CHURCH in the U.S. has big dreams for bringing hope and healing to its war-torn homeland.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — In the bustling core of Rhode Island's capital, Liberian immigrants crowd into a simple white building with "Providence Church of Christ" painted in fading red letters above the front door.

On a blue-sky Sunday, men clad in button-down shirts and women sporting colorful African headscarves greet each other in a concrete parking lot surrounded by a chain-link fence.

Tall trees adorned in bright green anchor a sprawling urban cemetery just beyond the fence, casting shadows over the church building as vehicles zip by an auto-parts store and appliance business across the street.

Giggling children — most born in the United States after their families fled two decades of civil war — scamper to the basement for Bible class.

More than 4,000 miles of the Atlantic Ocean separate the refugees from their west African homeland, where women were raped and children turned into "killing machines" in fighting and ethnic cleansing that claimed 250,000 lives.

Despite the fresh starts they have made



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Members of the Providence Church of Christ, a Liberian immigrant congregation in Rhode Island, sing during a Sunday morning assembly.

in America, the hearts of these devoted Christians remain in Liberia — amid the orphans who wander the streets begging for scraps and the villagers still grappling with physical and psychological trauma.

"We don't have that much, but the little that God gave us, we try to share it with the people there," said church member John Kar, a social worker who lived in a refugee camp in Ivory Coast

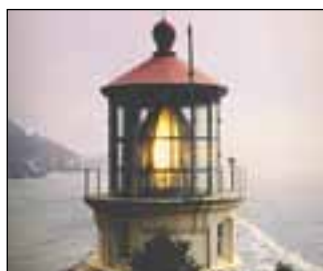
before coming to the U.S.

Its meager means aside, this thriving congregation has big dreams for bringing hope and healing to the men, women and
See **LIBERIA**, Page 12



Politics and faith

Believers discuss views on voting, bipartisanship. **25, 30**



A lighthouse at home

New books make case for neighborhood outreach. **33**



A school's legacy

'Proud crusaders' remember Nashville Christian Institute. **17**

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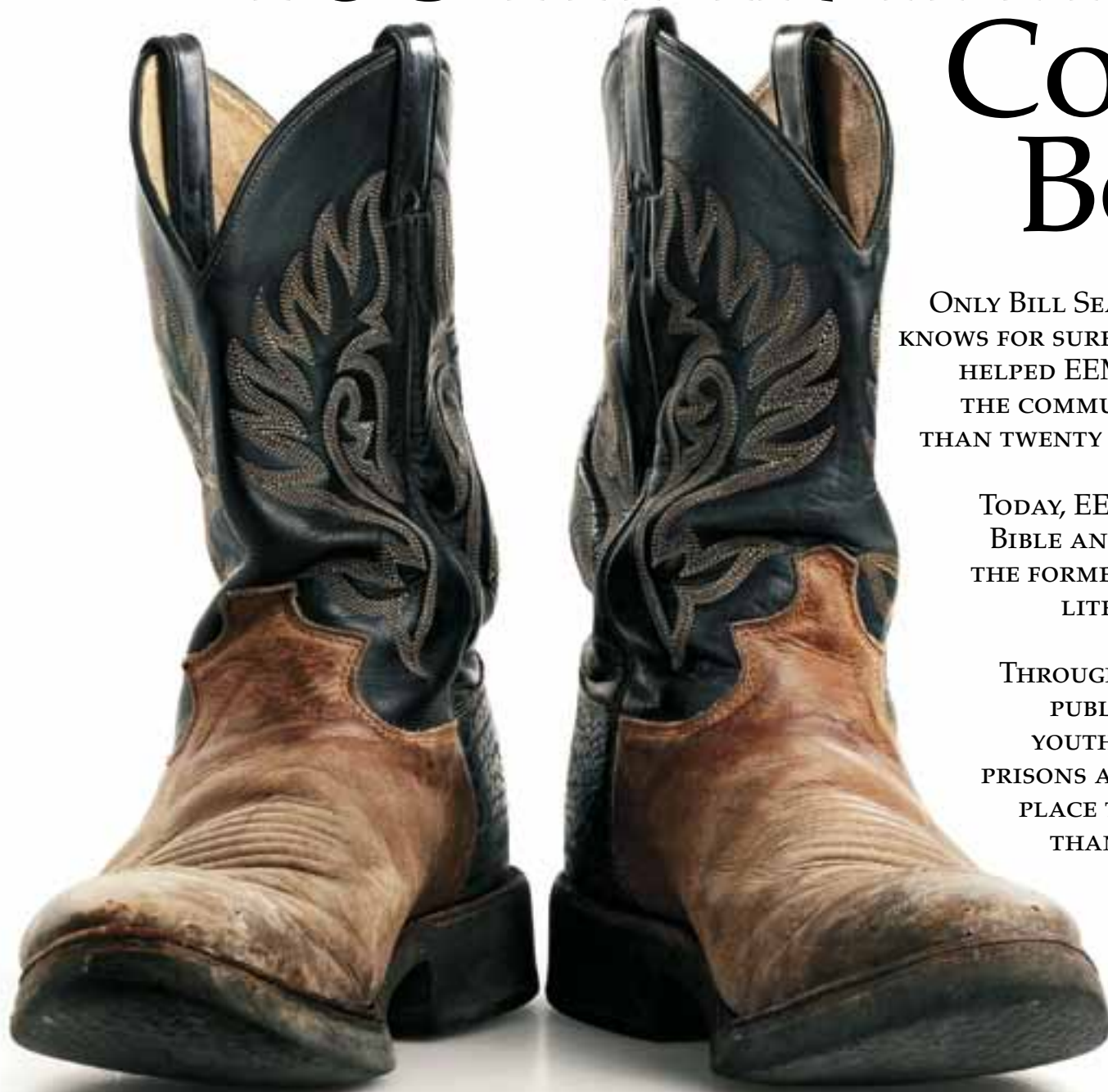
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Modern-day parables: This is country music

I drive a minivan, not a truck. I drink Diet Coke, not beer. I wear a baseball cap, not a cowboy hat.

I don't cheat on my wife, dance in the neon light or party all night with my rowdy friends. On my best days, I don't intentionally do somebody wrong.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

But I *do* love country music, much to the chagrin of the queen of my doublewide trailer. (By the way, honey, would you *please* stop switch-

ing the preset radio stations to classic rock?)

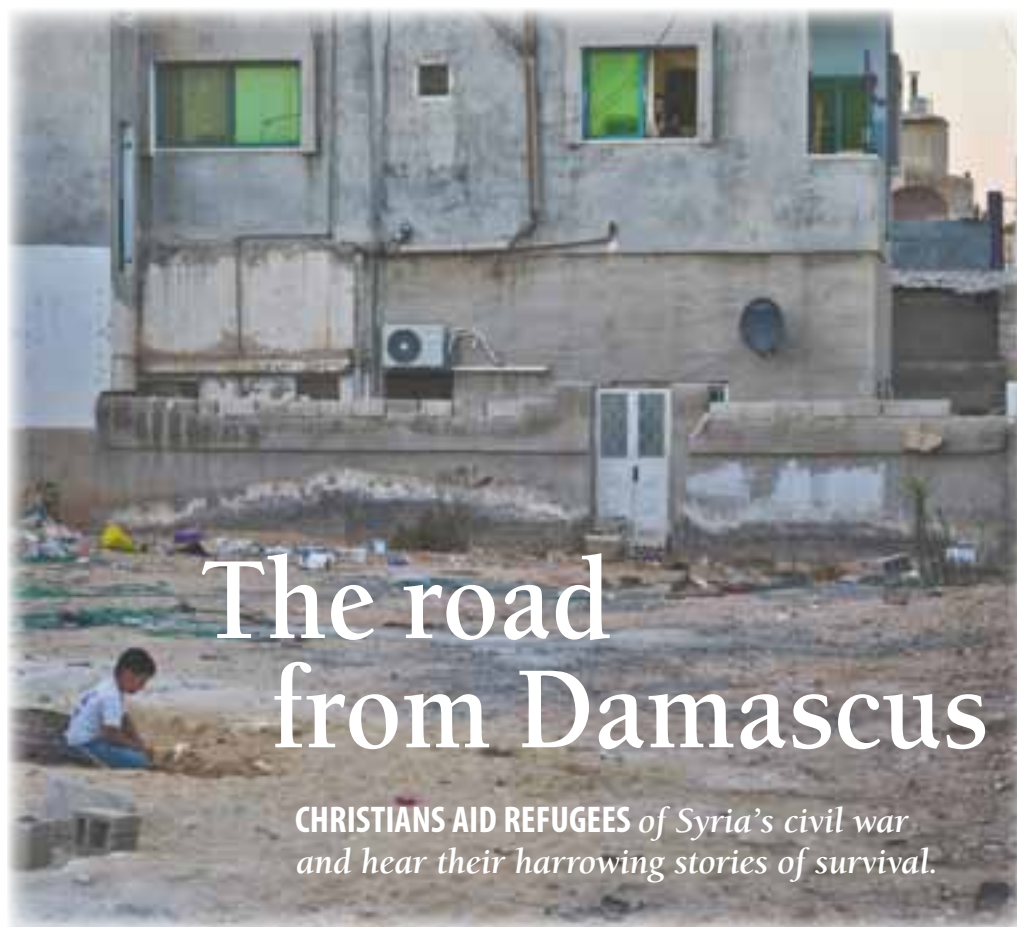
My friend David Duncan, minister for the Memorial Church of Christ in Houston, and I entertained our children recently with an ear-piercing, out-of-tune rendition of George Jones' "He Stopped Loving Her Today."

Granted, this musical genre is chock-full of bumpkins who fall to pieces, deal with achy-breaky hearts and face temptation when the devil goes down to Georgia looking for a soul to steal.

However, I seem to recall reading in the Bible about a prophet who's swallowed by a fish and a prodigal son who longs to dine on pig slop. And Jesus certainly had friends in low places.

In its 2002 hit "My Town," Montgomery Gentry sings about a "For Sale" sign on a rusty tractor, the mill closing down, a whistle blowing every day at noon and the interstate coming through.

See **COUNTRY MUSIC**, Page 4



The road from Damascus

CHRISTIANS AID REFUGEES of Syria's civil war and hear their harrowing stories of survival.

DANNY SIMS

A child plays in Mafrq, Jordan, home to tens of thousands of refugees from nearby Syria.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

For Christians in America, it's time to engage in the Syrian conflict, says Danny Sims.

The bloody civil war in the Middle Eastern nation — whose capital, Damascus, was the site of the apostle Paul's baptism — has claimed more than 30,000 lives in the past 18 months, according to news reports.

Sims, executive director of Global Samaritan Resources, traveled to neighboring Jordan recently to listen to refugees from the war. "Hands-on love and peace" are needed desperately, he said.

So are blankets.

Sims visited the city of Mafrq, about 10 miles south of the Syrian border, on behalf of the Christian humanitarian nonprofit, which receives support from members of Churches of Christ. The longtime minister became executive director of the Abilene,



Sims

Texas-based nonprofit in March.

Refugees have flooded Syria's neighbors since the "Arab Spring" of 2011 when Syrians began demonstrations against President Bashar al-Assad. In Mafrq, a United Nations camp houses 33,000 refugees — nearly half under age 18.

Other Syrian families live in borrowed houses, Sims said. In the courtyard of one such home, he spoke with a refugee named Hussein, who lived in the city of Homs, the focal point of the conflict between the Syrian government and anti-government fighters.

In Homs, soldiers went from door to door, threatening or killing anyone believed to support their enemies, Hussein told the minister. As the family prepared to flee, Hussein's 70-year-old father distracted the soldiers while they hid.

"When the family ... came out of their hiding spot, they found their father dead," Sims said. "The army had decapitated him."

Now Hussein and the surviving members of his family huddle in a small house with rusted pipes and a leaky roof.

See **SYRIA**, Page 14

For a half-century, Jones has fostered hands-on ministry

BY TED PARKS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — When the Schrader Lane Church of Christ moved to its current location in 1968, members occasionally had to chase cows and hogs off the property, minister David Jones recalls.

Forty-four years later, the 15-acre campus is home to a licensed child-care center, a 21-apartment senior center and an assisted-living facility.

Jones preaches to nearly a thousand people every Sunday. The church tutors children, sponsors leadership training and academic enrichment programs and supports missions in Africa.

Jones recently celebrated five decades of ministry for the church, which met on Jefferson Street before moving to Schrader Lane, north of downtown Nashville.

Those who know him say Jones has done much more than just talk about the Gospel these past 50 years. He has given the message hands and feet, empowering the church to take on problems Nashville shares with many American cities: underperforming schools, crime and the hopelessness fostered by discrimination and poverty.

"He takes the doctrine of sin very seriously, but he also takes the doctrine of redemption very seriously," said Rubel Shelly, who ministered for Churches of Christ in Nashville from 1978 to 2005. "He

See **JONES**, Page 16



Jones



TED PARKS

David Jones visits residents at the Schrader Acres Assisted Living Center, a ministry of the church.

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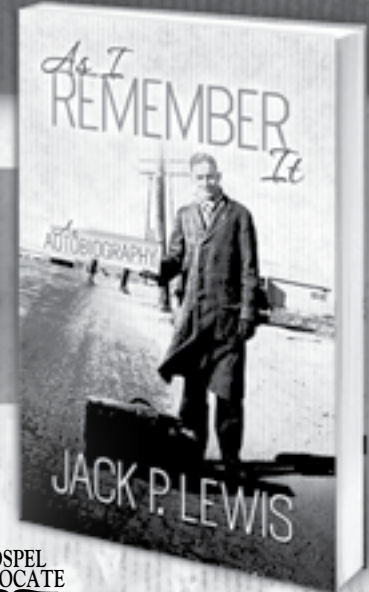
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COUNTRY MUSIC: 'The words written in red'

FROM PAGE 3

"Come Sunday morning service at the Church of Christ, well, there ain't an empty seat to be found," the chorus continues. "And this is my town."

Some of my favorite country lyrics impress me as modern-day parables.

As Brad Paisley put it, "Telling folks Jesus is the answer can rub 'em wrong ... but this is country music, and we do."

The late Don Vinzant, longtime preacher for the Edmond Church of Christ in Oklahoma, was a Bible scholar, an avid book collector and a well-read man of exceptional intelligence.

Yet some of his most memorable sermons — at least to me — quoted country music lyrics, including these words from Lee Ann Womack's "I'll Think of a Reason Later":

*It may be my family's redneck nature
Rubbin' off, bringin' out unlady-like
behavior*

*It sure ain't Christian to judge a stranger
But I don't like her*

*She may be a stranger who spends all
winter bringin' the homeless blankets and
dinner*

*A regular Nobel Peace Prize winner
But I really hate her*

I'll think of a reason later

That was years ago, and I don't recall the specific nature of the sermon. But I still think of Vinzant every time that song plays on the radio.

When Vinzant died last year at age 74, I couldn't help but follow his example and borrow these words from Brooks & Dunn's "Believe":

*I raise my hands, bow my head
I'm finding more and more truth in the
words written in red*

*They tell me that there's more to life
than just what I can see*

Vinzant certainly believed in "the words written in red."

Another of my favorites is Randy Travis' "Three Wooden Crosses."

That song concerns a farmer and a teacher, a hooker and a preacher riding

on a midnight bus bound for Mexico.

When an 18-wheeler can't stop on a dime, three of the four die:

*There are three wooden crosses on the
right side of the highway*

*Why there's not four of them, heaven
only knows*

*I guess it's not what you take when you
leave this world behind you*

*It's what you leave behind you when
you go*

*That's the story that our preacher told
last Sunday*

*As he held that blood-stained Bible up
for all of us to see*

*He said bless the farmer and the teacher
And the preacher who gave this Bible
to my mama who read it to me*

A few other songs that I like:

• "When I Get Where I'm Going" by Paisley and Dolly Parton, about shedding the sins and struggles of this life.

• "Blessed" by Martina McBride, about thanking God for all that we've been given.

• "Unanswered Prayers" by Garth Brooks, about appreciating some of God's greatest gifts.

• "Live Like You Were Dying" by Tim McGraw, about living deeper, speaking sweeter and giving forgiveness you've been denying.

• "I Saw God Today" by George Strait, about opening our eyes to the miracles all around us.

• "The Man I Want To Be" by Chris Young, about falling down on one's knees and begging God for another chance.

• "Jesus, Take the Wheel" by Carrie Underwood, about letting Jesus take control.

If I had more space, I'd reflect on Josh Turner's "Long Black Train" feeding off the souls that are lost and crying. But I've reached the end of the line.

So I'll close by reminding my sweetheart that she's the reason God made Oklahoma.

CONTACT bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org.

FLORIDA

HOMESTEAD — Nearly 30 teens and adults from the Lone Oak Church of Christ in Paducah, Ky., recently spent several days working with the Homestead Church of Christ's Vacation Bible School.

Besides helping with crafts, lessons and snacks for 100-plus children each night, the group volunteered in the community and at Redland Christian Academy, a ministry of the Homestead church.

"We painted, hung new doors in the gym and built new walls," Lone Oak youth minister Jamey Boone said. "We also did some work for some of the members in their homes and painted a Hispanic church building in Miami."

For more information on the Florida work, see www.j4lministries.org.

INDIANA

BEDFORD — Old-timers received special recognition recently at the Central Church of Christ.

The congregation honored all members 70 and older, giving awards to the oldest member, the oldest married couple and the longest-serving Christian.

Minister Rick Leach asked the entire congregation to hold hands and touch the shoulders of the older members and pray over them, said Laura Leach, Rick's wife.

"It was truly a blessing to be in a room with so much wisdom," she said.

LOUISIANA

MONROE — The recent fourth annual Area Wide Worship drew about 300 members from several area Churches of Christ to a high school auditorium.

The Forsythe, University, White's Ferry Road, Jackson Street and Calhoun congregations participated.

"We look forward to gathering again on the last Sunday night of August 2013 if the Lord delays his return," said John Dobbs, minister for the Forsythe church.

OREGON

PORTLAND — Agape Blitz — a work program designed to serve the community — started five years ago as a one-day outreach by the Agape Church of Christ.

The program has grown to three full weeks with mission teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Washington state helping with the most recent effort.

The mission teams served lunch and repaired bicycles at an apartment complex, fixed playground equipment at a preschool, mowed and pulled



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A cheer for the behind-the-scenes servants

New England church members offer a standing ovation to the men who cooked and cleaned during the fall women's retreat at Gander Brook Christian Camp in Raymond, Maine. The retreat drew nearly 200 women from Churches of Christ in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont. Becky Blackmon, author of "The Begging Place" and a member of the Lake Shore Drive Church of Christ in Waco, Texas, spoke on developing intimacy with God.

weeds at a community garden, painted at a house for sexually exploited girls and washed the feet of homeless people, reported Agape ministry interns Brett and Heather Worsham.

SOUTH DAKOTA

ABERDEEN — Coming soon to a theater near you: a movie about the life of former Lipscomb University basketball coach Don Meyer.

Moonglow Films hopes to start production this year and release the independent film into theaters next year, the *Aberdeen News* reported recently.

Meyer, a member of the Aberdeen Church of Christ, retired from coaching in 2010 with 923 wins. A 2008 accident required his left leg to be amputated below his knee. After the wreck, doctors discovered cancer in his liver and small intestine.

TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS — About 70 young adults representing 12 Memphis-area congregations participated in a recent "Lost and Found" retreat.

The retreat at a state park was designed to create unity among area congregations and "impact a generation that is leaving the church," said Justin White, a member of the Park Avenue Church of Christ.

The retreat theme was tied to David Kinnaman's book "You Lost Me," in which he describes the problem of young adults leaving their faith. Speakers Garrett Best, Eric Gentry, David Flatt and Smith Hopkins all addressed that issue.

Angela Rusk, who works for a Spanish-speaking congregation that meets in conjunction with the Sycamore View Church of Christ, said the retreat helped her "recharge my batteries."

SPOTLIGHT**Sweet Reeses**

SOUTH HOLLAND, ILL. — Dubbed the Sweet Reeses, a family from the South Holland Church of Christ competed on a recent episode of GSN's "The American Bible Challenge."

Derrek and Susan Reese, along with their son, Daniel, 17, played for the charity Created Treasures Performing Arts Academy, which uses the arts to teach and heal. The Reeses flew to Los Angeles on a Wednesday, attended Bible study at the Inglewood Church of Christ and taped the show that Thursday.

"It was so much fun," Susan Reese said. "The questions are very easy. If you love the Bible, then you read it a lot. Then you know what all these facts are. So it's an easy game show. But we had a blast."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY GSN

Daniel, Susan and Derrek Reese**TEXAS**

ARLINGTON — About 240 people attended the recent inaugural worship assembly of the Arlington Iglesia de Cristo (Church of Christ).

The Hispanic church plant is a cooperative effort of Great Cities Mission and three Arlington congregations: Woodland West Church of Christ, North Davis Church of Christ and Hillcrest Church of Christ.

Two families are planting the congregation in a growing city where 60 percent of students are of Hispanic heritage, missionary Omar Corpus said.

Corpus and his wife, Cesia, are from Mexico, while Jesus Rodriguez and his wife, Carmen, are from Puerto Rico.

The missionaries hope to reach not only new immigrants but also second- and third-generation Hispanic families, Corpus said.

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Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ –Gal. 6:2

Bible scholar, Yale professor Abraham Malherbe dies at 82

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Abraham Malherbe, professor emeritus of New Testament criticism and interpretation at Yale Divinity School, died from an apparent heart attack Sept. 28. He was 82.

Malherbe, an internationally known Bible scholar, was born in South Africa and was converted to Christianity by missionary Eldred Echols. Echols encouraged Malherbe to attend Abilene Christian University in Texas. After graduation there, Malherbe studied at Harvard University and returned to teach at ACU from 1963 to 1969.



Malherbe

“Abe trained a generation of New Testament professors in the Churches of Christ who now populate the Christian college faculties and beyond,” said Ken Cukrowski, associate provost and interim dean of ACU’s College of Biblical Studies.

Malherbe and his wife, Phyllis, who made their home in Hamden, Conn., dedicated a great deal of time and resources to support the Whitney Avenue Church of Christ in North Haven, Conn., as well as a number of

other churches in the area, according to a Yale news release. In recent years, the Malherbes attended the First Baptist Church, the release said.

“Abe Malherbe was the embodiment of an ancient ideal, the Christian scholar,” said David Bartlett, a Yale Divinity School professor emeritus of Christian communication. “His scholarship is known by everyone who studies New Testament, as he helped bring early Christian literature into conversation with the Hellenistic philosophical writings and helped us to think about the church in its social and intellectual context.”

In a 2002 interview with *The Christian Chronicle*, Malherbe expressed concern about Churches of Christ “cozying up to those evangelicals who put a premium on feeling at the expense of reason.”

“It seems that the goal of many services is to achieve an emotional response without imparting biblical knowledge,” he said. “When the same, non-expository approach is followed in a church’s Bible classes, any Restorationist nuance easily disappears.”

TO READ A FULL OBITUARY and see the complete 2002 interview, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for “Abraham Malherbe.”

Meningitis outbreak claims two members

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Two members of Churches of Christ were among at least eight people in Tennessee — and 21 nationally — to die from a fungal meningitis outbreak linked to tainted steroid shots.

Diana Elizabeth Reed was a 56-year-old wife and mother of two. The Otter Creek Church of Christ member died Oct. 3.

Reed was an avid reader and a woman of faith, someone who smelled the inside of a Bible every time she opened it, as if somehow inhaling its words, loved ones told *The Tennessean*.

A front-page *New York Times* story on Reed’s death reported that the Otter Creek church was bringing meals to her family and helping with laundry.



Reed

Reba Temple was known for checking in with the Centerville Church of Christ secretary once a week for years, asking who was sick so she could give them a call to encourage them, according to *The Tennessean*. The widowed mother and grandmother, 80, died Oct. 6.

“She was just a sweet Christian lady,” minister Shane Willis told the Nashville newspaper. “Everyone enjoyed being around her, having conversations with her.

She had a great love for the church.

“She was known by many people,” the minister added, “and their remarks were very positive about her.”

FOR EXPANDED COVERAGE, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for “meningitis.”



Temple



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HAITI

GANTHIER — About 330 children attended a Vacation Bible School in this Haitian town, 45 minutes east of Port-au-Prince. Three church members from Nashville, Tenn. — Andy Holley, Kelly Northington and Lindsey Kitchens — were volunteer workers for the event.

Jean Claubert Belton, the church's minister, asked the group to return and host a VBS twice per year. The next VBS is scheduled for early 2013. To volunteer, contact Joe Holley at holleyj0814@gmail.com.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ALOTAU — Diane Reese, who serves as a missionary in this South Pacific nation with her husband, Marcus, recently wrote a small-group study guide for the Gospel of Mark.



Diane Reese

"She called the women of the churches together, explained how to use the booklets and helped them to organize themselves into small encouragement groups — two to six women per group," Marcus Reese said.

"A number of women who had stopped going to church are now involved again," he said. "And some who go to church regularly said that they cried and cried as they shared with each other because of all the pent-up emotions that they had not been sharing until now. Men are also asking if they can use the booklets. I think God allowed Diane to meet a definite need with a powerful solution."

PERU

LIMA — A church member in this South American capital designed and helped build a library and community center



PHOTO PROVIDED

Carla works with single mothers in Peru.

to serve single mothers and their families.

The church member, Carla, was baptized last year.

She ministers to single mothers, teaching them the Bible and collecting necessities for them and their children, said Justin Thompson, a member of Team Lima, a church-planting mission.

Justin Thompson, a member of Team Lima, a church-planting mission.



TRENT WHEELER

Nigerian-led school prepares for ministry

Children play on the campus of West Nigeria Christian College in Abeokuta, Nigeria. The school hosted its annual lectureship recently, attended by 847 members of Churches of Christ. Cooks at the school killed a fatted calf — literally — to feed lectureship participants.

Launched in 2000, the school offers a two-year comprehensive training program. Graduates of secondary schools receive training in Bible, English, world religions, education and computer skills to help them as they enter university studies. The school also prepares young men to preach and offers an advanced diploma in Christian ministry. Biodun Owolabi directs the school, which has a seven-member board of trustees, chaired by Peter Egure. Tennessee-based African Christian Schools supports the work. For more information, see africanchristianschools.org.

Working with the mission's interns, community leaders and fellow church members, Carla designed and built the "ludoteca," a place for recreational and creative activities.

"As a missionary in Lima, one of the things that you pray for is Peruvian leadership," Thompson said. "While many people can talk, it's inspiring when one person takes that vision,

and with the help of others, puts their words into action."

UKRAINE

Tlumach — Ivan Skoleba, a minister in the western Ukrainian city of Ivano-Frankivsk, reports that people in the village of Tlumach have access to life-sustaining dialysis machines, thanks to donations by U.S. church members.

SPOTLIGHT**Julio are you? Mistaken identity leads to baptism**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — The Facebook equivalent of a wrong number led Julio Burgos to Christ.

Burgos, who lives in Florencio Varela, about 90 minutes from Buenos Aires, received a message on the social networking site from a church member in Colombia, who had confused Burgos with a friend of the same name.

The two became friends on Facebook and, when Burgos became interested in studying the Bible, the Colombian Christian referred him to someone he *did* know in Argentina — Pedro Soto, youth minister for the Caballito Church of Christ in Buenos Aires.

Burgos visited the church and later was baptized. Now he is a student at the Argentine Bible Institute, a ministry training school operated by church members.

"He now is in charge of ringing the bell between Sunday services and Bible class," missionary Joel Banks said. "He also has a thirst for learning God's word and spontaneously serves others."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Julio Burgos, left, studies at the Argentine Bible Institute in Buenos Aires.

People with diabetes and kidney problems had to wait for months for dialysis in Ivano-Frankivsk but now can receive the service at their local hospital, Skoleba said. "Many of them would die before they could have their treatments," the minister added.

Searcy, Ark.-based Ukraine Missions coordinated the medical shipment that included the dialysis machines.



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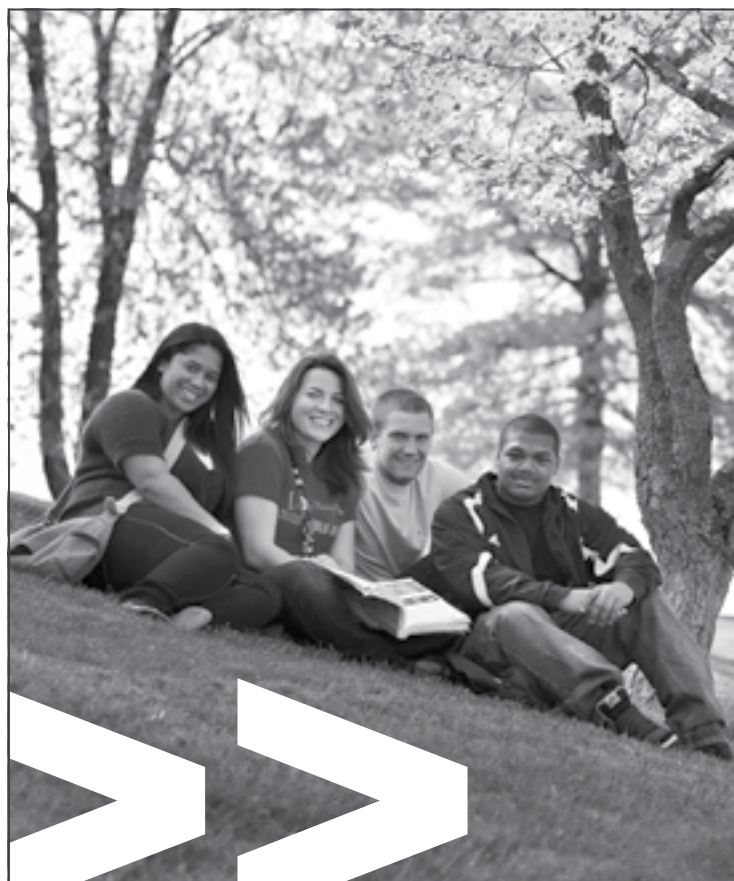
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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ISHMAEL RESENDEZ

Campers gather around a bonfire for a time of praise and reflection near Aquiles, Mexico.

'Big blessings' at camp

Campers took nature hikes, tie-dyed T-shirts and obeyed the Gospel during the fourth La Sierra Christian Camp near Aquiles, Mexico. This year's camp yielded "grandes bendiciones," or big blessings, said organizer Ishmael Resendez, minister for the Church of Christ in Victoria, Mexico. The camp's first session was completely full, with 52 youths attending. Organizers added a second session of 26 children. Six of them were baptized during the camp, Resendez said. Church members in the U.S. provide some support for the camp, which is conducted by Mexican Christians.



Victoria Jaramillo Hernandez shares her thoughts on a chapter of the Gospel of John.



Campers at La Sierra tie-dyed T-shirts bearing the camp's theme, "Transforming my Life," based on the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39.

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Storms, floods devastate churches across Africa

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Church leaders in the central African nation of Chad “sound a cry for help” in a recent letter reporting the devastating effects of two months of flooding.

“Heavy rains ... have caused enormous damage, both in terms of material things and human lives,” according to the letter, signed by 10 Church of Christ ministers in the Moyen-Chari Region of southern Chad.

The United Nations reports that more than 445,000 people have been affected by the floods, which consumed nearly 1,000 square miles of farmland. The nation already suffers from a high level of food insecurity — meaning that a large percentage of the country’s 10.9 million people don’t know where they will find their next meal.

The devastation brought scores of patients to the Jordan Health Center, a medical clinic in the southern Chadian village of Dona-Manga operated by Hope Springs International, a Tennessee-based nonprofit supported by church members. Patients from the flooded areas suffer from dehydration, diarrhea and dysentery.

“Of the desperate people who have traveled for medical attention, six people have died,” said Lee Hodges, the nonprofit’s president.

“In the midst of this tragedy, God granted us a major blessing,” Hodges said. “Our ongoing performance during this state of emergency has resulted in a special ceremony being held to award the Jordan Health Center with its full accreditation as a health center by the Chadian government.”

Church members in Geneva, Switzerland, sent \$1,500 to a congregation in Moundou, Chad, where Feltoing Djonga preaches. The minister is a

graduate of the Bible Training Center in Cotonou, Benin.

Djonga “knows the needs in (the) villages where there are brethren suffering from this excessive rainy season,” said missionary Doyle Kee, adding that the money sent by the Geneva church “is just a drop in the bucket for the need.”

The flooding has swollen rivers in neighboring Cameroon, forcing officials at a dam there to release large amounts of water into rivers that flow into

eastern Nigeria.

The resulting floodwaters forced church members from their beds in the middle of the night, said

Nathaniel Ajaegbu, a minister in the city of Aba, Nigeria. The Christians took refuge in the meeting place of the Gboko Church of Christ.

“Most of these brethren are farmers,” Ajaegbu said, “but the flood has destroyed everyone’s farms, houses and their belongings. Some of them (have) no clothes to change into.”

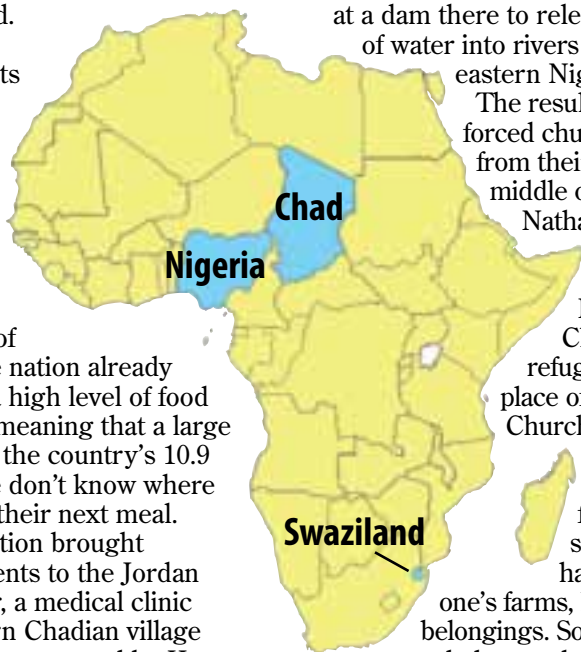
In the southern African nation of Swaziland, a recent storm knocked down power lines and tore roofs from buildings — including a newly constructed library — on the campus of African Christian College, a church-supported school. The storm knocked out the campus’ water pumps.

Students and administrators at the school are assessing damage to the campus and to the college’s macadamia nut orchard — a project designed to make the college self-sustaining.

“The best news is that everyone is safe and well,” said Brad Carter, the school’s president-elect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact:

- Hope Springs International: www.hopespringsint.com
- African Christian College: www.africanchristiancollege.org
- See www.christianchronicle.org for additional contacts.



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LIBERIA: ‘Why must the little kids suffer?’



BOBBY ROSS JR.
William and Helena Horace, shown in their Rhode Island home, hope to return to Liberia.



BOBBY ROSS JR.
A chain-link fence surrounds the Providence Church of Christ, a 250-member immigrant congregation that ranks as the largest Church of Christ in Rhode Island.



BOBBY ROSS JR.
Church member Benjamin Karmue arrives for Sunday morning worship with his daughters.



BOBBY ROSS JR.
Patience Karmue teaches the children's Sunday school class in the Providence church basement. A class for teen girls, taught by Helena Horace, meets on the other side of the room.

‘If they have to start with a dirt floor and a thatched roof, they’re happy to do that because their faith is so big and so strong.’
— **Jim Hambrick**, elder, White Station Church of Christ, Memphis, Tenn.



JIM WHITE
A sign is planted into concrete at the planned site of Lighthouse Village, north of Monrovia, Liberia. The ceremony was part of groundbreaking ceremonies for the missionary complex.

FROM PAGE 1
children of the war-torn country.
Kar serves as board president for a nonprofit called Love Lights the Way, which has taken the first steps toward building a missionary complex north of Monrovia, Liberia’s capital.
Those steps include buying 10 acres of land, cutting a road through dense forestland and digging a water well.
Church leaders liken the planned Lighthouse Village to Ghana’s Village of Hope. Providence church members and other supporters intend to erect an orphanage, a medical clinic, schools, a minister training college, a church and a guesthouse for visiting mission teams.
“They’ve been through war. They’ve seen devastation. They want to reach out and help their people,” said Ron Burnett, minister for the Fall River Church of Christ in nearby Massachusetts and Love Lights the Way’s board treasurer. “It’s neat to see how far they’ve come in a short time.”
A CHURCH TAKES ROOT AND GROWS
Freed American slaves founded the Republic of Liberia in the 1800s and named the capital after James Monroe, the fifth U.S. president and a prominent supporter of colonization.
From 1979 to 2003, the small coastal

nation with historic ties to America endured a bloody coup, years of military rule and two civil wars.
As many as 1.5 million Liberians were forced from their homes, according to a report issued by the nation’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2009.
In 1994, Burnett and his wife, Louise, were working as church planters in Cumberland, R.I., north of Providence, when they received a phone call from a Liberian refugee looking for a Church of Christ.
Before long, the Burnetts — who set out to minister to native New Englanders, not African war victims — were making a 30-minute drive to Providence each Sunday and bringing refugees to worship with the Blackstone Valley Church of Christ.
But eventually, the logistics of the weekly commute proved too much. It became clear to the Burnetts and their supporting congregation — the White Station Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn. — that the Liberians needed their own church in the heart of Providence.
With a focus on Rhode Island’s roughly 15,000 Liberian residents, the new congregation began meeting in a storefront

in 1999. The church moved to its stand-alone building the next year.
In 2002, a Liberian named William Horace finished two years of studies at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas. He and his wife, Helena, intended to return home.
However, Sunset’s president, Truitt Adair, learned of the Providence church’s desire for a Liberian minister and encouraged the Horaces to stay in America — as missionaries to their own people.
In the decade since, the church — which started with 40 members — has experienced numerical and spiritual growth.
Membership has hit 250, and the congregation appointed three elders and four deacons last year. An associate minister and a youth minister help tend to the flock.
“The thing about church work is, you always want to have people ready — trained and prepared — before you can move on,” William Horace said. “We are not here to stay. Even though we already obtained citizenship here, we want to return home one day.”
The Horaces and several other Providence members dream of returning to Liberia to make Lighthouse Village a reality.
Some already have bought property near the planned missionary complex to build homes.
Helena Horace’s voice cracks as she describes orphans so hungry that they dug turkey bones out of her trash during one visit she made to her home country.
“Nobody cares. Nobody cares,” she said, repeating herself and fighting back tears. “Why must the little kids suffer?”
Besides Providence members, Love Lights the Way’s board includes representatives from the Blackstone Valley and Fall River churches, along with two



BOBBY ROSS JR.
John Kar prepares to teach an adult Sunday school class at the Providence church.

medical professionals.
Board vice president Stephanie Ryan, who works with a home health-care agency, said she became involved after a Providence church member, Tony Witherstone, showed her a video depicting the plight of Liberian orphans.
“I just could not imagine not joining the crusade to help give these children a better life,” said Ryan, who has a Roman Catholic background.
CALLED TO SERVE THE VICTIMS OF WAR
Providence church member Caroline Phillips squeezes her eyes shut to keep from bursting into tears.
Phillips, 31, whose father died in the war, can’t help but become emotional as she recounts her refugee experience.
“I lost family members who are very dear to me,” said Phillips, who was 18 when she fled Liberia with her mother. “Thinking about the war is tough. It’s very challenging, even at this moment.”
“I still have flashbacks ... about fighting, killing people in person, gunshots and all that.”
In the U.S., Phillips has earned a master’s degree and launched a career in higher education.
However, she said she feels called to return to Liberia with the Love Lights the Way project and work to empower

women and children.
During Liberia’s war, women were often brutally raped and kidnapped, forced to watch their husbands and children tortured and killed, or forcibly conscripted into various warring factions, according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
Thousands of children were forced to take drugs as a means to control their minds and teach them to kill, “making them virtual killing machines,” the commission reported.
Already, the Providence church has helped start one successful orphanage in Liberia.
Former refugees Fungbeh and Neyor Karmue operate Christ’s Children Home in Gbarnga, Liberia, providing food, shelter and education to 44 orphans.
The new plans aim to make a bigger impact closer to the nation’s capital.
This past winter, a group of Love Lights the Way board members traveled to Liberia to break ground on the missionary complex.
They drove through the cluttered streets of Monrovia — filled with cars,



Phillips

trucks, motorcycles, wheelbarrows, pedestrians, bicycles and vendors selling everything from food to necklaces to batteries — and made their way into the countryside.
In the tree-shrouded jungle, they passed a banana plantation and stopped occasionally to visit with villagers who live in huts made of sticks and clay.
Finally, they arrived at the top of a hill — the site of the planned Lighthouse Village.
“You would never, never believe that people live where we were,” said Ellen Jarry, wife of Providence church elder George Jarry.
“It was like a forest with trees, no road and nothing,” added Jarry, a nurse’s aide who worked seven years in Rhode Island before she could complete the process to bring her husband and the rest of her family to America. “But there were people living in the bushes.”
The people — about 250 of them — came out of the bushes to celebrate the plans for the missionary complex. The government sent a deputy minister to praise the development.
“We envision building a village that will make it easy for members of the church to come work in Liberia,” said board secretary Jim White, a member of the Blackstone Valley church. “God

has already accomplished a lot through this work, but much needs to be done.”
BIG PRICE TAG, STRONG FAITH
Building the entire Lighthouse Village could cost between \$3 million and \$5 million, organizers estimate.
At a recent meeting, the board’s treasurer reported that the group had \$1,325 in its bank account.
“It will take a lot of God, a lot of faith and a lot of dollars from the United States,” said Jim Hambrick, an elder for the White Station church, which supports William Horace and Bruce Bates, minister for the Blackstone Valley church.
But the seven-figure price tag won’t deter African Christians, said Hambrick, a businessman who has served on Village of Hope’s board and makes annual summer trips to help with the Ghana work.
“If they have to start with a dirt floor and a thatched roof, they’re happy to do that because their faith is so big and so strong,” Hambrick said. “They believe that God will bless it.”
MORE INFORMATION: www.lltw.org

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SYRIA: Refugees face 'long, cold winter'

FROM PAGE 3

For them, "it will be a long, cold winter," Sims said.

The family's needs extend far beyond the physical. As Hussein told the minister his story, the Syrian's steely blue eyes held "no tears, but a hollow vacuum."

"There was a look of desperation and hate," Sims said. "Right now, there's not a lot of forgiveness going on."

CHRISTIANS 'STAND IN THE BREACH'

Many outsiders view the Syrian conflict as one that pits Muslims against Muslims, Sims said. About three-fourths of the country's 22.5 million people are Sunni Muslims. Just under 3 million Syrians are Alawite Muslims, a minority group that has controlled the country politically for 40 years. About 10 percent of the population claims Christianity as its faith.

About 6 percent of Jordan's population is Christian. During his fact-finding trip to Mafraq, Sims worked alongside a Jordanian pastor and met volunteers from around the globe who work with ministries and nonprofits assisting the refugees.

The group included Coptic Christians from Egypt and evangelicals from New Zealand and Europe. Every day they met and prayed together.

Though their beliefs differ, the volunteers "are not spending much time arguing over their disagreements," Sims said. "In a Muslim-dominated culture, the differences we have quickly fall aside in favor of what we have in common."

In addition, he said, Christians in Jordan "have a genuine sense that they are standing in the breach between life and death, hope and despair."

FAITH-BASED DIPLOMACY

While Sims lends his support to Syrian refugees, other church members are working with the people of the Middle East in pursuit of faith-based reconciliation for the country.

In May and July, representatives of religious and political groups within Syria met in Cairo to discuss a "Healing and Reconciliation Process" that will prevent

civil war after the current conflict ends. Participants included Muslims, Christians and Druze (another minority faith group in Syria) as well as secular leaders and Bedouin tribal chiefs.

Two representatives of Pepperdine University also participated — Brian Cox and Timothy Pownall, directors of the PACIS Project in Faith-Based Diplomacy at the Malibu, Calif., university. Cox developed a model of conflict resolution based on Matthew 18:15, in which Jesus urges his followers to settle their

disputes in a respectful, loving manner.

"It's a unique process that is not interfaith dialogue, not traditional conflict resolution," Cox told *Christianity Today*. "It focuses on softening hearts as the first step toward constructive, joint problem-solving."

The goal of the meetings was to encourage Syrians to create a protocol "that will help them responsibly envi-



DANNY SIMS

Relief workers pray in Mafraq,

sion a national future together, post-Assad, under the sovereignty of God," said Pownall, an elder of the Conejo Valley Church of Christ in Thousand Oaks, Calif. The participants are organizing future talks.

GIVING AID, PRAYING FOR PEACE

Meanwhile, Global Samaritan is collecting funds for blankets and other necessities for the Syrian refugees in Jordan. Rather than send containers of supplies, the nonprofit will use donations to buy relief items locally, helping the Jordanian economy, Sims said.

The nonprofit also seeks ways to provide the refugees with safe drinking water. During the trip, Sims said, "I saw a lot of sick children drinking impure water." Global Samaritan wants to help, but "we've got to do it in a way that's sustainable."

Sims encouraged American Christians to seize the opportunity to help the people of Syria — by giving what they can and praying for peace.

"Peacemaking is more difficult than war-making," he said. "But it costs less and pays much better dividends."

MORE INFORMATION: globalsamaritan.org.

Among the attendees were Everett Huffard

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JONES: Minister has fought for 'an active, life-changing church' in Nashville

FROM PAGE 3

believes that redemption is not simply the forgiveness of sins, but it's the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to be a servant to God to change the world in positive ways."

EDUCATION AND DISCRIMINATION

The journey that led Jones to a half-century of ministry in Nashville began in northern Louisiana, where his father was a sharecropper. His mother helped support the family by cleaning the homes of whites.

Jones grew up Baptist, but that changed when his mother attended a tent meeting in 1954 in Bastrop, La., held by evangelists Luke Shearry and James Cooper. A white Church of Christ in town sponsored the two black preachers, Jones said.

When Jones' mother told him she had finally found the church described in the Bible, he argued with her.

"I thought it was the craziest thing I'd ever heard of, because we were already in the church," he recalled. "And those people had a tent."

But Jones soon followed his mother's example and was baptized. A handyman as well as a preacher, Shearry became a mentor to Jones. The two built a facility for the church that sprang from the tent meeting.

About a year later, Jones took advantage of one of the few educational opportunities in Churches of Christ open to black members — the Nashville Christian Institute, a primary and secondary school launched in 1940. Jones graduated as valedictorian from the school, known as NCI, in 1958.

Bible instructors from another Church of Christ school, David Lipscomb College, taught



TED PARKS

David Jones prepares to deliver a sermon during Sunday worship at the Schrader Lane Church of Christ.

classes at NCI. But Lipscomb refused to admit black students.

"It troubled me that I could go to ... most schools that were northern, and even in the South, but I couldn't go to Lipscomb, where I needed to go," Jones said.

In contrast, Lambert and Mary Campbell, white church members who housed Jones between terms at NCI, treated him like family. Mary Campbell taught public speaking to black preachers at NCI.

"I remember meeting (Mary Campbell) downtown, anywhere, she'd just grab you and hug you, and that was just unheard of back in the 1950s and '60s," Jones said.

He also remembered Mary Campbell telling him, "Don't let the ignorance of a few people stop you from learning what you need to know."

"Learn all you can," she urged him, "use your mind well, stay out of trouble, and you'll have plenty of time to fix things."

CHANGING THE CHURCH'S IMAGE

Jones took the advice.

Graduating from Tennessee State University in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and English, he earned a master's in guidance and counseling in 1967. He completed a doctorate in education at Vanderbilt University in 1981.

While preaching, Jones worked in Nashville public schools for more than 30 years, rising to the rank of assistant superintendent.

In 1962, the Jefferson Street church invited him to serve as assistant minister as the congregation's elderly preacher transitioned out. Jones and his wife, Carolyn, lived in an apartment above the auditorium.

On Sundays, Mrs. Jones put a roast in the oven to cook while her husband preached.

"The only problem was that the aroma would seep into the church auditorium and make everyone hungry," recalled Carolyn Jones, now an archivist for the church. The Joneses celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next year.

When plans for constructing Interstate 40 through Nashville

called for the congregation to relocate, Jones honed his vision for the church. While some members wanted the congregation to move to a more affluent part of town, Jones preferred to stay in the area, home to historically black schools including Tennessee State, Fisk University and Meharry Medical College.

"I wanted to change the basic image of what the church could be," Jones remembered. "I wanted the church to really be ... the biblical model of an active, life-changing church."

In 1968 — a year marked by the death of civil rights crusader Martin Luther King Jr. and racially charged riots across the nation — the church inaugurated its new building on Schrader Lane by hosting a "Race Relations Workshop."

As historian Richard Hughes noted in "Reviving the Ancient Faith: The Story of Churches of Christ in America," the workshop was one of three key meetings of church leaders in the 1960s to deal with racism.

SERVING SOULS, YOUNG AND OLD

In 1972, the church opened a childcare center, initially over-

seen by Carolyn Jones. Forty years later, only about 6 percent of the center's students — ages 3 to kindergarten — are from Schrader Lane families, said Shirlee G. McClesky, program's current director.

The church's service to the community through the center has drawn new people to the church, McClesky added.

In the 1980s, a rash of muggings and break-ins plagued the neighborhoods near Schrader Lane. Frightened widows asked the church for prayers.

The church prayed — and constructed the Schrader Acres Senior Citizens Center on its campus in 1985 to support and protect the elderly.

Jones originally planned to seek government funding for the center but changed his mind, convinced Schrader Lane could rise to the challenge.

"I don't want to get the government to do it. I want us to do it," he said.

In 2004, the church built the Schrader Acres Assisted Living Center. Members dug deep and paid off the loan for the \$4.5 million facility in four-and-a-half years with no federal help.

Schrader Lane elder Anthony Etheridge credits Jones with foreseeing the positive impact Schrader Lane's facilities would have on both the congregation and community.

"He's been able to see way down the road," Etheridge said.

Jack Evans, a longtime friend of Jones, called the preacher's five decades of ministry "miraculous."

From a handful of souls, Schrader Lane has become one of the largest predominantly black churches in the nation, said Evans, president of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, a historically black college associated with Churches of Christ.

"And he has not only preached the Gospel," Evans said, "but he has demonstrated what it means to live the Gospel."



OLAN MILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

Jones' church directory photo from the 1970s.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Alumni of the Nashville Christian Institute gather near a historic marker celebrating the life of Marshall Keeble, the school's longtime president, near the Jackson Street Church of Christ.

'Remember that you were proud crusaders'

THOUGH GONE FOR 45 YEARS, *the Nashville Christian Institute lives on through the preachers, lawyers and civil rights activists it produced*

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

There's nothing special at the corner of 24th Avenue North and Batavia Street.

A dog barks behind a chain-link fence in this lonely neighborhood, thus far overlooked by the urban renewal happening a few miles away. A red brick building, used as a youth center for a church, sits next to an unkempt field of grass.

The building once housed the Nashville Christian Institute, which for nearly 30 years trained black youths for ministry.

A few blocks away, about 50 surviving alumni of the institute gather in the Marshall Keeble Fellowship Hall of the Jackson Street Church of Christ. Cases lining the far wall display framed, handwritten letters by Keeble, the institute's longtime president, and pictures of young men wearing suits, reading Bibles and singing.

The alumni — a host of retired educators, lawyers and preachers — clap, laugh and shout "Amen!" as Richard Rose Sr. prowls the floor of the fellowship hall. This isn't a fiery sermon about God's power — though he's delivered a few as minister for the Gray Road Church of Christ in Cincinnati.

This is a story from his teen years, about an "ingenious plan" to break the institute's curfew so he and his roommate could hear soulful crooner Sam Cooke perform. To sneak back in, they left a ground-floor window unlocked.

Of course, after an evening of "Twistin' the Night Away," they returned to find every window locked tight. After about an hour of pondering, the roommates realized they had no recourse but to knock on the institute's door and take their comeuppance.

One of the houseparents, Arthur Fulson, opened the door and said, "I was wondering how long I was going to sit out here waiting for you to knock."

CONTINUED



GOSPEL ADVOCATE COMPANY

Students in Mary Campbell's speech class pose for a class photo at the Central Church of Christ in Nashville, circa 1950. The class was part of an eight-week Bible training course at the Nashville Christian Institute. Students paid a fee of \$8 for the course.

'Remember the legacy'



CENTER FOR RESTORATION STUDIES, ACU

A.M. Burton and Marshall Keeble break ground for construction at NCI.

CONTINUED

The alumni meet every two years in cities across the country, said Alvin Hinkle, president of the national alumni association.

About once every six years, the group returns to the home city of their alma mater, called NCI.

At each meeting, the institute's alumni list grows shorter.

"Those of us, by the grace of God, who are still here are carrying on the banner for all who spent time at the house on 24th Avenue," Hinkle said.

The school, which struggled financially throughout its life, produced a civil rights attorney, a trade adviser to President Ronald Reagan and countless doctors, educators and preachers.

"We've lost some, but we still come," says Velma Dowell, a member of the Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ in Detroit and a 1949 graduate of the institute.

Though the school closed its doors in 1967, "through the preachers, lawyers, doctors and educators, it lives on," she said.

MARSHALL KEEBLE'S DREAM

Margaret Beamon remembers the excitement she felt as she rode along Jackson Street in the



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Fred Gray, right, leads a prayer during the Nashville Christian Institute reunion in Franklin, Tenn. Gray, a civil rights attorney, attended NCI from 1943 to 1948.

late 1940s, on her way to enroll as a first grader at NCI.

Looking out the window, she saw a stately school building. But the car didn't stop there.

"That was Washington Junior High School, up the street," she said. Arriving at NCI, "you were a little disappointed when you saw it. But once you got there, there was no turning back."

The institute's home was the abandoned Ashcraft City School building. It opened as a night school for black preachers in 1940, under the direction of A.C. Holt. Two years later it became a fully accredited elementary and secondary school. Keeble, the son of former slaves and a sought-after preacher among Churches of Christ, was named president.

W.E. Brightwell, a church member who supported the institute, described it as "an orphan on our doorsteps, without the benefit of a basket, to say nothing of ribbons, buttons and bows."

The institute was "crudely

pieced together out of second-hand salvaged materials," Brightwell wrote eight years after the school's opening. The first students dug a basement under the building to serve as their living quarters.

Despite its humble appearance, the school had dedicated students and teachers, said Patricia Boatwright Ball, who graduated from NCI in 1948.

"They gave me the academic foundation I needed to do well through college and graduate school and a doctoral program," said Ball, who served on the faculty of Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Ga., for 40 years.

More importantly, NCI instilled "Bible principles, guiding principles," said Ball, a member of the Liberty City Church of Christ in Savannah, where her husband, Wesley, is an elder.

THE GOLDEN AGE

In the 1950s, the Jackson Street community near NCI became the epicenter of black Nashville, said Reavis Mitchell Jr., dean of the School of Humanities at nearby Fisk University.

"There was a store where you



GOSPEL ADVOCATE COMPANY

Gray, seated at right, was one of Marshall Keeble's "boy preachers."

could buy custom-made hats," he said, speaking to the alumni at a banquet in a Franklin, Tenn., hotel. The community also had "a theater where you didn't have to go in the back door."

By 1955, NCI had graduated 235 students, 97 of whom became preachers. More than 2,500 adults attended the institute's annual lectureship, which drew speakers from across the South.

Keeble traveled the country with "boy preachers," showing his fellow Christians the brightest of NCI and collecting donations. Students were required to memorize entire chapters of the Bible, including Matthew 5 and Acts 2.

The teaching stuck, said Allen Jackson, a 1965 NCI graduate who now ministers for the San Pablo Avenue Church of Christ in Oakland, Calif.

Leaning across the banquet table, he launched into the second chapter of Acts: "*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing wind ...*"

Parents sacrificed to send their children to the school, said Beamon, one of eight siblings



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Artifacts from the Nashville Christian Institute fill display cases in the Marshall Keeble Fellowship Hall of the Jackson Street Church of Christ.

to attend NCI. She studied hard and went to summer school, graduating at age 15 and working in the Milwaukee school system for 40 years.

Her brother, Albert N. Johnson, graduated in 1954 and, 22 years later, was elected mayor of Las Cruces, N.M., the first black mayor in the state.

As she and her classmates studied their textbooks and Bibles, Beamon began to question the "separate but equal" policies of their city. Why did she have to "sit upstairs" when she visited another Church of Christ school in town, David Lipscomb College?

Her father worked long hours at the railroad — and drank at a separate water fountain from his white coworkers — to pay for her education.

"You wonder, why it is that we're not equal, but we still pay equal taxes?" she asked.

THE TURBULENT SIXTIES

Keeble stepped down from the presidency of NCI in 1958 but continued to raise money for the school. Two white church leaders — Lucien Palmer and Willie Cato — took the institute's reins.

By the 1960s, there was a

"pecking order" among the students on campus, said Lee Collins and Edgar Shelton, who graduated in the middle of the decade. Everybody had a nickname, including "Duck" and "Termite." The oldest students lived on the third floor.

"That's where the big boys were," Collins said. "The longer you stayed there, the closer you got to the third floor."

Troubles foreign and domestic cast a shroud over their years at NCI. After graduation, many students joined the military, serving in the Vietnam War.

As the decade waned, "Jackson Street lost some of its luster," Mitchell said. Construction of Interstates 40 and 65 divided the community. Businesses closed.

NCI's enrollment dwindled. Its teachers earned less than half of what their counterparts in the increasingly desegregated city schools earned.

In 1967, NCI's white-controlled board of directors voted to close the school and transfer its assets to David Lipscomb College, now Lipscomb University. Many blacks who had sacrificed for the school felt betrayed and filed a lawsuit to stop the transfer.

"We are hopeful that a reflection back to our unique journey will cause us to rejoice at what NCI meant to us and to be even more mindful of how the Lord has blessed us."

— **Harry Kellam**, Nashville chapter NCI alumni president



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Alvin Hinkle, president of the NCI alumni association, talks to Samuel Carr, who once drove a bus for NCI students, at the Jackson Street church.

Civil rights attorney Fred Gray, an NCI grad and former "boy preacher" of Keeble's, represented the plaintiffs, who ultimately lost the case.

"We couldn't understand, in black Nashville, why NCI closed," Mitchell said. "It was a place that seemed so successful."

A year later, on April 4, 1968, "we didn't understand why MLK had to die," he added.

Thirteen days after King's death, Keeble preached his final sermon. He died three days later, on

Mitchell

April 20, in Nashville.

RECONCILIATION, REMEMBRANCE

The lawsuit over NCI's funds exposed a deep rift between black and white members of Churches of Christ. Earlier this year, Lipscomb University attempted reconciliation by awarding Gray an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

"I really accepted it on behalf of each of you who attended NCI but could not attend David Lipscomb at the time," Gray told the

school's alumni at the banquet.

Lipscomb hosted a reception for the alums on its campus during the reunion and gave each of them green and white scarves bearing the school's name.

The university's president, Randy Lowry, said that the Burton-Keeble fund, which included NCI's assets, has grown from \$418,175 to \$1.3 million.

In 2011, the university awarded \$1.6 million in aid to 216 black students at Lipscomb, \$66,000 of which came from the fund, said Lowry, adding that the university's leaders "ask forgiveness for the injustices of the past."

Since 1967, church members of both races have made progress in healing old wounds, Hinkle said. But he laments that "11 a.m. is still the most segregated hour on Sundays."

As they continue to fight for equality, Mitchell urged the alumni to remember the lessons they learned at NCI.

The closing of the school "did not change you and what you contributed," he said. "We've got to remember NCI, what it was about. Remember the classes. Remember that you were proud crusaders. Remember the legacy."

ALUMNI SHARE STORIES

Desegregated in 20 minutes

Wendell Wilkie Gunn didn't set out to challenge segregation in his hometown of Florence, Ala.

"I just wanted to go to school," he said.

In 1963, three years after graduating from Nashville Christian Institute, Gunn attempted to enroll at the all-white Florence State University, now the University of North Alabama.

That same year, the first black students had won admittance to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Fred Gray, an NCI alum, represented student Vivian Malone in the lawsuit.

After the University of Alabama decision, "I didn't figure you had to sue every school," Gunn said.

He walked onto Florence State's campus and, "15 minutes later I was in the president's office, and he was saying they couldn't admit a black." But, the president told him discretely, "if you sue us, we'll have to admit you."

Gunn's mother contacted Gray, who did just that. The court battle took approximately 20 minutes, the attorney recalled.

Keeble's eulogy for 'Sonny Boy'

Church historians know a lot about Marshall Keeble, the dedicated evangelist thought to have baptized 30,000 souls into Christ.

Few know that he once performed a funeral for a parakeet.

Sonny Boy was the bird's name. He belonged to one of Keeble's great-grand-daughters, Gwen Cummings. She loved the bird dearly. When he died, she insisted that his memory be honored.

Keeble obliged, gathering the family and speaking kind words of the bird's loyalty before laying

The judge issued an order and Gunn enrolled.

"It was the easiest case I had in all my civil rights cases," said Gray, who also represented Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.

Because of the lawsuit, Gunn's mother lost her job as a cook at a restaurant — which closed three months after she left. On campus, "hardly anyone talked to me for the first several months," Gunn said. Then, during an assembly, he received an award for the top score in physics. His classmates rose to their feet and cheered.

"I cried and the cheers became louder," he said. "From that day forward, my life on campus was uneventful and totally pleasant."

Gunn went on to serve as an executive for Chase Manhattan bank. From 1982 to 1984, he served as special assistant to President Ronald Reagan, helping the administration craft its trade policy with Southeast Asia. Now he is a member of the Stamford Church of Christ in Connecticut.

"I wasn't brave," Gunn said of his historic walk to campus. "I just showed up." Speaking to Gray, he said, "You guys looked into the mouth of the beast every day, for years."

him to rest in the backyard.

They ate a meal after the service, and Keeble asked his great-granddaughter what she wanted to do next. She told him she wanted to go to her room and lie down for a bit (something she had seen grown-ups do after funerals).

Years later, Cummings was in the final graduating class of the Nashville Christian Institute in 1967. She attends the Jackson Street Church of Christ in Nashville, where her husband, Clinton, is an elder.

Remembering Keeble's love for her — and her parakeet — she says, "He was truly the best granddad in the world."



Gunn



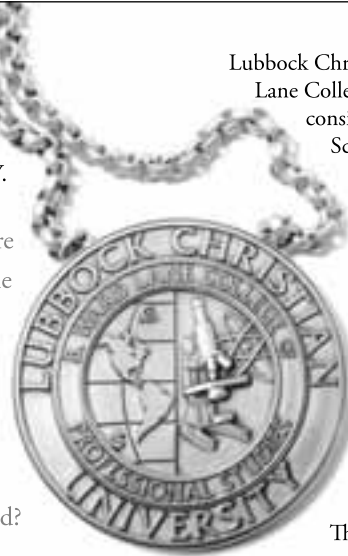
Cummings

BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION OF NINETEEN YEARS OF GREAT LEADERSHIP FROM FORMER LCU PRESIDENT, CHANCELLOR KEN JONES, IT IS WITH A RENEWED VIGOR AND POWERFUL PASSION THAT PRESIDENT TIM PERRIN CASTS A VISION FOR LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY.

"As we look forward, it is impossible to predict what the future might hold. What might happen if we moved into a future while *placing our faith in the One* who is the creator of all things, the One who is able to do more than we ask or imagine? What might happen if we unleashed our imagination as a family that is *bound together by our love* for each other, committed to forever *changing the lives of students?* What might happen indeed?

There will be challenges ahead, of that we can be sure. Yet, when I stand here and close my eyes and unleash my imagination, I see a *future that is as great as the One we serve*, and I pledge to you my best efforts to make that vision a reality, to the *glory of God.*"

— An excerpt from "Unleashing Our Imaginations: Claiming God's Promise"
Inaugural Address by LCU President Tim Perrin



Lubbock Christian University invites applications for the position of Dean of the B. Ward Lane College of Professional Studies, beginning the 2013-2014 academic year. This college consists of the departments of Business, Exercise and Sport Sciences, Natural Sciences, Nursing, and Math and Physical Sciences. It is the largest academic unit of the university. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. or equivalent in one of the disciplines housed within the college, demonstrate excellent leadership, teaching, and research experiences, and have an active commitment to the University's Christian heritage and mission. All applicants must be a professing Christian and an active, faithful member of a congregation of the Churches of Christ.

Applicants should submit a letter demonstrating these experiences along with a curriculum vita including four references with appropriate contact information. At least one letter must come from someone with knowledge of the applicant's commitment to his/her faith. References will be contacted only after an initial screening process and notification of the applicant of that intent. In addition, applicants should complete an application for employment. The application along with instructions for submitting the requested materials and a complete job description is available at the following link:

<http://www.lcu.edu/about-lcu/human-resources/employment-at-lcu/apply-for-a-position.html>
Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Other faculty positions also available. Go to <http://www.lcu.edu/about-lcu/human-resources/employment-at-lcu/job-positions.html> for more information.



Rod Blackwood, Provost
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Married couples are invited to apply for houseparent positions. A high school diploma or GED is required, and some college as well as a minimum of one year of child-care or related experience is preferred. Individuals must be at least 23 years old and be faithful Christians with a stable marriage and family unit. We require applicants to pass a background check and drug test. Exceptional time management and detail-oriented skills are required, as is the ability to exhibit successful home management skills on a continuous basis. Successful candidates will: Comply with all policies, guidelines and programs; attend all staff training and mandatory meetings; Cooperate and work as a team with all Christ's Haven staff members; Ensure the physical and emotional safety of youths in our care; Provide a loving Christian home environment; Provide a Christian example and work to instill Christian values and beliefs in youths; Transport youths to and attend Church of Christ worship services in the area.

**Submit resumes to marylauren@christshaven.org
Visit www.christshaven.org for more information.**

A conversation with Tim Perrin

FOR LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN'S SIXTH *president, service to university is 'a family thing.'*

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Tim Perrin became the new leader of Lubbock Christian University when he assumed the office as LCU's sixth president on June 1.

LCU has been an integral part of Perrin's life. The son of faculty members, he grew up across the street from campus. He worked as a dishwasher in the cafeteria as a teenager and later was recruited to play basketball. Perrin also was an active member of the Chap Brigade, a men's spirit club, in addition to being an athlete.

He served as student body president when Steve Lemley was inaugurated as the fourth president of LCU in 1983. Perrin graduated with honors a year later. He studied law at Texas Tech University, graduating in 1987 with honors. After five years with a law firm in Corpus Christi, Texas, Perrin accepted a faculty position with the Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, Calif., where he taught and served as vice dean of the Law School.

As a student at LCU, Perrin worked closely with Steve Eckman, dean of students at the time and currently president of York College in Nebraska. Perrin also traveled to area churches with President Lemley. Lemley would preach, and Perrin would teach the high school class.

President Perrin and his wife, Lucy, also an alumnus of LCU, have three children: Hannah, Sam and Will.

What interested you in becoming president of LCU?

My history with LCU is both deep and long. I'm a product of LCU and a part of a family that has deeply invested in the university. LCU is much more than just my alma mater, though my wife Lucy and I are both very proud graduates.

I grew up in Lubbock and literally spent my childhood on the LCU campus. My parents gave their lives in service of LCU and her students. And I witnessed the deep commitment to

Christian higher education that was embodied by the LCU faculty and staff. I guess you could say that LCU is in my blood. It's a family thing.

My experience at LCU shaped and formed me in important ways and prepared me for the opportunities I've had thereafter.

There is something special about the optimism and "can do" spirit of the people who inhabit West Texas. You can see that in the history of LCU, especially as demonstrated by the life and example of F.W. Mattox. I am woefully inadequate to follow in his footsteps but am honored and privileged to be asked to return home and to share in this work.

Why is Christian education relevant today?

We live in an age of information. We can access more information in a few seconds than our ancestors could find in a lifetime. We live in a post-modern age of deep skepticism about everything. What is truth? What is good? We live in an age of globalization. The world keeps getting smaller and more connected.

All of this is happening as we witness the remarkable growth of Christianity in the Global South, a major shift in the history of the Christian world.

In the midst of all of these developments, higher education has moved away from its Christian roots and become more secularized; knowledge has become more fragmented and specialized; and the scientific means of knowing is deemed the only effective means of acquiring knowledge.

I believe that Christian higher education is both vitally important and extraordinarily relevant in the 21st century. The explosion of information requires citizens who can think critically about what they read and hear.

Our Christian universities seek to do that very thing — imparting wisdom, teaching discernment and helping students form and shape a Christian lens through which to evaluate the massive amounts of information available to them.

To think Christianly about the world is to have a unified understanding of God's



PHOTO PROVIDED

Tim Perrin on the campus of LCU.

creation, an understanding that is fulfilled perfectly in the person of Jesus Christ.

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

LCU will continue to enjoy a strong and enduring relationship with the Churches of Christ. We will continue to hire faculty from the Churches of Christ who are committed followers of Jesus so that they can serve as role models and mentors of students in and out of the classroom. We will continue to recruit students from the Churches of Christ who embrace and support our distinctively Christian mission.

With fewer than 50 percent of students from Churches of Christ, how will the Christian character of LCU be maintained?

The Christian character of an institution is preserved and strengthened through people, and LCU has a faculty and staff who seek to embody the Christian mission each and every day. That will not change.

This summer the LCU faculty and staff have been discussing together Robert Benne's fine book, "Quality with Soul," which has led to stimulating conversations about what it means for LCU to be a Christian university and how we might deepen the integration of faith and learning inside and outside of

the classroom.

The percentage of LCU's total enrollment that consists of students from the Churches of Christ has declined at the same time that the university's overall enrollment has significantly increased. The total number of Church of Christ students at LCU has remained relatively stable. We vigorously seek to attract students from the Churches of Christ, and indeed, we were pleased in the fall of 2011 and 2012 to experience an increase in the percentage of such students in our first-year class.

We extend hospitality to the students who join us from other Christian traditions and celebrate the ways they contribute to the life of the university as well. LCU is deeply committed to its Restoration heritage and seeks to prepare its students for greater service in the Kingdom.

What are the immediate challenges for you and LCU?

After 20 years teaching and serving at Pepperdine and living in Malibu, I'm adjusting to life back in my hometown. It's going well, but everyone seems so much older! I'm re-learning the joys of saying "y'all" instead of "you guys." We had an alumni event at LCU shortly after I arrived and the entree was chicken-fried steak. I knew I was in the right place.

On a more serious note, I'm spending much of my time listening, meeting with various constituencies and seeking to understand the culture, opportunities and challenges at LCU. I'm deeply impressed with what I'm learning.

As for LCU, I'm fortunate that I do not inherit any significant challenges that require immediate action. Due to the excellent leadership of Dr. Ken Jones for the last 19 years and the talented faculty and staff at LCU, the university is in strong and stable condition.

LCU has made progress on many fronts; there is significant momentum. The challenges we face are similar to those that confront much of higher education, such as responding to increasing regulation and ensuring that we have sufficient resources to fulfill our mission, while at the same time continuing to maintain our tuition and housing costs at an affordable level.

There is lingering uncertainty about future levels of government support for higher education, which should be a matter of concern for all of us.

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

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

MOUNTAIN STATES CHILDREN'S HOME

LONGMONT, Colo. — A donor has promised a matching gift of \$100,000 if Mountain States Children's Home can raise that much by the end of November.

The funds will help build a new cottage for children, director Randy Schow said.

"We are asking churches to consider having a 'Giving Sunday' to help us match the \$100,000 needed," Schow said.

To donate, see www.msch.org.

HIGHER EDUCATION

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — Freed-Hardeman President Joe Wiley opposes a liquor referendum that would permit package stores to sell alcohol in this west Tennessee community.

Wiley said he is personally opposed to alcohol consumption and will vote against the measure. "I'm opposed to anything that would make it easier to obtain," he told the *Jackson Sun*. The question is on the Nov. 6 ballot.

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LUBBOCK, Texas — Since moving to Illinois from Arizona last year, Jennifer Mault hasn't found a church.

For now, she finds spiritual guidance from a woman a thousand miles away in south Louisiana, the *Baton Rouge Advocate* reported. Mault, a student earning a master's degree from Lubbock Christian, receives direction and prayer from online chaplain Donna Ellis. Ellis works from her kitchen in Baton Rouge.

"If I need prayer, or if I need to talk to someone spiritual about a spiritual issue or anything else, Donna's always available," Mault told the *Advocate*.

Donna Ellis and her husband, Kin, a minister for the South Baton Rouge Church of Christ have created a faith community on the Internet for dozens of LCU online students. To read the full story, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for "online chapel."

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian is building a new softball stadium.

Ricky and Kelly Lawson provided the seven-figure anchor gift for the project, for which fundraising remains ongoing.

The stadium will be named "Tom



LOREN HOWELL, FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

Faulkner student killed in wreck on way to preach

Students at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., sing during a candle-light vigil in memory of Major Sanders, 18. The freshman died in a car wreck Oct. 7 on his way to preach at the Lafayette Church of Christ in Alabama.

"He loved the Gospel, and he loved to preach," said Faires Austin, Faulkner's dean of students. "He was well-liked by all the students and loved to make people laugh."

He was the son of Terry and Lea Sanders. His home congregation was the Fairview Church of Christ in Stockbridge, Ga.



Heath Field at Lawson Plaza."

Heath has served as Oklahoma Christian's only softball coach since the program's founding in 1995.

OHIO VALLEY UNIVERSITY

VIENNA, W.Va. — Flash mobs gather suddenly to sing or perform an impromptu dance routine.

Ohio Valley University students chose a different approach. Dub it a "flash serve."

"The flash serve consists of students from Ohio Valley University coming into the community, trying to serve and give back," Jeff Dimick, OVU's executive vice president, told television station WTAP.

On a recent Saturday, more than 70 students served a women's care center, an Alzheimer's facility, an inner-city mission and other organizations.

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

JACKSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

JACKSON, Tenn. — Jackson Christian School's 885 students hope to make a difference through the "Power of One" initiative.

Periodically throughout the school year, students are learning about a different nonprofit agency and raising money to benefit it.

"This campaign is designed to teach our students that one child, one dollar, one hour can make an impact and change a life," said Chris Ramey, the school's director of advancement.

The students' first project benefited Rein-Bow Riding Academy, which uses hippotherapy or horseback riding to serve children with special needs.

SPOTLIGHT

York honors Sikes family

YORK, Neb. — All 13 of Jack and Robbie Sikes' children attended York College, as have many of the couple's grandchildren.

In all, 42 members of the Sikes family have enrolled at York, many of them going on to serve as preachers, teachers, doctors and missionaries.

"They've dedicated themselves to God," York President Steve Eckman said of the family. "But to the benefit of this place,

they've also dedicated themselves to York College.

And they have made a difference — a huge difference."

At York's recent homecoming, the family was honored with the Legacy Award.

All 13 of Jack and Robbie's children attended the presentation. The extended family gathered on stage and sang "Led by the Master's Hand" and "Bread Sent from Heaven."

Robbie said she and Jack were intentional about raising a Christian family. They did their best to plant seeds of faith in their children and were pleased when each chose to attend York.

"We could see how the spiritual commitment of our children was able to take root and grow stronger in a Christ-centered community," she said.

To see a video of the awards presentation, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for "Sikes family."



CHRYSTAL HOUSTON

Jack and Robbie Sikes receive the York honor.



CHRYSTAL HOUSTON

The extended Sikes family joins Jack and Robbie on stage during the presentation.

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DEAN OF SEAVER COLLEGE PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Seaver College, Pepperdine University's college of liberal arts, invites nominations and applications for the position of dean of Seaver College. The dean is responsible for overseeing enrollment, curriculum, strategic planning, budget, student affairs, international programs, and personnel of the college. The dean reports to the University provost and works closely with other deans and vice presidents. The University seeks an extraordinary leader who can further the intellectual and spiritual mission of Seaver College.

Pepperdine University is an independent, Christian university serving more than 7,500 students in five colleges and schools. The institution draws students from every state in the union and from more than 80 countries. Pepperdine is considered to be among the nation's finest universities, regarded for its high academic standards, dedication to student learning, and serious faith mission. The University's main campus opened in 1972 in Malibu, California. The University offers additional residential programs in Washington, D.C., Buenos Aires, Florence, Heidelberg, Lausanne, and London, as well as additional international study opportunities in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Seaver College serves 3,000 students, who pursue courses of study in more than 40 different undergraduate majors and in a variety of graduate programs. The institution maintains a vital relationship with Churches of Christ. The dean of Seaver College must be prepared to preserve and enhance this affiliation.

Pepperdine University is a Christian university committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, where students are strengthened for lives of purpose, service, and leadership.

For more information, including application requirements, please contact
provost@pepperdine.edu or visit:

www.pepperdine.edu/provost/deansearh

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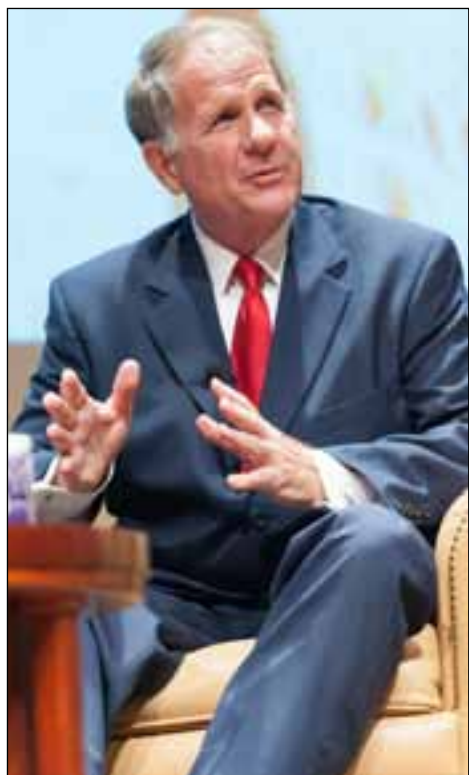
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PAUL A. WHITE, WHITE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, makes a point during the forum at Abilene Christian University.



PAUL A. WHITE, WHITE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

The discussion featured, from left, Orneita Burton, Rep. Janice Hahn, Grant Rampy, Rep. Ted Poe and Mel Hailey. Both Hahn and Poe are ACU alumni and Church of Christ members.



PAUL A. WHITE, WHITE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Rep. Janice Hahn, D-Calif., says she reached out to Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas.

U.S. House members tout bipartisanship

FROM ACU TODAY MAGAZINE | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ABILENE, Texas — At the height of the political season, many candidates stump for votes from dawn to dusk.

On a recent Thursday, however, two Abilene Christian University alumni took time away from the campaign trail to speak at their alma mater.

Both happen to be members of the U.S. House — from opposing parties.

ACU welcomed Rep. Janice Hahn, D-Calif., and Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, to campus for “A Forum on Civil Discourse and Christian Faith.”

The message shared by Hahn and Poe might surprise some: Democrats and Republicans can get along.

The two, both members of Churches of Christ, say they don't just get along but actually like each other.

They're bucking a trend that says members of opposing parties are incapable of working together. In fact, Hahn and Poe joined forces earlier this year to push legislation through Congress aimed at strengthening port security from coast to coast.

IN A FORUM AT ACU, Reps. Ted Poe, R-Texas, and Janice Hahn, D-Calif., discuss civil discourse, Christianity and their friendship.

“You’ve probably never heard of it, because (our relationship) is working,” said Poe, a member of the Bammel Church of Christ in Houston. “Good legislation is bipartisan. That’s not what sells newspapers.”

Hahn and Poe were joined on stage by ACU’s Orneita Burton, assistant professor of management and information systems; Mel Hailey, professor of political science; and Grant Rampy, director of public relations and former White House correspondent for Tribune Broadcasting.

When she arrived on Capitol Hill as a freshman lawmaker last year, Hahn immediately sought out Poe, she said.

“I said, ‘We’re both graduates of ACU, I think we should be friends, I think we should work together, and I think there are so many things we can agree on,’” recalled Hahn, a member of the Redondo Beach Church of Christ in the Los Angeles area.

“I’m going to get more accomplished

for this country by making friends than I am staying in my corner and fighting,” she told students.

Poe said with a laugh, “It surprises a lot of people that Janice and I are friends, and I don’t know who it bothers more, the Republicans or the Democrats.”

To be a good congressman, Poe said one must consider other representatives’ views, regardless of their party affiliation, race, gender or religious background. He acknowledged, however, that party structures make it difficult to reach out to the other side.

“There are paybacks or punishment available for not drinking the Kool-Aid, so to speak,” Poe said, referring to party leaders who can strip away an important title or withhold committee assignments from those who don’t toe the line.

Both Hahn and Poe said they know Americans are tired of the constant infighting that more often than not

keeps Congress from doing its job, but Hahn said the responsibility for the caustic atmosphere extends to the public.

“Voters need to be more responsible in making sure the people they elect don’t go back there with a so-called mandate to not compromise,” she said.

Reflecting on their Christian faith, both lawmakers said it plays a vital role in how they make decisions while conducting the nation’s business.

“I tend to believe my Christian values, my faith, cause me to be an activist in government and cause me to advocate for the poor, those who don’t have a voice,” Hahn said. “That’s how I live out my Christian faith here on earth, and I think you can do that in government.”

Poe said his Christian faith is paramount in everything he does.

“You need — I need — that foundation of conviction or principles to make decisions throughout the day for the things that are best for the country,” he said.

TO SEE A COMPLETE VIDEO of the ACU forum, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for “civil discourse.”

Experience spiritual formation

Nurture

February 25-26

The Nurture conference is a unique opportunity to interact with nationally recognized leaders in Christian spirituality. This free two-day event features keynote addresses, a morning prayer service, community luncheon and practical afternoon workshops with ICS faculty.

For 2013, ICS welcomes Dr. Gordon T. Smith, president and professor of systematic and spiritual theology at Ambrose University College and Seminary. He is the author of a number of books, including *The Voice of Jesus*, *Transforming Conversion*, and *Courage and Calling*.

Make plans to attend Nurture at Lipscomb University. Online registration opens in January.

Visit our website or call our office to learn more.

"I am so glad I attended this conference. I learned new tools on how to go deeper in my time with the Lord and I am already practicing these new exercises. Thank you so much for offering this!"

— 2012 Nurture participant



NEWSMAKERS

HONORED: Keith Lancaster of Tulsa, Okla., J.D. Elliott of Nashville, Tenn., Clarence Dailey of Brentwood, Tenn., and Harold Redd of Memphis, Tenn., the 2012 Kopio Award recipients for tireless service to ministry presented by Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. **Earl Priest** of Memphis, Tenn., **Everett and Nancy Ferguson** of Abilene, Texas, **Martha Hodges and Si and Boni Tilton** of Searcy, Ark., **Larry and Ann Owen** of Pocahontas, Ark., **Truitt and Kay Adair** of Lubbock, Texas, and the Harding University Brackett Library staff, Distinguished Christian Service Awards by Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

NEW MINISTERS: Ed Jones, Wolfforth, Texas, church. **Bob James**, Washington, N.J., church. **Donald Cooper**, Lincoln Avenue church, Bucyrus, Ohio.



ANNIVERSARIES: 70th: Herman and Pauline Holmes, Indianapolis. 58th: Clyde and Glenda Schinnerer, Edmond, Okla.

BIRTHDAYS: 94th: Tom Kloecker, McKinney, Texas. 90th: Nancy Palmer, Katy, Texas. 85th: J.C. Brockman, Angleton, Texas.

PASSAGES: **Barry E. Becker**, 69, Oct. 14, Hanover, Neb., minister for the church in Hanover. **Delma Butrum Brazle**, 91, Sept. 16, Bozeman, Mont., compassionate servant of God. **Rodney Brooks**, 60, Oct. 9, Hartselle, Ala., elder for Priceville church in Decatur, Ala. **Paul Davis**, 74, Sept. 23, Auburn, Ala., publisher and civic leader in Alabama and member of the Auburn church. **Elton Dilbeck**, 92, Sept. 8, Roswell, N. M., preacher for churches in Oklahoma, California, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. **Betty Gainer**, 89, Oct. 3, Irving, Texas, wife of former Abilene Christian University board trustee and *The Christian Chronicle* advisory board chairman Homer Gainer. **Eugene Hibbett**, 80, Oct. 6, Henderson, Tenn., former professor at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., and elder of the Estes church in Henderson, Tenn. **Iris Hays Savio**, 71, Sept. 11, one of the first nurses for Nigerian Christian Hospital, did mission work in Cameroon, member of the Eastridge church, Rockwall, Texas. **Wilbur F. "Woody" Wood**, 93, Sept. 25, Sugar Land, Texas, minister throughout the greater Houston area.



Savio

Nov. 4 Retirement Sunday for Herb Alsop. Woodbury church in Tenn. Contact (615) 563-2119

Nov. 8-10 50th Anniversary, Sunset International Bible Institute. "Raising our Ebenezer". Lubbock, Texas. Contact www.sibi.cc.

Nov. 18-22 75th Annual Lectureship. Southwestern Christian College, Terrell, Texas. Contact (972) 524-3341, ext. 144.

Nov. 23 Night with the Houston Rockets. Benefit for Houston Area Churches of Christ. Contact www.houstonchurchesofchrist.org.

Dec. 1-2 50th Anniversary, Waterview church in Richardson, Texas. Contact Robert Taylor at (972) 238-4700 or church@waterview.org.

Jan. 7-11 North Brazil Missionary Conference. Hotel Campestre de Aldeia, Camaragibe-PE. Contact randy.kathyshort@gmail.com.

Jan. 16-21 North Coast Enrichment Seminar. Coffs Coast church in Coffs Harbour (NSW), Australia.

Jan. 18-19 31st Annual Medical Missions Seminar. Hosted by IHCF African Christian Hospitals. Crowne Plaza - Dallas Market Center, Dallas, Texas. Contact ihcf.net/seminar.

Jan. 18-20 Winterfest. Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, Texas. Contact Dudley Chancey at dudley.chancey@oc.edu or www.winterfest.org.

Feb. 1-2 Women of Hope Conference. "A Sisterhood of Hope." Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, Tenn. Contact hhi.org/womenofhope.

Feb. 3-7 Freed-Hardeman University Lectureship. Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. Contact (731) 989-6622, lectureship@fhu.edu or fhu.edu/lectureship.

Feb. 15-17 Winterfest. Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact Dudley Chancey at dudley.chancey@oc.edu or www.winterfest.org.

Feb. 22-23 Affirming the Faith Seminar. "Meeting Jesus at the Cross." North MacArthur church, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact (405) 621-5962 or www.affirmingthefaihtok.com.

Feb. 24-27 39th Annual Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies Lectureship. "Lord Make Me A Servant." Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies, Knoxville, Tenn. Contact (865) 691-7444 or www.seibs.org.

Feb. 25-26 Nurture Conference. Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. Contact (615) 966-5352, ics@lipscomb.edu or www.lipscomb.edu/ics.

COMPLETE CALENDAR at www.christianchronicle.org



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
acu.edu

College of Arts and Sciences

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

The Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant professor of animal science. It is seeking a visionary animal scientist with the earned Ph.D., Ph.D./D.V.M. or D.V.M. (from an AVMA-accredited institution with M.S. in animal sciences or closely related field). Information about the department is available at acu.edu/agenv.

The Department of Engineering and Physics invites one or more talented engineers for its new and rapidly expanding engineering program, whose first class of students entered in Fall 2012. Ideal candidates will have a Ph.D. in engineering or a closely related field and experience in teaching and research. All engineering fields will be considered. Previous involvement with ABET accreditation would also be helpful. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/engineering.

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication invites applicants for a tenure-track position as assistant professor of journalism and mass communication. The ideal candidate will have professional experience in online news or commercial environments including social media. Applicants who can also teach in public relations will receive particular attention. A terminal degree is strongly preferred, but applicants who are ABD will be considered. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/jmc.

The Department of Music invites applications for a tenure-track position of director of choral activities, beginning Fall 2013. Applicants should have an earned doctorate in Music (ABD will be considered) and be accomplished conductors and musicians with demonstrated potential for success teaching at the collegiate level. Preference will be given to candidates with a proven record of success teaching at the secondary level and overseeing all facets of a university choral program. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/music.

The Department of Political Science invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant professor of political science. Applicants should have a Ph.D. (ABD will be considered). The successful candidate must have a commitment to teaching in an undergraduate environment and demonstrated potential for professional development and/or research activities. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/politicalscience.

The Department of Psychology invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant professor of school psychology, beginning Fall 2013. Applicants should have a doctorate in the field (ABD will be considered) and be a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) or equivalent credentials. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/psychology.

College of Education and Human Services

Dr. Donnie Snider, Interim Dean
ACU Box 29008, Abilene, Texas 79699-9008

The Department of Teacher Education invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant/associate professor of education. Applicants should have an earned doctorate in the field of education with an emphasis in secondary teaching, curriculum, special education, English as a second language or supervision. (Outstanding ABD candidates will be considered as well.) The successful candidate will have an interest in and ability to create and enhance collaborative partnerships with public school personnel, skills in mentoring pre-service teachers in reflective professional practice, the ability to effectively supervise students in field-based settings. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/education.

The School of Social Work invites applications for a tenure-track position beginning in Fall 2013. Applicants must have an MSW and an earned doctorate in social work or related field (required). Responsibilities include teaching social work courses at both the B.S.S.W. and M.S.S.W. levels, pursuing scholarly research, and performing service for the university, profession and community. Applicants should have experience in diverse areas of social work practice, be able to teach across the curriculum, and effectively engage the broader community with which the school partners. Information about the school is available at acu.edu/socialwork.

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

ACU is affiliated with the fellowship of the Churches of Christ. All applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and deeply committed to service in Christian higher education. The mission of ACU is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities.



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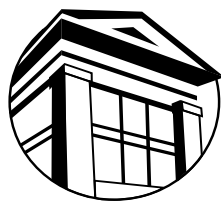
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All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to Christian education.

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Seeking full-time faculty member to be the director of international business department. The successful candidate will possess a minimum of a master's degree, although a doctorate is preferred; have global work experience; and have teaching experience. In addition to directing the program, responsibilities will include teaching international business and economic development courses.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Bryan Burks, dean, at bburks@harding.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY. Seeking full-time faculty member. The successful candidate will have a minimum of a Master of Science in a biological science field. Primary duty will be to contribute to introductory anatomy and physiology. Area of biological expertise is open, and candidates will be encouraged to develop a specialty course in their focus area.

If interested, notify Dr. Mike Plummer, chair, at plummer@harding.edu before submitting letter of interest and curriculum vitae.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY. Seeking full-time lab technician/supervisor. The successful candidate will have at least a bachelor's in chemistry. Responsibilities include preparing solutions and setting up and supervising freshman chemistry labs with some grading.

Submit a letter of interest to Dr. David Cole, chair, at cole@harding.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS. Seeking full-time faculty member. The successful candidate will possess a Ph.D. and hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Clinical supervisory experience and experience working with adult populations with communication disorders are highly desirable.

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

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC. Seeking full-time faculty member in music with emphasis in vocal/choral, strings or music education. The successful candidate will have a doctorate in music, although master's is considered; five or more years of successful teaching experience; and at least one other area of teaching expertise (choral, theory, histo-

ry, Kodaly, etc.). Responsibilities include teaching appropriate courses; teaching private lessons; teaching in additional areas based on candidate's expertise; participating in recruiting, advising and other departmental activities.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Mike Chance at mchance@harding.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE. Seeking full-time faculty member. The successful candidate will possess a Pharm.D. as well as residency/fellowship training. At least two years of academic experience is preferred. Eligibility for pharmacy licensure in Arkansas is required. Responsibilities include creating, coordinating and delivering instruction in the pathophysiology, pharmacotherapy, and patient-centered care didactic curriculum; developing and maintaining innovative clinical practice sites; conducting scholarly activity in an area of expertise; and engaging in service to the college and community. Applicants from all clinical backgrounds will be considered. Candidates with expertise in adult internal medicine, community practice, ambulatory care, cardiology, hematology/oncology, or pediatric practice are encouraged to apply.

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Julie Kissack, chair, at jkissack@harding.edu.

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

Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to Dr. Michael Murphy, chair, at mmurphy1@harding.edu.

Does the *Chronicle* face death by postage?

Before the days of e-mail, texts and tweets, we all anticipated the arrival of the daily mail. It was our lifeline of communication with our banks, our doctors and our loved ones.

The mail was a conduit of news that mattered to us.

Despite the advance of the digital age, for many of *The Christian Chronicle's* 250,000 readers, the U.S. Postal Service remains the primary conduit for news that informs, inspires and unites. But the *Chronicle* recently received news from the Postal Service that is anything but good.

Postage is going up — way up — more than double what it has been. As of January, our monthly postage will no longer be \$15,000 monthly but will rise to \$31,100. Stunning!

That's an additional \$193,200 in postage alone for the coming year. For a ministry with an already strained, \$1.1 million annual budget to cover production, mailing, salaries and other expenses, it represents a 17.6 percent overall increase to our operational expenses.

We have been told that

we can appeal the postage increase but the appeal is not likely to succeed. We will appeal anyway. And of course we are already praying.

We will look for every possible way to save money and offset some of the additional expense. We will scan our budget carefully for every dollar that can be saved.

The *Chronicle* has faced a number of changes in postal regulations in the past 10 years. Some have forced alteration of the size of the paper and the addition of tabs — those bothersome little stickers that hold the pages together and add a lot to our costs.

We have had annual postage increases as well, but this coming increase is by far the largest.

As the Postal Service seeks to find ways to save on its deficit, it is becoming more and more automated. With automation comes requirements that allow the paper to feed through sorting equipment at a staggering 16 per second. These new requirements include paper

weight, location of the address plate, number of pages, overall weight, thickness and flexibility of the finished product.

The *Chronicle* could avoid the enormous postage increase by printing on stiffer paper, significantly limiting our space to 24 pages, making the paper smaller yet and continuing with those bothersome sticker tabs on the pages. The *Chronicle* board and staff do not think that is an appealing option. I agree.

Obviously, some of you will read this and respond, "Just go digital." Though we are considering all the options, we are extremely hesitant to forfeit a significant portion of our readership, which remains loyal to the printed page.

This is clearly the greatest challenge and crisis the *Chronicle* has faced in my 16-plus years with it. The Lord has blessed us each of the several previous times when we were faced with changing

requirements or financial increases.

We will continue to pray and discuss how we will meet this challenge. Next month, on this page, we will discuss possible solutions.

'This is clearly the greatest challenge and crisis the *Chronicle* has faced in my 16-plus years with it.'

Editorial



Lynn McMillon



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

We welcome your input. Please e-mail **letters@christianchronicle.org** with your thoughts.

I believe God will again show us a way if we keep the

Chronicle dedicated to his service. We ask each of you to pray fervently that the Lord will help the *Chronicle* maintain its level of coverage and service to you and the kingdom.



Our mission: To inform, inspire and unite

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Phone: (405) 425-5070; Fax (405) 425-5076

P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100

Delivery: 2801 E. Memorial Road, Edmond, OK 73013

Editor, President and CEO: Lynn A McMillon

lynn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Managing Editor: Bobby Ross Jr.

National, Partners news: bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

Assistant Managing Editor: Erik Tryggstad

International news, features: erik@christianchronicle.org

Advertising Manager: Tonya Patton

tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org

Editor Emeritus: Bailey B. McBride

bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org

Reviews Editor: Kimberly Mauck

kim.mauck@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: Lynda Sheehan

lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: Tonda Stafford

tonda.stafford@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: Joy McMillon

joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Correspondent: Ted Parks

TO SUBSCRIBE:

See www.christianchronicle.org

e-mail joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

or call (405) 425-5070.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: letters@christianchronicle.org

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Lipscomb's voice should be a part of voting debate

Should Christians cease voting and all involvement with civil government? David Lipscomb, a prominent name in the history of Churches of Christ, was a compelling voice in the debate.

Though I don't share his views, I'm convinced that his views need to be a part of our broader conversation as it relates to Christians and the government.

Lipscomb is remembered best because of the university in Nashville, Tenn., that bears his name, in addition to his years as editor of the *Gospel Advocate*. He was a leader in Churches of Christ during and after the Civil War, where his experiences living in Nashville — a center of conflict — shaped him.

As he saw family pitted against family and Christian pitted against Christian, his distaste for war — and the governments that enabled it — grew. This experience, along with the teachings of his mentor, Tolbert Fanning, led Lipscomb to take strong positions on the Christian's relationship to government.

Perhaps Lipscomb's best-known writing on the subject is his 1889 treatise, entitled "On Civil Government," which has its origin in articles he wrote for the *Gospel Advocate*. In it, he lays out the history of human governments and why Christians should not be involved in such institutions.

Lipscomb points out that the earliest human governments in Scripture were formed in rebellion against God, first manifested in the organizing at the Tower of Babel and ultimately the Israelites' demands to "set a king over us" (1 Samuel 8:5), which Samuel takes

to be an indication that the people have rejected the kingship of God.

"It is clear that human government had its origin in the rejection of the authority of God," Lipscomb writes, "and that it was intended to supersede the Divine government, and itself constituted the organized rebellion of man against God."

Because of their origin (rebellion) and intent (replacement of God), governments are inherently and eternally ungodly, Lipscomb would say.

It is a short leap from this belief to the conviction that Christians should not vote or participate in government structures.

Voting "does much more harm to the church than dancing does," Lipscomb writes in an 1875 *Gospel Advocate*. "The whole organization of the kingdom of God is based upon the fact that every other institution in the world is of the evil one, is against God — must be destroyed, must be prevailed over by the gates of hell."

While strident in tone, Lipscomb would remind us that voting is not the ultimate exercise of the Christian witness to the world. If we expect to fix the world by electing the right candidate, we are in for a disappointment.

While I do not agree with Lipscomb that it is a sin to vote, I am reminded that the power of voting is limited and that no human government is a replacement for the reign of Christ.

The most common objection to Lipscomb's position surely is that since people have died for our right to vote, we must exercise that right. But

Lipscomb might answer that all rights are rights that people have died for — not just the right to vote. And, like all rights, we can choose to exercise some or choose not to exercise some, with Scripture as our ultimate guide.

To think that we must always vote for the lesser of two evils — or, as some have put it, "hold our nose" and vote — is contrary to Scripture that tells us to listen to our conscience.

Certainly we shouldn't expect to be in 100 percent agreement with any candidate, but voting for a candidate is giving your "amen" to that candidate and his or her platform.

If you feel uncomfortable doing that, then Lipscomb would tell you not to vote.

To the Corinthians who were fond of saying, "Everything is permissible," the apostle Paul answers that not everything is beneficial or constructive (1 Corinthians 10:23). If we think that voting is how Paul

would command us to "submit to the ruling authorities" (Romans 13:1), we are reminded that the first Christians could not participate in government at all (unless they happened to be Roman citizens). If Paul had voting in mind in Romans 13, then he was commanding an absolute impossibility for his original readers.

I believe Lipscomb's positions are too extreme, but I welcome his voice in the conversation. Though his views were not necessarily the majority in his day, he was a respected leader, and many read his works and considered them carefully.

Most tellingly, the Nashville Bible School was named for Lipscomb after his death. I suspect that today he would be labeled "unpatriotic," marginalized in our churches and would certainly not have one of our universities named after him. We no longer seem to have any patience for views like his.

In the end, Lipscomb would urge us to resist the temptation to put too much stock into the power of our vote. There are many ways in which we can embody the reign of Christ on earth, and indeed many Christians are active in these ways.

Voting, while permissible and perhaps advisable, is not the primary way to do this. Let us pray often about whether and for whom we should vote. Let us then vote if we feel permitted and compelled. Let us avoid

posting snide or desperate political remarks all over Facebook.

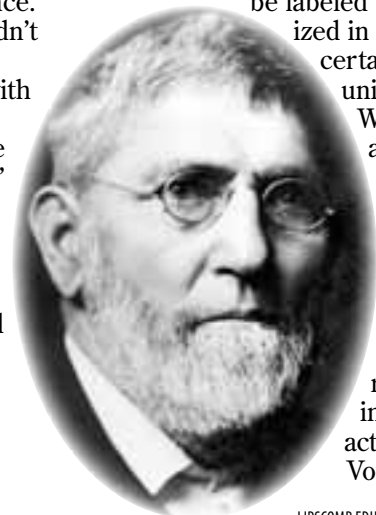
And then let us return to the business of teaching the Gospel and serving our neighbors.

JOSH KINGCADE is education minister for the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, Okla. He blogs about religious education at faithform.com.

Views



Josh Kingcade



LIPSCOMB.EDU

David Lipscomb (1831-1917) co-founded Nashville Bible School in 1891 with James A. Harding. The Tennessee school, now Lipscomb University, was renamed in 1918.

VOICES

What is your definition of "evangelism?"

Asked by Joy McMillon at the Mid-Atlantic Evangelism seminar in Raleigh, N.C.



Winfred Felton III | Greenville, N.C.

Reaching those who do not know Jesus, telling them the story of Jesus, showing them the love of Jesus and helping them to grow in Jesus.



David Durgan | Rocky Mount, N.C.

Evangelism is reaching out to the church and unchurched. Each of us is capable of doing it, if we have the courage.



Evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus from the Word and also from our own experience of coming to know Jesus.

They have to hear the truth from the Word, but they also need the spirit, which comes through hearing us tell our story.

Anna Hunt Smith | Atlanta



Edward Constantine | Raleigh, N.C.

Having the same attitude as Christ in seeking and saving. That means being willing to do what it takes to put Christ before people, even if that means going beyond your comfort level.

FROM OUR READERS

Christ and Islam: A view from Africa

BY ALAN HOWELL | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

We've been living in the southern African nation of Mozambique for about nine years now, and our situation certainly is different from those in the Middle East.

Maybe that's a reason for it to be heard — so those of us in Churches of Christ don't make the mistake of thinking that all Muslims are the same all over the world. (See "How should Christians respond to Muslim rage?" Page 1, November.)



Howell

We live in a rural area among the Makua-Metto people group. Most of them claim Islam as their faith, but many mix in some animistic practices. Some Muslims would not consider them to be good followers of Muhammad.

Our family just returned from a four-month furlough in the U.S. While in line at a local bread store, I chatted with an imam who leads a mosque not too far from our house. I hadn't really talked to him in a couple of years. He was genuinely glad we were back from the U.S.

We talked about our families and how our town of Montepuez was doing, and then he tried to buy my bread. No one ever does this! Poverty is a huge problem in Mozambique. This man is not well off, but he wanted to bless us. I stammered in telling him I had already paid for it, and we said our goodbyes.

There is another imam in our town whom I know well — Imam Bakar. He wears the typical Islamic dress and cap and, if ever he catches me wearing shorts, reminds me with a smile that "the prophets never wore shorts."

Islam here is intertwined with animism. Imams often use the Quran to make curses or protective magic. Once, when my wife, Rachel, was sick, the imam offered to write out verses from the Quran that we could put in a glass of water for her to drink, and she would be healed. I respectfully declined.

Once we were chatting at my house, and a lady with a mental illness (or an evil spirit?) was walking by and stopped to stare at us. The imam squirmed in his seat. "That woman is trying to give

me the evil eye," he said.

I told him, "My friend, the prophets never lived in fear of the evil eye."

I once asked Imam Bakar what he thought about the work we do — teaching the Scriptures and teaching people to follow Jesus. He said, "What you are doing is good. We have some differences in what we believe, but you believe in one God, and I believe in one God, so we have much more in common than all the pagans out there."

I'm not wearing rose-colored glasses about the relationship between Christianity and Islam. We know people in Mozambique who have experienced religious persecution from Muslim family members and neighbors.

What I am trying to say is that there are places in the world where it is possible for dialogue to happen between Islam and Christianity without becoming antagonistic.

When we visit family and churches in the U.S., we get questions about Islam. It seems that most people's perspectives regarding Muslims come from the evening news.

Recently, there was a lot in the news in Tennessee about the opening of a new mosque in Murfreesboro. People were protesting and trying to keep the mosque from opening.

If America is seen by the world as a "Christian nation," and we put up barriers to religious freedom for Muslims here in the U.S., how can we ask for freedom of worship for minority populations of Christians in Islamic nations?

There are times that we may need to take off our "American Christian" hat and try to assess situations like this by looking at the impact it will have on global Christianity.

Let's make sure our everyday actions and our responses to tragedies are shaped less by our concerns for security and the U.S.A. and more by a vision for God's kingdom in the whole world — a world where the majority of Muslims are not militant.

Muslims are not our enemies. They are our neighbors.

ALAN HOWELL and his wife, Rachel, are part of the Mission Among the Makua-Metto in Montepuez, Mozambique. The team's website is www.makuateam.org. Follow the Howells at howellsinmoz.blogspot.com.



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- D.Min., Abilene Christian University
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- Provides consultation services with churches across the USA
- Wife, Eva, and two sons

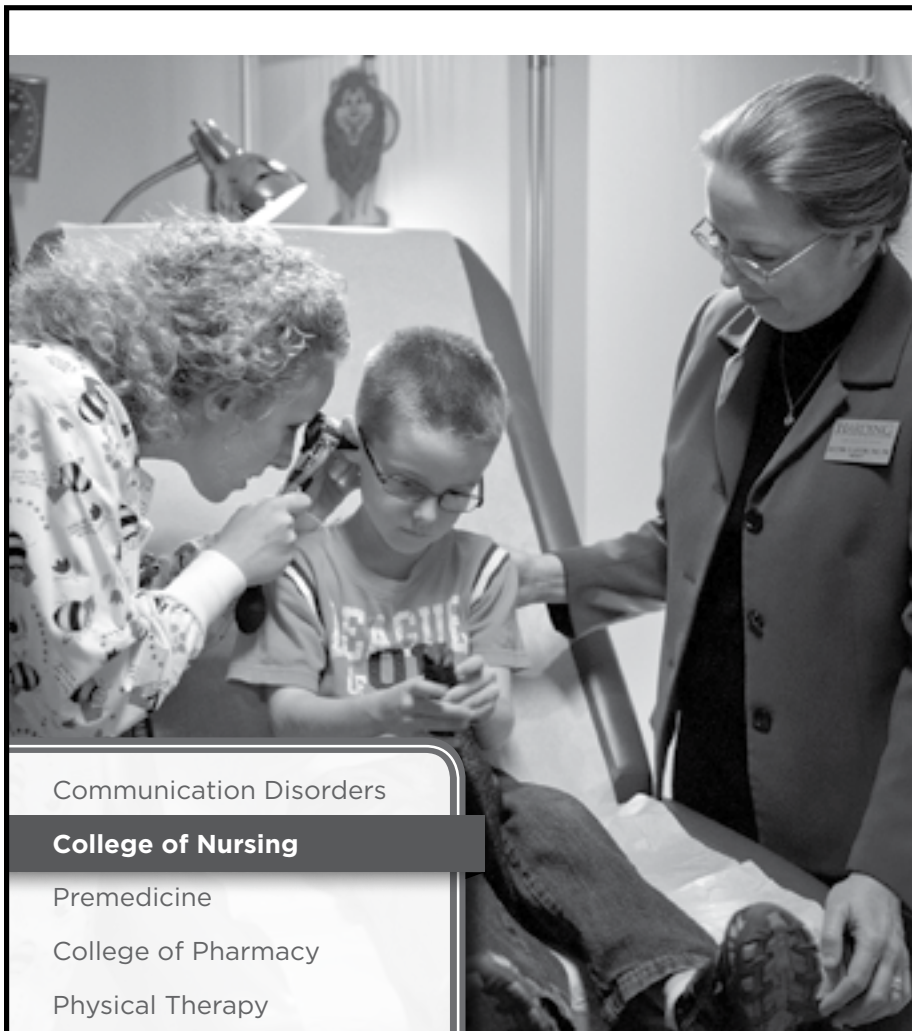
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How to Apply:

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.

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True outreach points to Christ, not a building

BY TIM TRIPP | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

In a bygone era it was common for neighbors to be close and intimately involved in each other's lives. They depended on each other for support and survival.

It seems that not only are neighbors less likely to be close these days, but it is common that they don't know each other at all. They may wave as they pass each other or invite each other to events, but when it comes to a real relationship, it seems there's just not enough time.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in his classic work on Christian community, "Life Together," "Who dares to force himself upon his neighbor? Who is entitled to accost and confront his neighbor and talk to him about ultimate matters? It would be no sign of great Christian insight were one simply to say at this point that everybody has this right, indeed, this obligation."

In "The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door," Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon pose a challenging

question: "How are we supposed to love our neighbors if we don't even know our neighbors?" The authors have asked large groups of people to write down the names of everyone who lives in the eight homes nearest theirs in their neighborhoods.

The result: Only about 10 percent of respondents can name everyone.

Pathak and Runyon, both pastors of churches in the Denver area, are recognized as leaders in the emerging neighboring movement. They encourage Christians to obey the greatest commandments (found in Matthew 22:37-40) by rearranging social calendars and spiritual priorities to be intentional about being a light where they live.

The authors suggest planning a strategy for meeting and becoming acquainted with those who live next door. They recommend block parties, cookouts, gifts of food, helping with projects and loaning of household items — all with the goal of shining as lights.

Pathak and Runyon weave a story largely from personal experience, recounting both triumphs and misses in their efforts to be godly neighbors.

Their confrontation is gentle but plain as they call Christians to overcome common barriers like time, fear and conflict to become involved in the lives of the people

with whom God gives daily opportunities simply because of where they live.

The authors also warn against setting out to be a good neighbor with the underlying motive of trying to convert others. They say, "We don't love our neighbors to convert them, we love our neighbors because we are converted."

In "Organic Outreach for Families: Turning Your Home Into a Lighthouse," authors Kevin and Sherry Harney also advise against reaching out to neighbors with the hidden motive of pointing them to the church. In their book, the authors — husband and wife for 28 years — relate tales from their years of living in different places, raising their three children and striving to be Jesus to the world.

Readers may find the authors' style a little too prescriptive and may have the feel at times of watching a family slide show, but the message couldn't be clearer: shine the light of Jesus where you live.

The Harneys' first goal was to raise their children to be points of light for Jesus wherever life took them. They tell of how they raised their kids to know Jesus and to take him to the world. They did not try to keep their children from

associating with others who did not share their faith but instead saw that as an opportunity to let their lights shine.

To reinforce this, the Harneys made their home a place for their neighbors, work friends and friends of their children and their families to come and experience the love of Jesus.

They warn that this kind of outreach doesn't just happen. They admit that they often found themselves tangled up in the activities and relationships at their church — so much that they had little energy to focus on loving and spending time with their neighbors.

Although the relationships should grow naturally — or organically — they still require nourishment and cultivation.

These books propose a new paradigm for outreach, or perhaps a very old one. Rather than pointing people to a building, we become

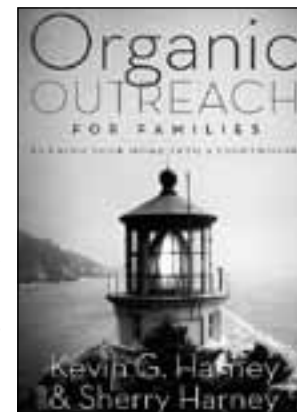
involved in their lives to simply point them to Jesus.

He is not found in a building. He is found in the lives of ordinary people reflecting an extraordinary Savior.

TIM TRIPP is family minister for the Northeast Church of Christ in Cincinnati, where he directs the annual Conference on Marriage and Family. He and his wife, Lenore, have been married for 25 years.



★★★★★
Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon. **The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2012. 204 pages. \$14.99.



★★★★☆
Kevin and Sherry Harney. **Organic Outreach for Families: Turning Your Home Into a Lighthouse.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2012. 191 pages. \$16.99.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

SEXUAL ADDICTION

Michael John Cusick. **Surfing for God: Discovering the Divine Desire Beneath Sexual Struggle.** Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2012. 224 pages, \$15.99.



A licensed professional counselor and minister, Cusick seeks to heal men tangled in sexual addiction, including the compulsion to look at pornography online, prevalent today even among Christian men. A troubling but necessary topic.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Stephen Mansfield. **The Mormonizing of America.** Brentwood, Tenn.: Worthy Publications, 2012. 264 pages, \$22.99.



Although less than 2 percent of the U.S. population is Mormon, they wield tremendous influence as a group, argues this *New York Times*-bestselling author.

Here, he does not focus so much on beliefs on the Latter-Day Saints but on how they could impact the country, especially if one is elected president.

CHURCH STUDIES

John Harrison and Jim Dvorak, eds. **The New Testament Church: The Challenge of Developing Ecclesiologies.** Eugene, Ore.: Pickwick Publications, 2012. 302 pages, \$36.



This collection of 13 essays, mostly from Restoration Movement scholars, explores the socio-historical backgrounds and theological themes distinctive to each New Testament book. Readers will better understand the diversity among first-century Christian communities.

BIBLE STUDY

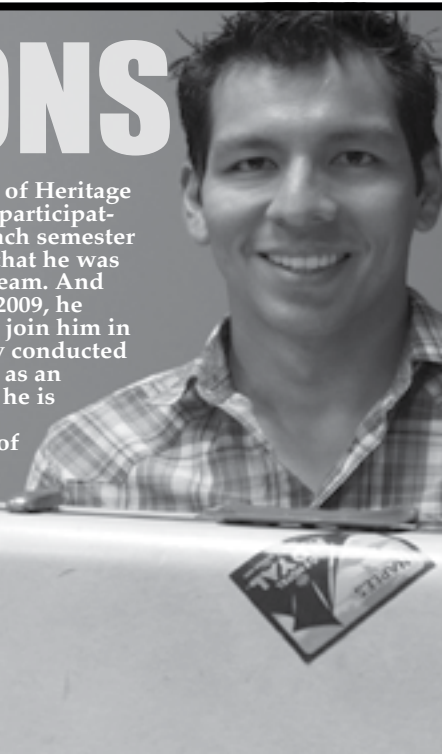
Phillip Graham Ryken. **Loving the Way Jesus Loves.** Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Publishers, 2012. 224 pages, \$14.99.



A unique approach to 1 Corinthians 13, "the love chapter," this book gives an illustration from Jesus' life for each aspect of biblical love. In this way, he shows how Christ was the embodiment of the Word. The author is a Bible scholar who also co-wrote "The Literary Study Bible."

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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How do you measure a year?

525,600 minutes. 525,600 minutes. Moments so dear. 525,600 minutes. 525,600 minutes. How do you measure, measure a year?

The words of this popular Broadway song provide an interesting way of measuring a year. I usually think of 12 months, but when I am working on a budget, I think of 52 weeks. The number of days in a year I learned in the second grade, and I used to keep track of the days till my birthday at the end of July.

The ending of another year always brings me a blend of happy and wistful memories. After 56 years of college teaching, I mark the end of a fall term and the beginning of the spring term perhaps even more than the ending and beginning of a year. I know that churches spend the last weeks of the year planning budgets for the next year.

Through the years of watching churches grow and then decline, I have consistently urged elders to strategize to ensure that their congregations have strong leadership for the future. Sadly, many elderships grow old and stubbornly refuse to seek out and train new leaders for a time when the seasoned elders no longer have the vision or energy to make sure the church is being taught the important principles of evangelism and discipleship. Elders seldom retire, but sometimes elders stop functioning except to attend meetings.

Although it took me a very long time to acknowledge it, preachers are the heartbeat of the church. When I was 13 years old, my family moved to Tulsa, Okla., where my mother and I began attending the East Side congregation.

The preacher was Delmar Owen, a man devoted to his personal growth. His preaching drew people because they were learning the Word and being inspired to study the Bible seriously. The church grew and had to build new facilities regularly. Eventually Owen left for reasons I have never known, but the church began a sharp decline in membership. Good, godly elders were taking care of the people, but the heartbeat was gone. It took years for the church to realize that great preaching is absolutely necessary for the life and growth of the local congregation.

Equally sad is the fact that preachers often fail to realize that they need to work with a younger man to pave the

way for a smooth transition. It can be done, and I have seen it done by two good men with strong egos.

There is an old axiom suggesting that when an organization or family completes its dream home or facility, paralysis sets in within five years. I believe it more nearly true of fami-

Insight



Bailey McBride

lies, but building projects always generate energy and enthusiasm. Church leadership has to find alternate ways of fostering enthusiasm and dedication.

Many churches know that missions can arouse much enthusiasm. Having a location where the church regularly sends members for

short-term missions creates a sense of ownership and devotion to a work.

Making missions a centerpiece of all church efforts will prompt an enduring love for the work of the church. During the last 20 years, many growing churches have put little emphasis on missions and generated a focus on only what we need and what we are doing.

Years ago, most churches had a strong focus on personal evangelism. In many congregations, members were expected to give one evening a week to some activity to reach and teach the Gospel to others. Churches had training programs to prepare members to lead evangelistic Bible studies for friends and neighbors.

Since we have become a society that discourages any contact with neighbors, I am frankly afraid to contemplate a renewal of that focus. I attend a church where many members are involved in a tutoring program in a nearby apartment complex for low-income families. These members have become good friends with the children and parents. Tutoring is usually done on one afternoon, and it is a festive time for the apartment families and the tutors. Such important service leads to friendship and opportunities to teach Jesus.

Despite a lot of pessimism about the future of the church, I believe God will strengthen his people to stand firm for the next 525,600 minutes. May God bless 2013.

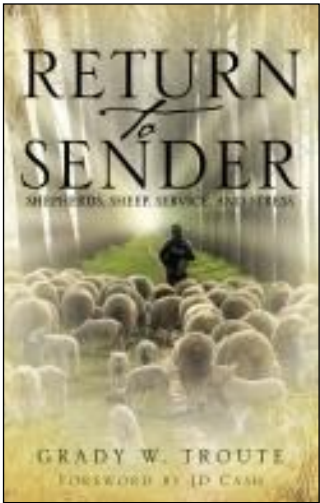
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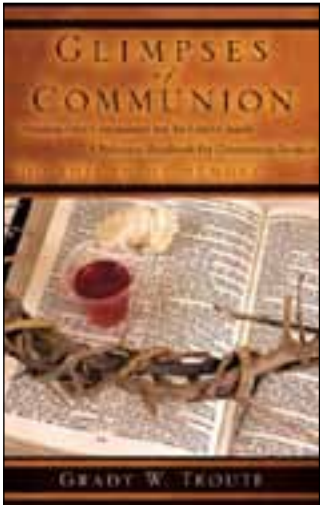
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