



VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

How should Christians respond to Muslim rage?

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Muslims across the Arab world burned U.S. flags and hurled rocks at police, enraged by a 14-minute YouTube video. In Libya, armed militants stormed a U.S. consulate and killed Ambassador Chris Stevens.



Daughrity

American Christians watched images of the recent violence with a sense of bewilderment. Some called for retaliation.



Jahshan

Church of Christ members with extensive knowledge of the Muslim world spoke out in hopes that education about the filmmaker and regional politics would help quiet the storm.

Dyron Daughrity watched the protests from predominantly

Muslim Morocco, "the one country in North Africa that doesn't seem to be protesting against the U.S.A. right now — or, as a local man told me an hour ago, 'at least not yet,'" Daughrity said in an e-mail.

Daughrity, religion professor at Pepperdine University, was speaking about African Christianity at a conference in the city of El Jadida. There, a Moroccan journalism student asked if he thought Americans appreciate Muslims.

Yes, he replied. The U.S. is a tolerant society that embraces freedom of religion.

"She then asked me why Americans have started all of this violence by producing a film that denigrates Muhammad," Daughrity said. "I was shocked."

He explained that the man believed to be the film's producer, Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, was originally from Egypt and that he had a criminal record in the U.S. The journalist wasn't aware of either fact.

Khalil Jahshan, a native of

See **MIDDLE EAST**, Page 14



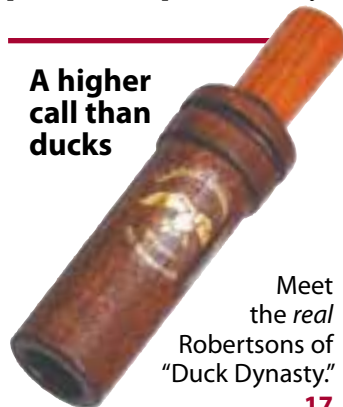
ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Africans Claiming Africa: Christians share plans, dreams

Christians from Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda and other nations across the African continent hold hands with church members from the U.S. and sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" during the Africans Claiming Africa for Christ conference in Lusaka, Zambia. The conference, hosted every four years, highlights initiatives by African Christians to spread the Gospel to the unreached nations of their continent.

RELATED STORY, Page 12

A higher call than ducks



Meet the real Robertsons of "Duck Dynasty."

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Faith in a SECular world

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Connecting Christ

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EEM is overseen by the Prestoncrest church of Christ, Dallas, Texas.

'Duck Dynasty' trip conjures precious boyhood memories

WEST MONROE, La.

Normally, my children don't beg to accompany me on reporting trips.

But when I decided to catch up with the Robertson family — faithful Christians and stars of A&E's popular reality series "Duck Dynasty"

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

— Keaton and Kendall made it clear that they needed to go with me.

At the Sunday morning assembly of the White's Ferry Road Church

of Christ, we tried not to gawk as Duckman Jase Robertson offered the communion thoughts and Duck Commander Phil Robertson joined other elders in praying with those who responded to the invitation (see related story, Page 17).

For me, the trip to West Monroe brought back fond memories totally unrelated to duck hunting or cable television.

That's because — for two years during my early childhood — this Ouachita River community was my hometown and the White's Ferry Road church my home congregation.

In 1974, when my father, Bob Ross, decided to become a minister, he left the Air Force and enrolled at the now-defunct White's Ferry Road School of Preaching.

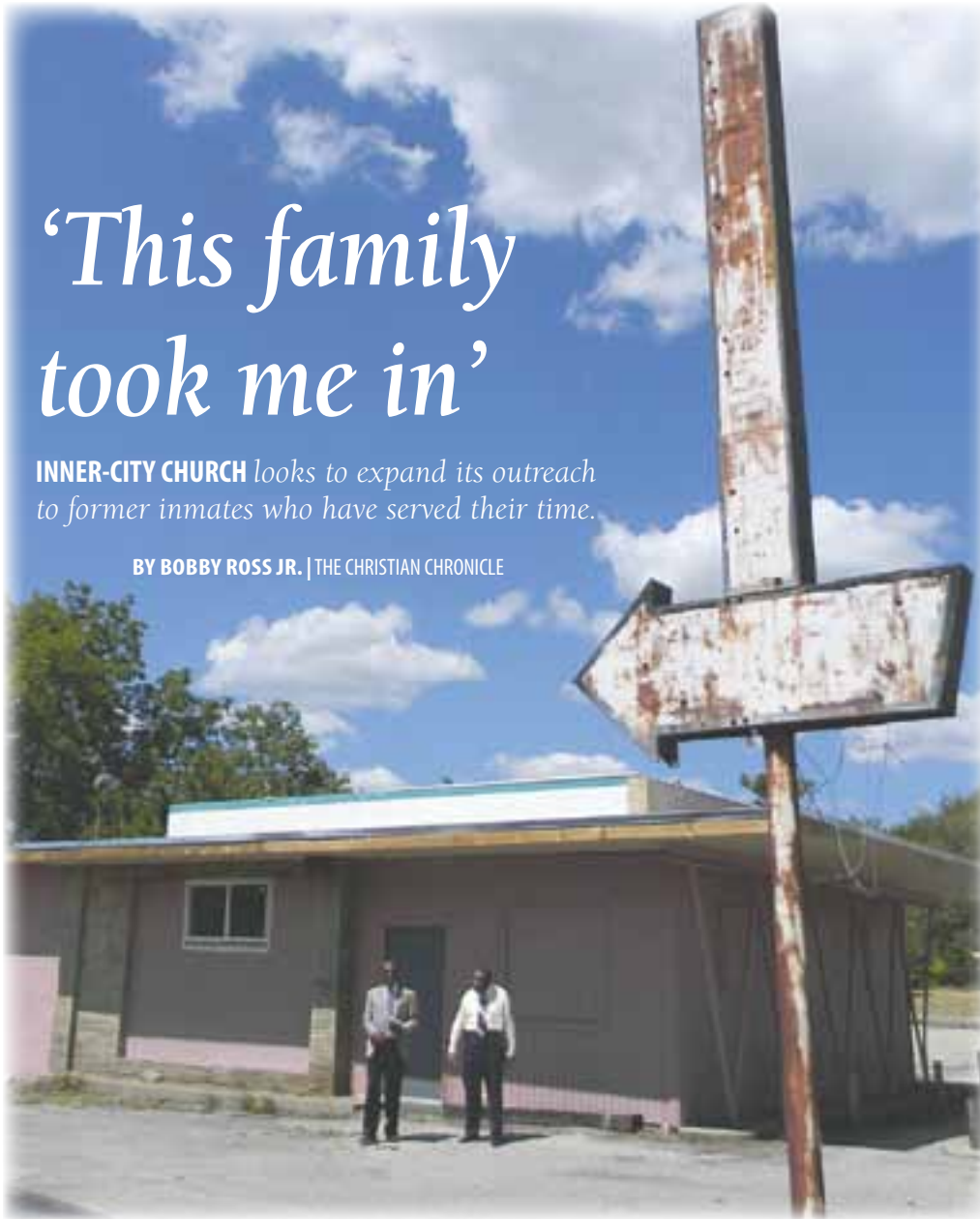
I was 6 years old and had finished kindergarten in Blytheville, Ark. When we moved to West Monroe,

See **WEST MONROE**, Page 4

'This family took me in'

INNER-CITY CHURCH looks to expand its outreach to former inmates who have served their time.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Elder Randy George and minister emeritus James O. Maxwell visit outside a one-time dry cleaners that the Roswell Church of Christ intends to convert into a resource center for released inmates.

KANSAS CITY, Kan.

Monique Singh wraps her arms around Vickie Owens, her beloved sister in Christ, and gently kisses the side of her head.

If not for Owens and fellow members of the Roswell Church of Christ, Singh has no doubt that she'd still be trapped in an abyss of desperation and despair.

"God has delivered me from the bondage of myself: drugs, alcohol, prostitution, gang affiliation, homelessness, a hopeless state of mind," said Singh, 45. "I

realized I needed a savior — Jesus — and this family took me in as I was and loved me until I learned to love myself."

Through inmate mentoring, addiction support groups, private counseling and transitional "houses of hope," the Roswell church strives to share Jesus — and a better way of life.

Now the inner-city congregation endeavors to renovate a one-time dry cleaners and transform it into a Christian resource center to serve prisoners after their release.

See **ROSWELL**, Page 21

Georgia church gets a million-dollar surprise

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

A recent Sunday contribution at the Hillcrest Church of Christ was higher than usual — \$1 million higher, to be exact.

That's the amount the Decatur, Ga., church received toward its \$5.2 million renovation project, which will include a 1,500-seat sanctuary and facilities for its education program and offices.

The 700-member congregation received news of the donation from Donald "Bubba" M. Cathy, senior vice president of Chick-fil-A.

Contributors, including Perry Chick-fil-A employees, gave funds in memory of Donald A. Perry, who served for 15 years as an elder of the Hillcrest church. Perry, vice president of public relations for Chick-fil-A, died July 27 of a heart attack. He was 60.

"I've never seen anything like the cloud that settled over the congregation" after Perry's sudden, unexpected death, said Ernest Holsendolph, a member of the Hillcrest church and editor of its newsletter.

The donation, which places the church's renovation project "on the brink of success," was equally unexpected, Holsendolph said.

Perry's widow, Marilyn, urged the congregation to "come together, because we have work to do in this community."

"Let us keep faith with Don," she added. "He really loved this church."



Perry

EXPANDED COVERAGE at www.christianchronicle.org



PHOTO PROVIDED

Donald Cathy and his wife, Cindy, present a check to Donald Perry's widow, Marilyn, and Hillcrest Church of Christ minister Richard Barclay.

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WEST MONROE: Meeting conjures memories

FROM PAGE 3

my brother Scott — nearly a year younger than me — joined me in the first grade at Kiroli Elementary because the school did not offer kindergarten.

As a result, we remained on the same educational track all the way through high school and later at Oklahoma Christian University, prompting questions about whether we were twins (despite how much better looking than him I am).

In the 1970s, a pungent odor from the paper mill permeated West Monroe. It still does, I discovered. Or, as a businessman told my friend John Dobbs, minister for the Forsythe Church of Christ in nearby Monroe, “it smells like money.”

When I close my eyes, I can still see the pink JOY buses that picked up children all over town and brought them to worship at the White's Ferry Road church. I spent countless hours on those buses with my mother, Judy Ross, brother Scott and baby sister Christy, singing all along the way about the “joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart.”

In 1976, Dad finished his studies at White's Ferry Road. He and two classmates — Wendell Jackson and Gary Dunavan — teamed up to plant a Church of Christ in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., near the Virginia state line.

With help from short-term teams from out of state, our three domestic missionary families refurbished an old nightclub — painted all black inside when we arrived — and turned it into a church building.

On March 13, 1977, Jackson preached a sermon on baptism. I was 9 years old.

Without saying a word to my parents, I marched to the front that Sunday morning and declared my desire to be immersed for the forgiveness of my sins.

However, the old nightclub did not have a baptistery, and I could not handle the freezing pond water where my father first tried to baptize me. Instead, I gave my life to Jesus that afternoon in my family's bathtub.

During my recent trip to northeast Louisiana, I spoke on good news in Churches of Christ at the 19th annual Prayer Enrichment Workshop hosted by the Calhoun Church of Christ, west of West Monroe (*see related story, Page 8*).

Before my presentation, a man with a slightly familiar face greeted me. He asked if I recognized him. I did not.

“I'm Wendell Jackson,” he said.

I had not seen him in 35 years, as my family left for a ministry in another North Carolina town not long after my baptism.

To my surprise, Jackson handed me a blue folder in which he had kept sermon outlines — written in pencil — that Scott and I prepared in a Sunday school class.

I titled one outline “Purposis to teach Baptism.”

The first point on the faded yellow notebook paper: “Do you have to be baptized to be saved?”

My take: “I'm not going to answer this question, but I think the scriptures will tell you the answer. Well, let's go to the scriptures.”

The boyhood me referenced Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 2:37-38.

As for the balding, middle-aged me, Jackson hugged me and told me he loved me.

What a joy to cross paths again this side of heaven. Thank God for forgotten teachers and unforgettable memories.

CONTACT bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Kendall and Keaton Ross with duck call maker John Godwin.



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ARKANSAS

TEXARKANA — Two congregations on opposite sides of the state line have merged “so that a greater work can be done in the city of Texarkana for the Lord,” minister Milton Hopkins Sr. said.

Joining together are the Bowie Street Church of Christ in Texarkana, Texas, and the College Hill Church of Christ in Texarkana, Ark.

Hopkins, formerly minister for the College Hill church, will remain in that role for the Twin City Church of Christ, on the Arkansas side of the line. Johnnie McGhee Jr., formerly minister for the Bowie Street church, will be minister emeritus.

The new congregation’s Sunday attendance is about 150.

MAINE

AUGUSTA — Twenty-one college students and young professionals from the Highland Heights Church of Christ in Smyrna, Tenn., recently descended on Maine to help the state’s congregations.

The mission group, led by deacon Zack Bannister, served the Augusta, Greater Portland, Sabattus and South Paris congregations.

“Doing church building repairs, cleaning, indoor and outdoor work and any project asked of them with a positive attitude overwhelmingly encouraged our congregations,” said Brenda Birckholtz, a member of the South Paris Church of Christ.

OKLAHOMA

LUTHER — When recent wildfires burned thousands of acres and destroyed more than 50 homes and other structures east of Oklahoma City, the Luther Community Service Center jumped into action.

The social services ministry — which is associated with Churches of Christ — worked in cooperation with local congregations and Nashville, Tenn.-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TAMI MCDANIELS

Donations pile up outside the service center.



JENNY HEATER FERRELL

For Tennessee preacher, youth group retreat a splash

Tom Riley, minister for the Bellevue Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., takes a plunge during a weekend retreat. About 60 Bellevue teens and their parents participated in the team-building exercise at Deer Run Retreat, a camp in Thompson Station, Tenn., south of Nashville. Youth minister Monte Jackson organized the activities, which included a ropes course, canoeing, wiffle ball, swimming and a zip line.

based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort Inc.

“The outpouring of support for the fire victims ... was awe-inspiring,” said Tami McDaniels, board secretary for the Luther Community Service Center.

Donations were packed into five storage buildings throughout town and spread across the service center’s parking lot, McDaniels said.

Victims received food, cleaning supplies, water, linens, clothing and money.

TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE — Green Street Church of Christ has been on a mission to help Nashville’s homeless, but now the church says that mission is under fire.

The city’s codes department cited the church for having tents on the property where the homeless sleep, saying the zoning does not allow camping, *The Tennessean* reported.

The church vows to fight the citation

in court.

“It is the position of the church that they’re protected under federal statute and under the Constitution of the United States,” attorney William “Tripp” Hunt told the newspaper.

UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY — With the theme “Colored Like Christ,” based on Galatians 3:26-29, a recent youth rally organized by the Southside Church of Christ and the Murray Park Church of Christ drew 86 participants from Utah, Idaho and New Mexico.

Teens representing 10 congregations wore tie-dyed T-shirts and helped with various service projects, said Dwight Denman, youth minister for the Southside church.

“The group discussed the different ‘colors’ we paint ourselves,” Denman said. “Instead of being colored like Christ, we often paint ourselves with profanity, apathy, gossip, anger, greed and lies.”

SPOTLIGHT

Welcome back

WINGO, Ky. — Boyd Taylor was 16 years old the first time he delivered a sermon at the Wingo Church of Christ. The title of that message: “Where Will You Spend Eternity?”

Seven-plus decades later, the longtime minister, now 90, returned to the same pulpit. “He incorporated some of his notes from the first sermon,” his daughter Sheryll Curlee said.

Now a member of the Saturn Road Church of Christ in Garland, Texas, Taylor “continues to preach on occasion and often teaches a Sunday night small-group Bible study,” his daughter said.



Davis



Debris lines a street in LaPlace, La., west of New Orleans, in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac. Disaster ministries associated with Churches of Christ are helping with the relief effort.

Paying it forward: Victims help victims

VOLUNTEERS FROM AN ALABAMA church that lost its building in a tornado travel to Louisiana to help after a hurricane

BY CHANDRA CLARK | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

LaPLACE, La.
For about 8,000 residents of this town just west of New Orleans, the arrival of Hurricane Isaac brought a very different future than they might ever have envisioned.

In a matter of hours, homes, possessions, businesses, schools and houses of worship were washed away in as much as four feet of water.

Suddenly, the people of LaPlace needed help — so much help that they didn’t know how to begin to ask.

Enter Christians from communities and congregations that have endured other catastrophic disasters, such as the deadly 2011 tornado outbreak in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

In the weeks since the flooding subsided, dozens of former victims have “paid forward” the assistance they received — packing up cleaning supplies, household items and other essen-



Mike Baumgartner, in the orange shirt, with a disaster relief team from Tuscaloosa, Ala.

tials and making the trek to help fellow Christians and other neighbors in need. “They’ve lost everything from sentimental things to all their clothes to their bed,” said William Orman, a member of the Central Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa and sophomore at the University of Alabama. “You can’t even quantify how much they’ve lost in the grand total of everything.”

Orman and fellow student Maria Holland spent a day recently helping Diedre and Emmett Collins gut their home and start the rebuilding process. Tearing out walls, hauling ruined furniture outside and ripping out flooring was backbreaking work. Deidre Collins, a member of the LaPlace Church of Christ, said she was touched by the gift — and especially the givers.

“It brings a relief to you to know that you don’t have to do all this by yourself,” she said. “It makes your beginning a lot sooner. Once all this is behind you, you can begin again. That’s the hardest part.”

The family is one of eight left homeless in the 45-member congregation by the Category 1 storm that struck Aug. 28 and the ensuing flooding of nearby Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas.

Two church families didn’t have flood insurance, and the insured faced deductibles ranging from \$6,000 to \$7,000. Though they rejoice that no

one from the congregation was injured, LaPlace church members say it will take years to recover from the storm. Central members know firsthand about ongoing rebuilding and recovery. Their church building in Tuscaloosa was destroyed on April 27, 2011, by an EF-4 tornado. Fifty-three people throughout the community died on a day that saw 62 tornadoes claim more than 250 lives throughout Alabama and the South.

The Alabama congregation received help from across the country. Christians sent funds and provided food, supplies and manpower to help repair and rebuild homes and later the church building itself.

Mike Baumgartner of the Disaster Assistance Mission — a feeding ministry overseen by the Lake Jackson Church of Christ in Texas — helped the Central church prepare more than 40,000 meals and coordinate volunteers for five months following the disaster.



Justin Miller works inside a flood-damaged home in LaPlace, La. Miller survived the 2011 tornado that destroyed a Church of Christ building in Tuscaloosa, Ala., by hiding in a closet.

Baumgartner now is stationed in LaPlace. He said a flooding disaster is different than the aftermath of a tornado. “Floods are difficult because you have to live and work in your house while you rebuild it,” Baumgartner said. Members of the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ in New Orleans also assisted residents in nearby LaPlace.



LaPlace church members Deidre and Emmett Collins thank God for the help they received.

In the months and years following Katrina’s destruction in August 2005, the inner-city Carrollton Avenue members helped rebuild homes and refurbish the flood-damaged church building, not to mention the congregation itself, since many people evacuated and did not return to New Orleans.

Justin Miller, another volunteer in LaPlace, was one of six college students who survived the deadly Tuscaloosa tornado in a utility closet inside Central’s church building.

While he experienced his own losses, he made it a priority to reach out and help others in the weeks following the tornado. He said he continues to put the lessons he learned from that experience into practice and spent two days recently lending a hand to the nation’s most recent hurricane victims.

“It has taught me how to serve and to consider what happens when a natural disaster hits,” Miller said. “It’s so easy to not think about the people homeless and people suffering because you’re not suffering.”

“But as you reach out and help more and more people, you realize how devastating these disasters are,” he added,

“and it makes you more conscious about the magnitude of a natural disaster.”

The LaPlace Church of Christ and Disaster Assistance Mission still need volunteers, say church leaders and disaster relief coordinators. Not only do the donations and labor help rebuild, the spirit that prompts the action uplifts the commu-

nity, said Bryan Cook, a member of the LaPlace church.

“I think more from the emotional standpoint, it has more of an impact to see people coming to help out and support in a time of need,” Cook said. “From a spiritual need, it helps out quite a bit there as well.”

FOR INFORMATION on how to help, see the LaPlace church website at www.laplacechurchofchrist.com or the Disaster Assistance Mission website at www.disasterassistancecoc.com. To see a video of the Central volunteers working in LaPlace, go to www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for “pay it forward.”

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- Nearer The Cross
- Rescue The Perishing
- Tell Me The Story Of Jesus
- Thou My Everlasting Portion
- Will You Come
- When Jesus Comes
- Pass Me Not
- Hide Me, O My Savior

- Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross
- Meet Me There (Interlude)
- To God Be The Glory
- Take The World, But Give Me Jesus
- I Shall Know Him
- Hold Thou My Hand
- Savior, More Than Life To Me
- And Many More Songs*

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- I Love You With The Love Of The Lord
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I Want To Know Christ
- God's Family
- A Common Love
- Morning Has Broken
- This Is The Day
- Humble Yourselves

- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Love You Lord
- If That Isn't Love
- There's Something About That Name
- God Is So Good
- We Are One In The Bond Of Love
- How Excellent Is Thy Name
- We Bow Down
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- Glorify Thy Name

- His Name Is Wonderful
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STEVE SANDIFER

Attendees pray during the 19th annual Calhoun Prayer Enrichment Workshop in Louisiana.

For rural Louisiana church, prayer workshop an annual source of spiritual growth, strength

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CALHOUN, La. — For two decades, a workshop focused on prayer has drawn church members from near and far to a rural congregation just off Interstate 20.

The recent 19th annual Calhoun Prayer Enrichment Workshop attracted 100 people from 33 churches in eight states.

“Small churches can do great things if you ask God to be in it and guide you with his voice,” said Keith Roberts, the 55-member Calhoun Church of Christ’s minister for 31 years.

Roberts, author of the book “Why God Waits For You to Pray,” said the workshop began as an effort to “take prayer off the back burner and make it something that was really a part of the life of the church.”

Since 1994, a Tuesday night prayer group has helped the northeast Louisiana church keep its focus on conversing with God. About eight to 12 members meet in a different person’s home each week.

“We fellowship a little bit,” Roberts said, “but mainly, we pray.”

A sign outside the red-brick church building declares: “Need prayer? Call our prayer hotline ... or use our drive-thru prayer request box.” At various times,

the congregation has prayed by name for everyone in the Calhoun phone directory. The town has a population of about 7,500.

Speakers at the recent workshop included Patrick Mead, minister for the Eastside Church of Christ in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Albert Lemmons, pastoral care minister for the Fourth Avenue Church of Christ in Franklin, Tenn.

Louvenia Williams, a member of the University Church of Christ in Monroe, La., said the workshop helps improve her prayer life.

“With the way the economy and the world is in such turmoil, we are leaning more toward prayer,” Williams said.

Like Williams, Carolyn Parsons, a member of the Airline Drive Church of Christ in Bossier City, La., said she wouldn’t dare miss the workshop.

“I found the thing that improved my prayer life and my Christian walk the most is when I started praying ... that God would keep my eyes, ears, hands and heart open to do service for others,” Parsons said. “He has put me in some interesting situations and puts many speed bumps in my way, so that I slow down and handle each one.”

Five members of the Southwest Central Church of Christ in Houston drove more than 300 miles to attend the workshop.

“This is a must-go for our prayer ministry,” pastoral care minister Steve Sandifer said.

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RICK BROOKS

Christian Chronicle honored for encouraging unity

Jerry Smiley, an elder of the Brooks Avenue Church of Christ in Raleigh, N.C., presents Lynn McMillon, editor, president and CEO of *The Christian Chronicle*, with a certificate recognizing the newspaper for "Excellence in Christian Journalism." The award, for "informing, inspiring and encouraging unity among Churches of Christ," was presented at the 39th annual Mid-Atlantic Evangelism Seminar, hosted by the Brooks Avenue church.

RELATED VOICES, Page 31

Bob Harp, longtime missionary to American Samoa, dies at 84

MAUI, Hawaii — A woman named Tolua Tavai once asked Bob Harp to "come back to Samoa with your family. You make Jesus' church in my home."

He did.

Harp, who dedicated nearly 50 years of ministry to the people of South Pacific, died Sept. 10 in Maui, Hawaii, after a long illness. He was 84.

Born in Floydada, Texas, Harp served in Japan with the U.S. military from 1946-47. For the next 15 years, he served churches in New York, Texas, California and Maine.

While serving as a minister for the Culver Palms Church of Christ in Los

Angeles in the early 1960s, Harp traveled to Wellington, New Zealand, for a gospel campaign. He toured the region and took the invitation to move his family to American Samoa, a U.S. territory.

He and his wife, Jackie, and their three young children, Scott, Eric and Vicki, moved to the town of Lauli'i in 1964.

Under difficult physical circumstances, they remained there for six and a half years, during which they launched the first Church of Christ among the islanders in Lauli'i.

Three years later they helped build the first church building for the Church of Christ in the village of Nu'uuli.

In recent years Harp had served as associate minister for the Maui Church of Christ.



Harp



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Visit acu.edu/academics/provost/positions.html for complete descriptions of these positions. Successful applicants will have a commitment to the mission, values and goals of the university; have an appreciation and understanding of the nature and role of Christian higher education and the relationship among learning, scholarship and faith; and a 21st-century vision for the role of the college in a comprehensive university and in the preparation of students for service and leadership in the world. She or he will have an earned doctorate; a record of excellence in teaching and research as a tenured associate or full professor; serve as an exemplary teacher, mentor and advisor of university students; have experience in academic administration including evidence of exceptional leadership in progressively responsible positions; demonstrate ability to work collaboratively with faculty, staff and administrators within a department, college and university; have knowledge of and experience with how the disciplines of the college are connected with the communities they serve; and have willingness and ability to work effectively with university development in fund raising.

In a letter, applicants should address each element or characteristic in the above description of responsibilities and qualifications, and should send a curriculum vita, including the name, address and telephone number of five references (to be contacted only in the event the applicant is a finalist). Please mail documents electronically in Microsoft Word format to provostoffice@acu.edu. **Review of applicants will begin Nov. 5 and continue until the positions are filled.** Nominations of and applications from qualified women and minorities are especially encouraged. 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.

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BURUNDI

CHAGURA — Though many Americans are familiar with the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, fewer know that the tiny African nation of Burundi, to Rwanda's south, also endured years of conflict between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups, said missionary Fielden Allison. At least a half-million people died during the 12-year conflict.

The missionary and his wife, Janet, spent 16 days in the villages of Burundi, teaching marriage enrichment through their Africa Institute of Marriage and Family. There are few — if any — Churches of Christ in Burundi, Fielden Allison said. A pastor of a group called Friends Church invited him to preach.

"Because these people have been through so much turmoil and have seen some terrible things," he said, "I told them that, regardless of what they were guilty of — even killing — that Christ would remove all their loads of sin when they repented and were baptized in his name."



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Fielden and Janet Allison.

GUATEMALA

MIXCO — About 200 people attended the one-year anniversary of a Church of Christ in the neighborhood of San Cristobal in the municipality of Mixco, near Guatemala City.

Four graduates of the Latin American Theological Institute in Guatemala planted the congregation. The work has been slow, with four baptisms reported in the first year. The church planters have encountered Guatemalans who were baptized by missionaries before the country's civil war. Eight



PAUL SUBHAN

Spreading the Gospel to the people of India's tiger forest

Women in India's Nallamala forest raise their arms during a visit by evangelist Paul Subhan. The jungle-like forest, in India's Andhra Pradesh state, is famous for its caves and wildlife — including tigers. Subhan, a minister in Nandavaram, and four other preachers traveled through rugged terrain to reach the village of Lakshmanpur.

"The people of this region are very different in how they speak, dress, and eat," Subhan said, "but many understand the Telugu language, so I was able to preach the Gospel of Christ to them. Thankfully, 17 souls came forward and were baptized into Christ. Some of our preachers will continue followup with these people to see them grow and mature as disciples of Christ." The region is home to 11 Churches of Christ, the minister added.

attend the San Cristobal church.

"Because of this, the San Cristobal team saw a great need to begin a new work in the village called Las Pacayas," reported Hawatthia Jones and Byron Benitez, missionaries and overseers of the institute.

NIGERIA

OBONG NTAK — On a recent Sunday, 20 students in grades seven to 10 at Obong Christian High School asked to be baptized during worship at the Campus Church of Christ.

"This is the largest conversion on a single day recorded at the campus church," said Esang Akpanudo, the school's principal.

PAKISTAN

LAHORE — An aging minister in this South Asian nation — where 95 percent of its 176

million inhabitants claim Islam as their faith — asks for funds so that future generations can continue the work.

The minister, Asghar Ali, "obeyed the Gospel, even though it brought long-term alienation from his physical family," said Betty Choate, who moved to Pakistan in 1962 with her husband, J.C., to serve as missionaries.

The church Ali serves must leave its current location and seeks a permanent home.

"Simply standing firm in the faith — and being courageous enough to teach it to others — demands commitment and bravery on the part of every Christian there," Betty Choate said. For more information, contact the West Corinth Church of Christ, P.O. Box 935, Corinth, MS 38835-0935 or call (662) 286-5739.

VANUATU

PORT VILA — Tobey and Kathy Huff returned to this island nation recently to begin their 37th year of mission work in the South Pacific.

The couple was in the U.S. raising awareness and funds for the

Christian Institute of Biblical Studies, which they plan to launch in Vanuatu next year.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Tobey and Kathy Huff

The missionaries have secured 30 acres of land for the school, the *Joplin Globe* in Missouri reported.

The Mount Hope Church of Christ in Webb City, Mo., sponsors the Huffs.

SPOTLIGHT**A life-saving gift for Haiti**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The government of Haiti gladly accepted the gift of a portable defibrillator from a church-supported ministry — and promptly put it to use.

For the first time since the devastating 2010 earthquake, the Caribbean nation hosted a three-day event known as the Carnival of Flowers. During the celebration, a participant suffered a heart attack and was revived by the defibrillator.



Martelly

The automated external defibrillator, or AED, was a gift to Haiti's First Lady, Sophia Martelly, from Healing Hands International.



Hames

The ministry, with offices in Nashville, Tenn., and Fort Worth, Texas, delivered the portable machine to Martelly's home via Harry Hames, Healing Hands' coordinator for Haiti.

After the carnival, Hames "received a call asking for more pads for the machine, making sure it is always ready to be used," said Lori Kovach, community relations director.

"He was also told when the president of Haiti travels, the AED machine always goes with him," Kovach said. "What wonderful news that our gifts are so well received and appreciated. All glory to God that one life has already been saved."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see hhi.org.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Relief organizations estimate that 16 percent of children in Zimbabwe are orphaned by AIDS.

Hungry for justice: Christians plan fasts for oppressed in India, Africa

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Church members on two continents plan to refrain from food in hopes of helping those with little to eat.

In India, Vijaya Raju Gaddapati plans a 48-hour hunger strike on Oct. 2 in protest of the treatment of Christian Dalits in his country.

Dalits, often called “untouchables” in India, are a persecuted, impoverished underclass, once denied education and other benefits, said Gaddapati, evangelist for a Church of Christ in Annaram, a city in India’s Andhra Pradesh state.

In 1950, the Indian government granted equal rights to its Dalits in its constitution — but only to those who identify themselves as Hindus.

Gaddapati is the founder and president of the All India Christian Federation, which works for the religious freedom of Dalit Christians. Gaddapati’s brother, Jyothi Raju, travels the U.S., speaking to politicians and churches about the plight of Christian Dalits. Jyothi Raju works with Paul Swindle, a missionary to India.

The date of Gaddapati’s fast coincides with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who used hunger strikes and nonviolent protests in his quest for India’s independence. Recently, Gaddapati delivered a petition on behalf of Indian Christians to Manmohan Singh, India’s prime minister.

On Nov. 4, church members in the U.S. will fast for 24 hours and donate the money they would have spent on food to help impoverished children in the African nation of Zimbabwe.

“You don’t even have to leave your couch to make a difference. You can do

this fast anywhere and everywhere,” said Kellie Bird, the organizer of “One Day’s Difference,” a fundraiser for Nhowe Mission, a church-supported school and medical mission in Macheke, Zimbabwe.



V. Gaddapati



Bird

Money donated during the fast will be used to build an orphanage near the Brian Lemons Memorial Hospital at Nhowe Mission.

The number of orphans in Zimbabwe may surpass 100,000, relief groups estimate. Many lose their parents to the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

The hospital is named after Bird’s brother, who participated in missions in Zimbabwe and was killed in a 1997 car wreck while returning to York College in Nebraska. The orphanage will give a home to children up to 6 years old, Bird said.

The elders of the East Point Church of Christ in Wichita, Kan., manage the hospital jointly with Nhowe Mission’s board of directors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the plight of Christian Dalits, see vijayarajugaddapati.com. Donations may be sent to Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ, 1207 Sherrod Avenue, Florence, AL, 35630, with the memo “India work.”

TO PARTICIPATE in “One Day’s Difference” for Zimbabwe orphans, see www.facebook.com/LetsBuildAnOrphanage or nhowemission.org. Funds may be mailed to Nhowe Mission — Let’s Build an Orphanage Fund, 747 N. 127th St. East Wichita, KS, 67206.



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African Christians look beyond their borders

NEW FRONTIERS, including urban ministry and unreached nations, discussed at Africans Claiming Africa for Christ

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

LUSAKA, Zambia

Africa is big. China, the United States, India, Europe and Japan could fit within its 11.6 million square miles. In the past three years, Africa's population surpassed 1 billion, researchers estimate.

Nevertheless, the Christians who call this continent home have their sights set on something bigger.

Standing at the podium during the sixth Africans Claiming Africa for Christ conference, Dennis Malepa suggested that the 20-year-old event was overdue for a name change.

"It has to be 'Christians Claiming the Whole World for Christ,'" said Malepa, a longtime minister in Gaborone, Botswana. "We are not African Christians. We are Christians. Our mission is a global mission."

About 200 Christians, representing 20 African nations and



Christians from Nigeria wave flags of their homeland and sing in their native tongue during a parade of nations at the Lusaka conference.



With the flag of Ghana draped around his shoulders, a participant in the 2012 Africans Claiming Africa for Christ conference sings along with Christians from across the continent. Churches of Christ in Zambia hosted the event.

the U.S., gathered in Zambia's capital city for the conference, which occurs every four years, moving among the nations of Africa's south, east and west.

The conference was designed

as a "passing of the torch" from U.S. missionaries to African church leaders, said Rabson Mhango, a member of the Chilenje Church of Christ in Lusaka and coordinator of this year's conference. Since 1992, African Christians have launched works in countries including Togo, Senegal, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea and, most recently, South Sudan. Africans who leave their home continent to work abroad have established churches of expatriates in Europe, Australia and the U.S.

The conference is "a very good platform to share ministry works between Americans and Africans," Mhango said. "It is good that we should partner



Mhango

in the mission work."

The conference explored "New Frontiers in Missions," including urban ministry. Speakers including Malepa urged attendees to practice the ministries of evangelism, benevolence and encouragement as they move from rural settings, where Churches of Christ have flourished, to Africa's growing cities, where many congregations struggle to grow.

An attendee from Nigeria voiced his frustration at reaching lost souls in the big city where he lives — where nearly 50 different languages are spoken. Malepa suggested small-group ministry and cell churches to reach multiple language groups.

Sam Shewmaker, director for Africa Missions for Texas-based Missions Resource Network, gave a keynote

address on the closing day of the conference.

"My birth certificate tells me that I am an African, my passport tells me that I am an American, but my Bible tells me that my citizenship is in heaven," he said. "I choose to believe my Bible."

Shewmaker, born in Zambia to missionary parents, served as a worker in Africa for 29 years. Believers should use more than a map when planning mission work, he said.

"We need to deepen our understanding of God's purpose in redemption," Shewmaker said. He called the attendees to practice "deep prayer and fasting" as they prepare for mission.

As Africans move beyond the borders of their continent, "let us encourage them not to go simply as evacuees from poverty or political oppression ... but as people intentionally prepared and prayerfully sent to courageously take the good news of Christ wherever they go."



Shewmaker



Three members of the Zambia Deaf Choir use sign language to "sing" a praise during the conference.

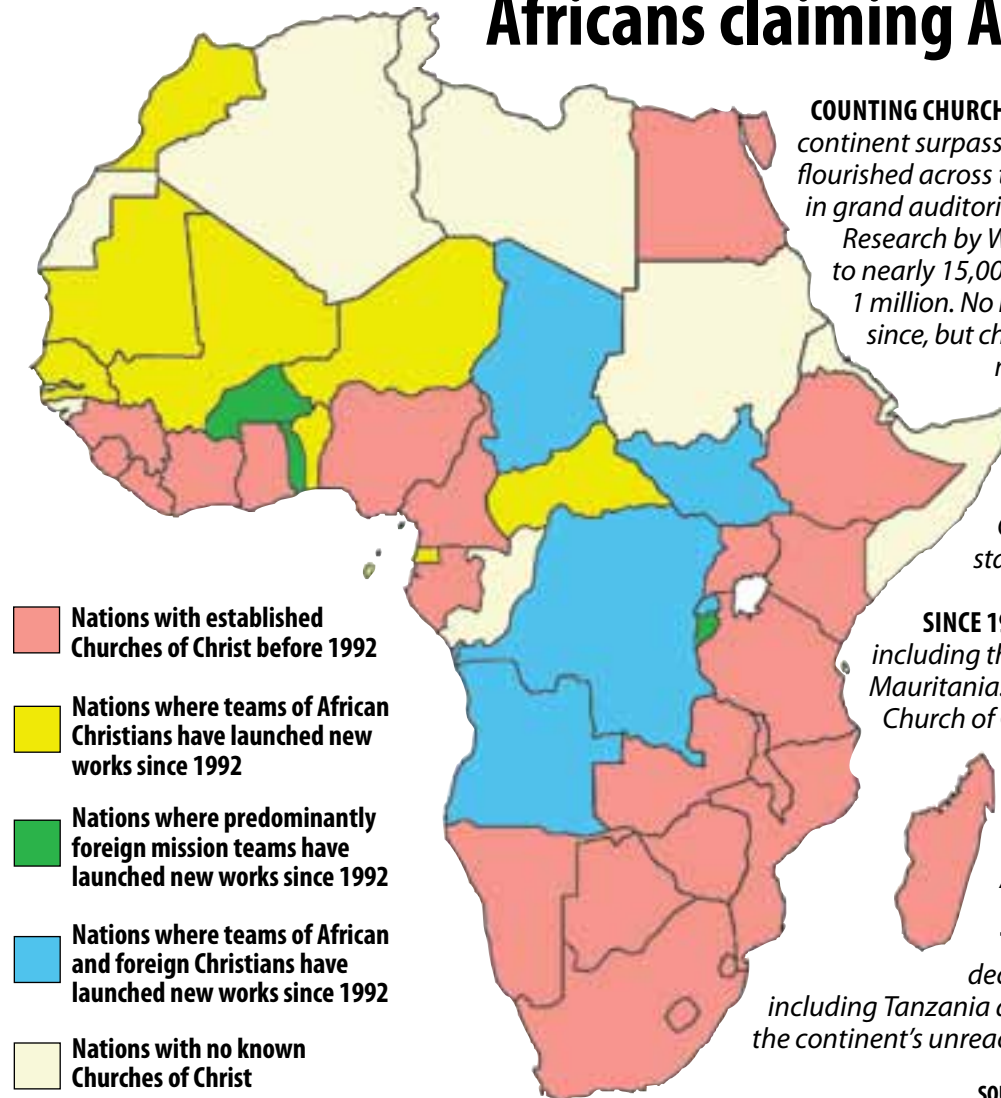


Isaac Adotey, a native of the West African nation of Ghana, speaks about his mission work in the Muslim-dominated north of his home country and his new work in Juba, South Sudan.



Members of an a cappella group from the Lusaka Central Church of Christ in Zambia rehearse for a performance during the Africans Claiming Africa for Christ conference.

Africans claiming Africa: Tracking 20 years of missions



COUNTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST in Africa is exceedingly difficult. Between 2009 and 2010, the vast continent surpassed 1 billion souls, according to population researchers. Churches of Christ have flourished across the continent in the past century. Some have more than 1,000 members and meet in grand auditoriums. Others have 20 members who meet under the shade of a mango tree.

Research by Wendell Broom and Mark Berryman in 2002 showed that the continent was home to nearly 15,000 congregations with a combined membership of more than 1 million. No reliable census of the entire continent has been compiled in the years since, but church scholars estimate that the number of congregations and members surpasses that of the United States.

IN 1992, CHURCH LEADERS gathered for the first Africans Claiming Africa for Christ conference in Kenya. The conference represented a "passing of the torch" from U.S. and European missionaries to African Christians. Every four years the church leaders reconvene to discuss the status of African-led missions to the unreached nations of the continent.

SINCE 1992, AFRICAN-LED TEAMS have planted churches across West Africa, including the predominantly Muslim nations of Senegal, Gambia, Mali and Mauritania. Church elders, including Douglas Boateng of the Nsawam Road Church of Christ in Accra, Ghana, have raised funds for the mission work and set up businesses for Christians to operate in foreign lands.

Meanwhile, teams of U.S. Christians have launched works among unreached people groups in Burkina Faso and Togo. In countries including Angola, Rwanda and South Sudan, U.S. and African Christians have worked together to start new congregations.

THE MAP AT LEFT is an approximation of mission work in Africa in the past two decades. In some countries, some Churches of Christ existed before 1992. In others, including Tanzania and Mozambique, new mission teams from the U.S. have launched works among the continent's unreached people groups since 1992.

SOURCES: "Churches of Christ Around the World," compiled by Mac Lynn and interviews with African church leaders and missionaries.



Broom



Boateng

MIDDLE EAST: 'I don't love Islam, but I love Muslims,' Bible professor says

FROM PAGE 1

Nazareth, Palestine, and former president of the National Association of Arab-Americans, said that misunderstanding about the film's origin has fueled rage in the Arab world.

Likewise, media coverage of the riots leads many Americans to believe that the protesters represent all followers of Islam, said Jahshan, a member of the Fairfax Church of Christ in Virginia.

"How many people resorted to violence in the Muslim world — 10,000, 100,000, 200,000 out of 1.5 billion people?" he asked. "We're seeing an uprising — and a violent uprising — by a very radicalized group, a fringe group even in their own society, and we should not give them more credibility than they deserve. And they deserve nothing."

When asked what he prays for with regard to the Middle East, Jahshan replied, "Any time you see turmoil like this, what else? My permanent prayer always has been and always will be for peace and stability. That is what we are instructed to do as Christians.

"Our No. 1 priority always should be peace, which is probably the furthest thing right now from the region."

'CHRIST WOULD NOT DO THIS'

As Christians pray for peace, they also should stand up for morality, said Jahshan, who described the video, "Innocence of Muslims," as "demeaning, nasty, immoral" and pornographic in its depiction of Muhammad.

"Christ would not do this," Jahshan said, adding that the film's producer is a Coptic Christian, part of an Orthodox group in Egypt.

Many Copts felt persecuted by Muslims under the reign of Hosni Mubarak, who was driven from power during the "Arab Spring" of 2011, Jahshan said, with a revolutionary wave



JILL RHODES

Nabil Bayakly and Monte Cox speak during a 2008 dialogue titled "Islam in America" at Harding University in Searcy, Ark. Bayakly, director of the AnNoor Community Center, meeting place of the Muslim Student Association of Memphis, Tenn., presented a history of Islam in America, discussed implications of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and gave examples of Muslims' contributions to science.

Cox, dean of the College of Bible and Religion at Harding, noted commonalities between Islam and Christianity and gave his thoughts about religious and political disagreements among Christians and Muslims.

of protests and power changes in several countries.

In one scene from the video, a Muslim brutally murders a woman, after which the camera zooms in on a Coptic Christian cross around her neck.

However, "I don't think the film is the main issue" underlying the protests, Jahshan said.

Howard Miller, an assistant professor of history at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., teaches courses on Islam and Christianity and the history and politics of the Middle East. He agreed that social and economic change, not necessarily the film itself, is fueling the ongoing turmoil.

Though the Arab Spring brought freedom from tyranny to many nations of North Africa and the Middle East, the revolutions did not address the underlying problems of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy, Miller said.

"Desperate young men without jobs or future prospects

of economic advancement are usually ready recruits for demagogues, whether political or religious," he added.

Those who urge young Muslims to violence tap into "a latent anti-Americanism that is real and is present in places like Egypt," said Ben Peterson, a graduate of Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City who studied abroad in Egypt and visited Middle Eastern countries including Turkey, Jordan, Syria and Israel.

"I would often hear in Egypt phrases like, 'I love America, but I hate American policies,'" Peterson said. "Muslims also view American society as decadent and corrupt, morally speaking."

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

Joshua Jeffery, a member of the Westside Church of Christ in Beaverton, Ore., said that many of his fellow Christians have responded to the recent attacks in anger, expressing the desire to strike back.

"Regardless of whether or not you believe that Muslims are called to be people of peace," he said, "there is no doubt that Christians are called out by our Lord to be peacemakers."

Instead of reacting in anger, Mac Lynn suggested that Christians "dedicate the time needed to understand Islam as a system of thought — a world view that is at enmity with the Gospel."

Lynn is chancellor of NationsUniversity, a church-supported distance-learning program that offers academic degrees in religious studies. He has traveled extensively in the Middle East and taught courses on Islam at Lipscomb University.

Believers also should pray and "affirm their faith in Christ as the son of God" — a belief Muslims do not share, Lynn said. "They can engage Muslims in conversation about the real God, his nature, his loving acts toward us as sinners, the nature of sin and its remedy."

'A DIALOGUE OF FAITH'

Christian university professors, including Monte Cox, have been part of ongoing discussions with Muslims in the U.S.

Cox, dean of the College of Bible and Religion at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., spoke at a 2008 seminar titled "Islam in America: A Dialogue on Faith." More than 400 students, faculty and members of the community listened as Nabil Bayakly, a Muslim scholar from Memphis, Tenn., and Cox discussed their faiths.

"I know Nabil would like nothing more than for me to say that Allah is the one true God, and Muhammad is his prophet," Cox said during the event. "And he knows that I would like nothing more than to convince him that Jesus Christ is the son of God and to baptize him."

Neither happened. In the years since, Cox and his students have continued to discuss faith with Muslim leaders in cities from Dallas to Chicago.

Cox has gotten angry letters from fellow Christians, telling him "we have no business talking with Muslims. All they want to do is kill us."

The recent protests and attacks show that Muslims and Christians need to talk more — not less, Cox said.

"The Christian response, between the manger and the cross, is 'I want to be with you' and 'I'm prepared to lay my life down for you,'" Cox said. "How could any other response be Christian?"

"Someone here once accused me of being a Muslim lover," he added. "I said, 'Guilty as charged. Why aren't you?'"

"I don't love Islam, but I love Muslims."

RELATED COVERAGE ONLINE: Thousands of refugees from Syria's deadly conflict are in need of aid. Danny Sims, president of Abilene, Texas-based Global Samaritan Resources, traveled to relief camps in Jordan to assess needs. See www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for "Syria."

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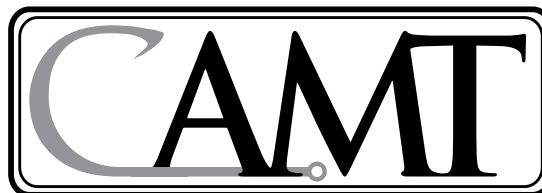
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I came to Harding University from Oklahoma to study in the Bachelor of Ministry program. I was attracted to Harding's 128-hour bachelor's degree that would qualify me to work as a youth minister in churches of Christ. Harding offers a well-rounded program with



Chris and Cathryn Sutterfield

four tracks, which include ministry, preaching, youth and family ministry, and missions. The 94 hours of Bible enable me to take classes that I am especially interested in. The students become close friends, being in classes and daily chapel together, and our families share in a unique fellowship as we support each other through the challenging program. Students are given ministry assignments to practice what we learn. The Bachelor of Ministry degree is designed for the older, nontraditional student – minimum age is 24 years. The full-tuition scholarship made it possible for me to take advantage of this great educational opportunity to prepare for ministry or graduate studies.



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God is leading my family to Arequipa, Peru, when I graduate. As I look forward to graduation, I know that I am well prepared for ministry and graduate education should I choose that option in the future. The classes have taught me about important aspects of ministry such

as leadership, counseling and conflict management. I have a better understanding of God's word and have learned to carefully study and accurately interpret it. I'm grateful that the teachers of missions courses all have many years of experience serving in foreign lands. I have made life-long friends with teachers and students. We learn together, we worship



Justin, Sarah and Lorenzo Morgan

together, and we serve together. I feel more confident as a worker in God's kingdom because of the training I have received at Harding University's Center for Advanced Ministry Training.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY AL ROBERTSON

Al Robertson, third from left, dares to be different. He's pictured with his brothers Willie and Jase, father Phil, uncle Si, brother Jephtha and duck call makers Justin Martin and John Godwin.

Faith, family and ducks

FOR THESE REALITY TV STARS, *'holding hands with Hollywood'* presents a challenge as they endeavor to share Jesus.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

WEST MONROE, La.

Hollywood, meet the *real* Robertsons.

A&E's hit reality series "Duck Dynasty" has made celebrities out of Duck Commander Phil Robertson, his wife Kay and their bearded, camo-clad sons Willie, Jase and Jephtha, not to mention "Uncle Si," Phil's younger brother.

As the network portrays it, the series — whose Season 1 finale drew 2.6 million viewers — follows a Louisiana bayou family living the American dream as they operate a thriving duck call and decoy business while staying true to their family values.

For the Robertsons, those values relate to the grace and salvation found in Jesus.

But for the show's producers, the family's strong Christian faith seems to

be an uncomfortable storyline — one frequently chopped in the editing room.

"They pretty much cut out most of the spiritual things," Phil Robertson, a one-time honky-tonk operator who gave up his heathen lifestyle in the 1970s, told *The Christian Chronicle*. "We say them, but they just don't run them on the show."

"Hollywood has run upon the kingdom of God, and there's a rub there," said the Duck Commander, a tenacious personal evangelist who has brought

hundreds of souls to new life in the Ouachita River. "Well, we have to be as harmless as a dove and as shrewd as a snake in the way we deal with them."

The entire Robertson family is active with the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ, which meets just a few miles from the Duck Commander/Buck Commander warehouse in this northeast Louisiana town of 13,000.

"They have been consistently

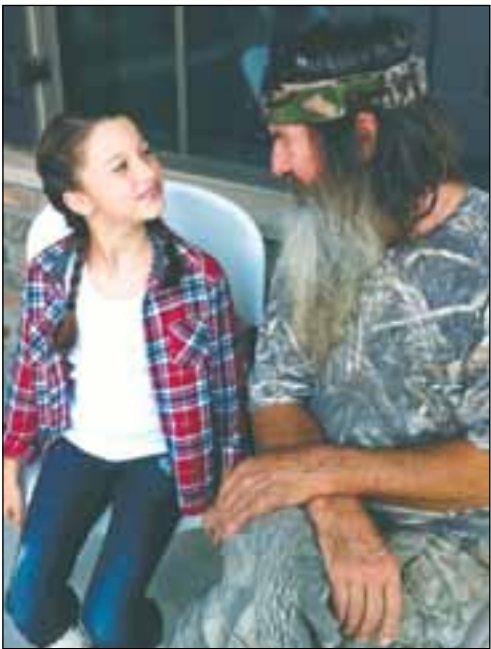
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Hey! Meet the *real* Robertsons



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Al Robertson stepped down from his preaching ministry to help run the family business. He poses beside the world's largest duck call.



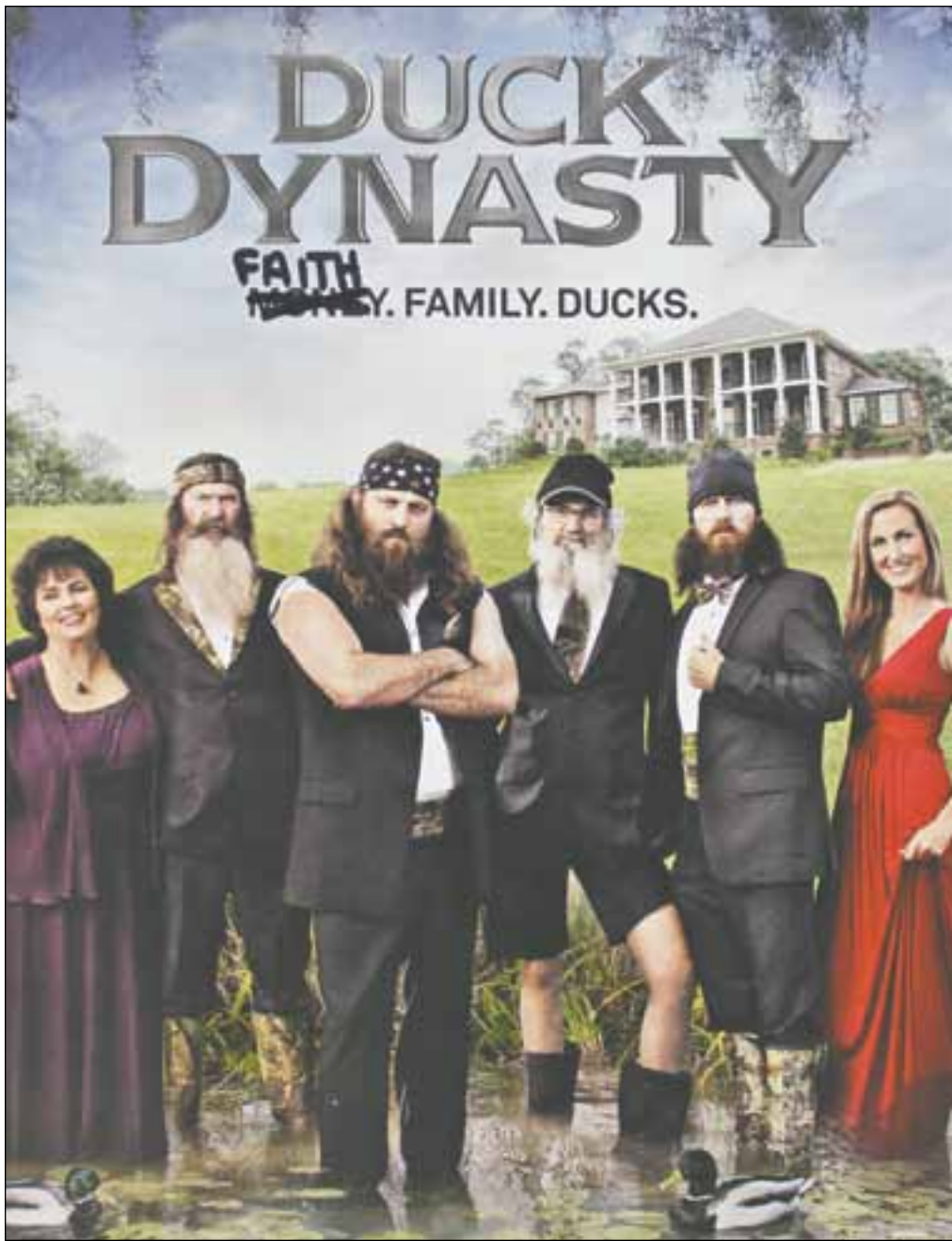
KORIE ROBERTSON

Willie's daughter Bella enjoys spending time with her grandfather Phil Robertson, better known as the Duck Commander.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Justin Martin assembles duck calls at the Duck Commander warehouse in West Monroe, La. If he looks trimmer than "Duck Dynasty" fans recall, it's because he's lost more than 50 pounds since the show's first season, said Alan Robertson, who helps run the family business.



PROMOTIONAL POSTER

"Faith" replaces "Money" on a promotional poster for "Duck Dynasty" as the Robertson family puts its emphasis on sharing the Gospel and telling as many people as possible about Jesus.

University in Searcy, Ark.

Television producers know that reality often needs to be altered to make interesting viewing or overemphasize certain stereotypes, the professor said.

"That explains some of the tension the Robertsons apparently feel with the producers of 'Duck Dynasty,'" Miller said. "I think people are especially interested in 'Duck Dynasty' because the Robertsons' family and friends are outrageous, unpredictable characters. Yet they also are relatable and likable. They are God-fearing, family-oriented people who enjoy life."

By taking advantage of an opportunity

Alton Howard, wrote gospel songs and sold more than 3 million church hymnals used in Churches of Christ.

"It's a total mission and ministry," Kay Robertson said of "Duck Dynasty," which launches its second season Oct. 10.

Despite the spiritual material cut out of the show, the duck diva said, "We're so blessed for what we can get in there. That's really unknown in today's TV on a regular, big TV network like that."

"I'm the replacement Willie," said Al Robertson, who doesn't have an official title.

While still preaching some, he's filling in the gaps for his CEO brother as Willie Robertson meets the demands of running the company and taping the show. Each episode takes about a week to film.

Willie's wife, Korie Robertson, is the daughter of John Howard, also a White's Ferry Road elder and Duck Commander employee. Korie's grandfather, the late

describes himself as a "Jacob in a family of Esaus" — both serve as White's Ferry Road church elders.

After 20 years in the pulpit, Al Robertson recently stepped down as one of the 1,200-member congregation's ministers.

He left to help run the family business, which has exploded with growth since "Duck Dynasty" premiered last spring. This year the company expects to sell more than 150,000 duck calls.

CONTINUED

evangelistic." White's Ferry Road minister and elder Mike Kellett said of the Robertsons. "Jase and Willie were both in my youth group years ago and were reaching out to the lost as teens."

Other White's Ferry Road members include duck call makers John Godwin and Justin Martin and secretary Linda Hammit, a former missionary to Tanzania with her husband, Ryan.

Godwin has lost 35 pounds since ripping off his shirt in a scene in which a skunk sprayed him. In an impromptu interview at the warehouse, he said he grew up "kind of knowing about God."

But when his wife, Paula, pushed him to go to church, he resisted.

"I don't want to be around these holy rollers," he recalls telling her.

Then the longtime paper mill employee met the Duck Commander. Godwin decided he'd go to church and maybe stock up on "duck calls" — hunting tools used to emulate the sound of ducks.

"Boy, I got way more than that," he said of his conversion to Christ.

NO BEARD FOR 'REPLACEMENT WILLIE'

Phil Robertson and his oldest son Al — the clean-shaven member of the clan who



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LISA ROBERTSON

The Robertson women celebrate the 40th anniversary of the family's Duck Commander business in West Monroe, La. Pictured, from left, are Jase's wife Missy, Willie's wife Korie, Alan's daughter Anna, Phil's wife Kay, Alan's wife Lisa, Jephtha's wife Jessica and Alan's daughter Alex.

'Duck Commander Sunday is basically a redneck rendition of fearing God, loving your neighbor.'

— **Phil Robertson**, one-time heathen who hunts ducks and shares Jesus



LYNN MCMILLON

Phil Robertson, with the dark glasses, participates in a small-group Bible study at the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La., where he serves as an elder along with his son Alan Robertson and his brother-in-law Gordon Dasher, who is married to his younger sister Jan.

The family complained. As Al Robertson explained, "We don't cuss."

Jase Robertson, slipping his beanie off his head before praying, alluded to the tension as he shared communion thoughts on a recent Sunday.

"It's a slippery slope when you're holding Hollywood's hand and you're trying to accomplish something," he told fellow church members, "when deep down all you want to do is proclaim that Jesus is Lord."

loves to eat bullfrogs.

In still another episode, Si said that he always travels with three things: a gallon jug of iced tea, his plastic cup and his Bible.

One scene found Phil relaxing in his easy chair, his Bible open on his lap, as he prepared to preach. "Duck Commander Sunday is basically a redneck rendition of fearing God, loving your neighbor," Phil said on that episode. "We all sing church songs, everybody wearing camo, and everybody *happy happy happy*."

'HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY'

In the first season of "Duck Dynasty," the Robertsons waged war on beavers disrupting the water supply and hunted bullfrogs on a golf course.

The Robertson women sold some of the men's prized possessions in a yard sale, while their bearded spouses hatched a plan to build a luxury duck blind in the sky and tried to suck bees out of a honey-filled hive with a portable vacuum cleaner.

Amid the humorous misadventures, a few glimpses of the family's faith survived.

In one episode, Kay told Phil that it was his Christian duty to babysit his granddaughters. In another, Phil urged one of his grandsons to find a woman who knows how to cook, lives by her Bible and

WHO'S THE UGLY DUCKLING?

Al Robertson dares to be different. He shaves.

He likens himself to Marilyn on the 1960s sitcom "The Munsters."

"She was beautiful," Al explained. "She thought she was ugly because she was around ugly people."

He joked that he feels the same way about his brothers, who used to shave after every duck hunting season until the beards and camouflage became a permanent marketing tool.

"Really, it's not that hard of an image to project," Al said with a laugh. "You just have to let yourself go: Quit shaving. Quit bathing. Quit worrying about it."

CONTINUED



PHOTO PROVIDED BY AL ROBERTSON

Duck Commander Phil Robertson, far left, does not look like a typical church elder. He poses with the Duckmen. Pictured are Si Robertson, John Godwin, Justin Martin, Jeptha Robertson, Jase Robertson and Willie Robertson.

ROBERTSONS: 'More than one way to skin a cat'

CONTINUED

"Duck Dynasty" is based loosely on events in the Robertsons' lives, but the producers change scenarios to fit storylines.

"In terms of people, Si is the most like he really is," Al said of his uncle, whom he likens to Barney Fife on "The Andy Griffith Show" or Kramer on "Seinfeld."

Kay Robertson agreed: "I'm telling you, Uncle Si has always been crazy. But we never thought he'd do that on camera."

Si Robertson, a Vietnam veteran presented as single on the show, is married. He and his wife, Christine, are active members of the church.

Since Willie serves as the CEO, the show touts him as the responsible member of the family. That's not quite the full truth, Al said.

"Willie is just as irresponsible as anybody, just to let you know," his brother said with a chuckle. "And then Jase, they kind of have him as the wild man and all that, but he's much more conservative in personality than he projects on the show."



KORIE ROBERTSON

Sadie Robertson, daughter of Willie and Korie, outside the warehouse.

As for himself, Al said he wouldn't mind appearing on the show in the future — preferably without a beard: "My idea was, jokingly, that they have me come in and demand to know why I've been left out of the family."

TALKING DUCKS, SHARING JESUS

Even before "Duck Dynasty," Phil Robertson developed a

wide following for his powerful, revivalist-style gospel preaching. He talks about ducks. He shares Jesus.

As the show has gained popularity, though, crowds once in the hundreds have swelled into the thousands, Kay Robertson said.

Phil Robertson said he and his sons Al and Jase preach the same message of faith, repentance and baptism wherever they're invited.

"We don't have godly people and followers of Jesus owning the channel that we're on or filming what we do," Phil said. "So what you see (on TV) is a functional, godly family, but there's not a whole lot of Gospel and Bible verses."

"However, the audience ... can be reached in other ways than the TV show," he added. "We're going to be making a Robertson family tour. You'll see the real family when you get us in some arena somewhere and it's just us telling people the good news of Jesus."

"People just have to realize that there's more than one way to skin a cat."

Do you speak duck?

'DUCK DYNASTY' QUOTES provide insight into the Robertson family's often quirky outlook on life.

I am the MacGyver of cooking. If you bring me a piece of bread, cabbage, coconut, mustard greens, pigs feet, pine cones ... and a woodpecker, I'll make you a good chicken pot pie."

— Si Robertson

"This would be nice when we baptize people in the winter."

— Phil Robertson, about the hot tub at a home for sale

"Most people named Willie are either in prison or on the armwrestling circuit."

— Jase Robertson

"The Robertson family and bad ideas go together like biscuits and jam."

— Willie Robertson

"Where I come from, you don't mess with another man's woman or his hat."

— Jase Robertson

"I'm a low-tech man in a high-tech world."

— Phil Robertson

"All of my stories are 95 percent truthful."

— Si Robertson

"I don't know about this 'Justin the Beaver.'"

— Kay Robertson, meaning Justin Bieber

"You kids ever hear of the term 'Nam?'"

— Si Robertson

"Uptown living, you've got to call 911. Where I am, I am 911."

— Phil Robertson

"I didn't get the sophisticated gene in this family. I started the sophisticated gene in this family."

— Willie Robertson

"Frog catching is the most fun a human being can have while on this earth."

— Jase Robertson



"First it's pretty tires. Next it's pretty guns. Then the next thing you know, you're shaving your beard and wearing capri pants."

— Si Robertson



"Ducks are like women. They don't like a lot of mud on their butts."

— Phil Robertson



"Redneck law: Must have a gun. Must shoot it regularly."

— Willie Robertson

"Fred Astaire's got nothing on me."

— Si Robertson



"Si has never had a normal idea in his life."

— Jase Robertson

"I want my grand-kids to grow up in the great outdoors. The last thing I want is for them to grow up to be nerds."

— Phil Robertson

"I don't know any redneck that's not into fun. That's their middle name: Red-Fun-Neck."

— Si Robertson

"If you're too busy to duck hunt or catch fish, then you're too busy."

— Jase Robertson



PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

Elder Randy George, elder Stan Addison, commissioner Nathan Barnes, minister emeritus James O. Maxwell and minister Mark Gaines-Magee gather outside the planned resource center in Kansas City, Kan.

ROSWELL: Inmate resource center planned

FROM PAGE 3

“Christ reached out to the downtrodden. I don’t think we should be any different,” church elder Randy George said, recalling Jesus’ concern for the “least of these” in Matthew 25. “If we’re going to impact the community, we have to reach out to those who feel that they have no hope.”

‘NOT TOO BIG FOR GOD’

The Kansas Department of Corrections has an initiative called Mentoring4Success. The program, supported by Gov. Sam Brownback, aims to provide a mentor for every person coming out of prison.

“The governor has found out what we already know,” George said. “In order to have a higher success rate, many of those that have been incarcerated need support once they’re released.

“If they don’t have support, they will go back to the same environment that caused them to be incarcerated,” the elder added. “So the church has been very active in not only preaching

the Gospel in the prison but trying to follow through.”

Roswell members collaborate on inmate mentoring with the Bonner Springs Church of Christ and the Overland Park Church of Christ — both in Kansas. Also active in the jail and prison ministry are the Heartland Church of Christ and the Swope Parkway Church of Christ, both in Kansas City, Mo.

With help from volunteers, including union laborers, the Roswell church has put a new roof on the former cleaners and installed external doors and windows, minister emeritus James O. Maxwell said.

However, completing the project will require an additional \$200,000 to \$300,000, said Maxwell, who serves as vice president of institutional advancement for Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, and commutes to Kansas City on weekends.

“This is really bigger than all of us — but not too big for God,” Maxwell said of the resource center. “We believe

if we share this need with the brotherhood, what we want to do and how we want to do it, there may be people who say, ‘Yeah, I think that’s a good work and want to support it.’”

The project has the backing of Nathan Barnes, a commissioner for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan.

Barnes describes the Roswell church as a beacon of light in a blighted community.

“They are roll-up-your-sleeves and start-where-you-are kind of people,” Barnes said of the church. “I’m with them 150 percent.”

Already, the 400-member congregation is building a housing complex to serve low-income senior citizens. Funded with a \$5.1 million federal grant, that project is expected to be completed by next spring.

“Economically, what we’ve been able to do is nothing but a miracle because we’ve been able to do it on faith,” George said. “Just within the congregation, many people would say



Monique Singh, right, shows her affection for Vickie Owens, her mentor. They stand inside the building envisioned as a resource center for inmates.

there’s no way we could have done what we’ve already done.”

‘A BIG, BRIGHT LIGHT’

Church leaders envision the resource center as a hub for those seeking employment, housing, food and clothing as well as services such as resume writing, computer training, family and marriage classes and money management seminars.

Owens, a Roswell member for 34 years, served as a mentor when a drug treatment center referred Singh to the congregation’s houses of hope.

“I will brag on Monique,” Owens said, “because you feel good when you’ve helped somebody to turn their life around, to get off the drugs and the old lifestyle, and really

become a Christian and do what God wants you to do.”

For nearly three years, Singh has been sober with no relapses, she said. Now she focuses on street outreach, handing out informational flyers to drug addicts, prostitutes and gang members.

The resource center will welcome outcasts, she said, who feel rejected and repugnant.

“Prostitution, drugs, gangs — it’s all in this area that we’re in,” Singh said. “This would be like a light in the dark — a big, bright light.”

TO HELP with the resource center, a non-profit under the Roswell Church of Christ, see www.roswellchurchofchrist.org or write to 2900 Roswell Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66104 Attn.: Randy George.

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BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

James Franklin, a four-star 2010 recruit from Lake Dallas High School in Texas, is the starting quarterback for the University of Missouri for a second year. He faces the tough task of leading the Tigers into the perilous waters of their first year in the tough Southeastern Conference.

Franklin, a 6-foot, 2-inch, 230-pound junior, seems more than ready for the challenges ahead — not just having a successful football season, but, more importantly, living a devoted Christian life.

Baptized at 15, Franklin loves the church. He also loves preaching and holding Bible studies with friends. In all that he does, he seems to sense the urgency of teaching the lost.

The 21-year old's football statistics also are impressive. In 2011, his first year as a starter, he narrowly missed out on a rare 3,000-yard passing/1,000-yard rushing season. Analysts placed him on a preseason Heisman watch list and raved about his ability not only to throw the ball but also to run it. After three games this season, Franklin was 49 of 80 passing for 492 yards and three touchdowns. He also has 70 yards rushing on 41 attempts.

He is the fourth child of Willie and Pam Franklin. His father, a well-known minister in the Dallas area, was once a standout receiver for the University of Oklahoma and played in the NFL for the Baltimore Colts.

What challenges have you overcome to be where you are today?

To be honest, I have not had very many hard challenges to overcome. When I was younger, they told me I was too big to play quarterback, and now some people think I'm too small.

Growing up with three sisters is overcoming something, isn't it?

When I was 15, I became a Christian, and the challenge that I've been dealing with, for the most part, is overcoming Satan and the temptations that he brings along with success.

How do you maintain Christian values in view of the pressures you face on the national stage?

I have been blessed with two strong and great Christian parents who instilled Christian values in me as I was



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SPORTS

James Franklin warms up for football practice at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

A conversation with **James Franklin**

MIZZOU QUARTERBACK discusses a life of faith on the national stage of college football.

growing up under their roof. Because of that, I am able to remain strong with my beliefs by reading my Bible frequently and being around Christians and having Bible studies. Those are the things that help me keep and maintain my spiritual beliefs. No matter what stage I am on, I always put God first.

Do you see God working in your life? Explain.

I see God working in my life as well as everybody else's. God has a plan for everybody, but not one person knows his plan for them. I believe that God has put me in this position to be able to reach out to so many people and help change their lives and maybe even introduce Christ into their life for the first time.

What have been the highlights of your college football career so far?

The highlights of my college football career so far have probably just been

last season, 2011, my first to start at quarterback. There were a couple of good games that I had and a few plays here and there that were all right and that really brought a lot of attention.

For me, the most fun games were the ones with the receivers making the plays. Not a lot of people know, but I actually enjoy throwing rather than running.

Some say that playing sports builds character. Do you agree?

I think that sports are a good way to help build character, but you can also learn bad character. If you look at all professional sports, you find guys who are taunting, cussing and saying bad things to the other teams.

Since when is it OK for a grownup to yell and have a fit, but it's not OK for a child to do that?

It's never cool to disrespect your opponent, but that's what seems to

be going on too often in sports. That is what the kids are learning to do nowadays.

So I believe sports can build character — but not always good character.

What are your personal goals this year in college?

My personal goals this year are to have a winning record in football, in school to get a 3.0 grade-point average or better in the semester and to reach out to as many people as I can and just make a difference in their lives.

I want to help everybody I can, whether it's spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, anything. And I know that through college football I'll have a lot of opportunities to do that.

We understand that you love to preach. Tell us about that.

Yes sir, I love preaching. I love talking to people. I love giving presentations.

My dad is an evangelist, and I would like to be that one day. I like to be very animated when I speak and to create humor to get the point across. I like to be different in my everyday life and also when I speak, because people don't usually remember the ordinary, but they always remember something different or unusual. It's just like when a parent asks their kids how school was and they tell them something weird that happened that day.

What do you hope to do when your college football days are over?

When my college football days are over, maybe I'll be in the NFL or maybe not. Regardless, I would like to be an evangelist and be able to spread the Word to as many people as I can or just to be a Christian representative.

What is your favorite Scripture?

I have a lot of favorite verses, but the one I'll give is James 1:19-20. James tells us to be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger, for the wrath of man is not the righteousness of God.

That can be applied in every aspect of our life. When a guy cusses me out or says something to me on the football field, I don't respond in a negative way, and it's because of that verse.

I also like the verses that talk about not returning evil for evil. I try to win over my enemies, not with brute force or harsh words but with kindness.

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SHERRIE ALEXANDER

Football players, cheerleaders from Christian school touch lives of Texas children

Football players and cheerleaders from Fort Worth Christian School in Texas make friends at the Fortress Youth Development Center, an inner-city nonprofit that serves children through

preschool and after-school programs. The Fortress children were invited to attend a Fort Worth Christian football game, visit the locker room and pray with the players and cheerleaders.

HIGHER EDUCATION

BAXTER INSTITUTE

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Steve Teel will succeed Howard Norton as president of Baxter Institute, which trains workers for ministry across Latin America.

Teel, a missionary to Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 1980 to 1995, will also serve as president of Association Amicus, a Honduran not-for-profit organization that oversees the work of the James Moody Adams Clinic. The clinic partners with Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine to provide medical services to the Baxter community and the poor.



Teel

"I am humbled that God is giving me the opportunity to work alongside the wonderful staff and faculty of Baxter Institute and the James Moody Adams Clinic," said Teel, whose wife, Dianna, has served with World Radio for 15 years. "My prayer is that he uses us to take these efforts to even greater heights."

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — A facsimile of the Codex Vaticanus, one of the oldest surviving manuscripts of the Bible, has arrived on the Freed-Hardeman campus.

It's one of 450 facsimiles of the fourth century manuscript that have been or will be issued worldwide, said Doug Burleson, Bible instructor and Gardner Chair occupant. The Codex Vaticanus facsimile joins one of the Codex Sinaiticus obtained by FHU last year.

"These are two of the three oldest complete copies of the Bible known to exist," Burleson said.

Both codices will be prominently displayed Oct. 12 at the Graduate Bible Research Symposium featuring Daniel B. Wallace, founder of the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts. For more information, see www.fhu.edu/gbrs.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A recent Lipscomb fund-raising event called "Discover" allowed guests to enjoy food, audio tours and authentic displays of mission trips to

India, Honduras and New York City.

In addition to the three sites featured in displays, student missionaries from 13 teams serving in locales such as Uganda, Moldova and northern California gave testimonies and highlighted diverse cultures.

For more information, see www.lipscomb.edu/Missions/GivingOpportunities.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jill and Cary Brown of Midland, Texas, have given Oklahoma Christian \$1 million to fund student scholarships and renovate Benson Hall, President John deSteiguer announced.

The renovation will include the Terry and Marty Johnson Administrative Suite. It will be named in honor of Jill Brown's parents, who served as Oklahoma Christian's president and first lady from 1974 to 1996.

Benson Hall, named for former Oklahoma Christian chancellor George Benson, was one of the four original academic facilities built when the college relocated to Oklahoma City from Bartlesville, Okla., in 1958.

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

CHRISTIAN HOME AND BIBLE SCHOOL

MOUNT DORA, Fla. — Christian Home and Bible School is celebrating a \$2 million gift from Dorothy B. Thompson of Leesburg, Fla.

The donation will fund a new wing and complete renovation of the Christian school's science building, President James Moore said. Thompson made the gift to honor her late husband, Jerome B. Thompson, a chemist and inventor.

Several years ago, Dorothy Thompson made the lead gift for a new residential group home to house children living on the Mount Dora campus, northwest of Orlando. The Thompson House was dedicated in 2010 and provides accommodations for up to 10 at-risk girls and their houseparents.

Christian Home and Bible School serves pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade students on a 70-acre campus.



Thompson

Some universities set enrollment records

FROM STAFF REPORTS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

At least four colleges and universities associated with Churches of Christ — Lipscomb University, Lubbock Christian University, Oklahoma Christian University and Rochester College — report all-time high enrollments this fall.

Meanwhile, Harding University's string of annual record enrollments has ended at 25, despite more undergraduates than ever.

More details on enrollment figures reported to *The Christian Chronicle*:

• **Abilene Christian**

University: Enrollment of 4,371 represents a 4 percent decline from 4,558 last fall.

However, freshman enrollment jumped to 958, up 11 percent from 864 last year.

"We're excited about the growth in our residential programs, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels," said Kevin Campbell, the Texas university's chief enrollment officer. "It signals to us that while we, like others, continue to feel the impact of the nation's troubled economy, ACU is still able to attract quality students."

• **Crowley's Ridge College:**

The Arkansas college's enrollment of 207 represents a 6 percent decline from last fall's record of 221.

Crowley's Ridge officials cited the economy and cost concerns as the reason for the decline.

"We are seeing a significant decline in parents' ability to provide adequate family financial resources to bridge the gap between available student aid and the cost of attending," President Ken Hoppe said.

• **Florida College:**

Enrollment hit 532, up 6 percent from 502 last fall.

"We're expanding our four-year programs, being careful to grow in areas that are in demand," said Paul J. Casebolt, Florida College's director of



JEFF MONTGOMERY

A ceremony at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., features a parade of flags from the 49 states and more than 50 nations represented by the student body. For the first time in 25 years, Harding's total enrollment declined.

enrollment management.

• **Freed-Hardeman**

University: Enrollment of 1,904 represents a 3 percent decline from last fall's 1,972.

The Tennessee college's officials say the academic quality of the freshman class improved as the average ACT score rose 1.4 points. "I am very pleased with the quality of FHU's freshman class," said C.J. Vires, vice president of academics and enrollment management.

• **Harding University:**

The Arkansas university's total enrollment dipped to 6,815, down 5 percent from last fall's record of 7,155 students.

Total undergraduate enrollment is up to 4,390 from last year's 4,340. Graduate enrollment dipped to 2,425 from last year's total of 2,815.

The university will no longer enroll as many students in



CHRIS HUGHES

Grady Pettigrew studies his Bible at Crowley's Ridge College in Arkansas.

two graduate programs being phased out by the Arkansas Department of Education. Last year, Harding enrolled 390 students in those programs.

• **Lipscomb University:**

With a sixth straight year of record enrollment, Lipscomb

has nearly 4,300 students and has added 1,200 students in the last five years.

The Tennessee university expects the figures to keep increasing as several new graduate programs in business and education begin.

Lipscomb topped 4,000 students for the first time last year.

"We have had a period of tremendous growth in a time when the country has experienced one of the worst financial periods in its history," Lipscomb President Randy Lowry said.

• **Lubbock Christian**

University: The Texas university's enrollment hit a record 2,135 students, a 5 percent increase from 2,038 last fall.

The previous high enrollment of 2,079 occurred in 2005.

"It is a testament to the vitality of the LCU community and our growing reputation for providing a life-changing educational experience," President Tim Perrin said of the record.

• **Oklahoma Christian**

University: The Oklahoma university's enrollment hit a record 2,271 students, breaking the record of 2,258 set in 2007.

Enrollment rose 4 percent from 2,194 last fall.

"This is Oklahoma Christian's golden age in many ways, including enrollment."

President John deSteiguer said. "We are thrilled with the spirit on campus and the momentum we have because so many students are calling OC home."

• **Rochester College:**

Enrollment hit 1,150, up 8 percent from 1,069 last fall.

"God has given us a third consecutive year of record enrollment," said Rubel Shelly, the Michigan college's president.

• **York College:** Enrollment of 471 represents a 7 percent decline from last fall's 507, which marked a 12-year high.

The Nebraska college's officials tout an increasing retention rate as cause for optimism.

That "means students are happy with the education and experience at York College," said Shane Mountjoy, vice president for student development and dean of students.

Some Christian universities did not respond to requests for enrollment data by press time.



RON HALL

Pepperdine University celebrates 75th anniversary

A concert choir performs during the annual Founders Day celebration at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. As the fall semester opened, Pepperdine concluded its year-long celebration of its 75th anniversary. Founders Day included a procession of alumni and faculty, a reading of George Pepperdine's 1937 dedicatory address, a performance by the Pepperdine orchestra and choir, an introduction of several Pepperdine Olympians and remarks by President Andrew K. Benton.

ACU launches Siburt Institute

ABILENE, Texas — Abilene Christian University has launched the Siburt Institute for Christian Ministry, named in honor of the late Charles Siburt.

Royce Money, ACU's chancellor and former longtime president, will serve as the institute's executive director.

The institute will connect churches and their leaders with ACU's counseling,



Money

job placement, research and training resources, leaders said.

Siburt, one of ACU's leading voices in churches for more than 20 years, died in July. He had served as vice president of church relations, director of the Doctor of Ministry program and O.L. and Irene Frazer Professor of Church Enrichment.

"We can't replace him, but we can honor him by building upon the excellent foundation he built here through ElderLink, Ministers Support Network and other successful efforts," ACU President Phil Schubert said.

York joins Council for Christian Colleges

YORK, Neb. — York College has joined the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, becoming the first Nebraska higher education institution admitted to the Washington, D.C.-based association.

Other CCCU-member institutions associated with Churches of Christ include Abilene Christian University, Lipscomb University and Oklahoma Christian University.

"The mission of CCCU is very much in keeping with the mission of York College. We are pleased to be a part of the organization," York President Steven Eckman said. "Membership in CCCU will provide additional opportunities for everyone on our campus. It will also serve as a source of data from schools similar to ours to help us make the best decisions for our students."

For more details, see www.cccu.org.



House Parents

Arms of Hope is seeking a married couple who has a passion for today's youth and a calling to Christian residential care.

At Arms of Hope we have the unique opportunity to serve youth who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and need adult leadership to help guide them educationally, emotionally and spiritually. It is our mission to provide these children with a therapeutic environment in which they can develop and prosper. This mission opportunity offers a very competitive salary in addition to housing, food, health insurance, a retirement plan and generous vacation and leave time.

If interested in these positions, please visit **www.ArmsOfHope.org** to obtain an application on the "About Us" page. You can also contact Allen Williams at lawilliams@armsofhope.org.

Two Books to Sharpen Your Spiritual Sword:

NEW FROM DON UMPHREY... 235 pgs, trade paperback, \$14.99

Will you walk by faith or focus on the idols visible in the rear-view mirror?

This volume describes parallels between the journey taken by the Hebrew slaves in ancient Egypt and our Christian walk today.

REVISED AND RE-TITLED... 192 pgs, trade paperback, \$12.99

Do you recognize the way Satan tries to influence your life? This book explains why people believe Satan's lies, describes the slippery slope toward spiritual blindness and tells what it takes repent and leave that downward journey. This is the revised 2nd edition of *Seeking Spiritual Clarity: The Murky Perspective of Evil* (2009).

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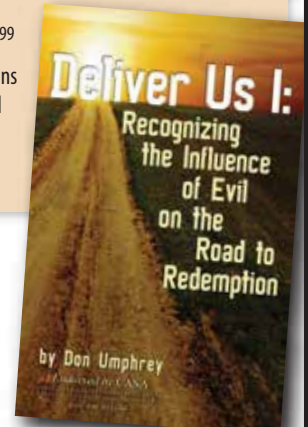
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ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

acu.edu

College of Arts and Sciences

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

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

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). A master's degree is required; a terminal degree or ABD status is preferred. The successful candidate is expected to become an exceptional teacher who values mentoring and advising students, and is expected to engage in service and scholarly activity with interest in continued growth and enhancement of the department's participation in ACU's undergraduate research program. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/agenv.

Journalism and Mass Communication

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication invites applicants for a tenure-track position as assistant professor of journalism and mass communication. The successful candidate will join five colleagues of an ACEJMC-accredited program in a state-of-the-art facility that serves about 200 JMC majors in convergence journalism, multimedia or Ad/PR. All three programs prepare students to work in rapidly converging professional media environments. Technology is incorporated throughout the curriculum. A converged media newsroom provides the physical and pedagogical centerpiece for the department that also oversees a television production studio, student-run Ad/PR agency and NPR-affiliated FM radio station. The department is a national leader in the area of mobile learning and mobile media. 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. Research and service expectations support the university's status as a premier comprehensive university. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/jmc.

Political Science

The Department of Political Science invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant professor of political science. Applicants should have a Ph.D. (or have completed the Ph.D. by August 2012). Those from all areas of the discipline are invited to apply, and the successful candidate must have a commitment to teaching in an undergraduate environment and demonstrated potential for professional development and/or research activities. Political science is a dynamic department with a strong pre-law program, Certificate in International Relations and Comparative Politics, and a peace and social justice minor. It hosts the Jack Pope Fellows Program, oversees the university's criminal justice program and is actively engaged in ACU's new interdisciplinary Core courses. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/politicalscience.

Psychology

The Department of Psychology invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position as assistant professor of school psychology, beginning Fall 2013. Applicants should have a doctorate in the field (or have completed one by August 2013) and be a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) or equivalent credentials. Responsibilities include teaching graduate students as well as some undergraduate courses in their area of emphasis, and supervising graduate students in school and clinical settings. Applicants should be active in scholarly research and performing service for the university and in the community, have experience in diverse areas of school psychology, be able to teach across the curriculum, and effectively engage the broader community. 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

Curriculum and Instruction

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction 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, and a commitment to the ideals of teaching as ministry. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/education.

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.



NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Mitch Roush, campus team developer for Let's Start Talking in Bedford, Texas. **David Lynn**, Alumnus of the Year and **Aaron Fletcher**, Young Alumnus of the Year, York College in Nebraska. **Alan Stephens**, development consultant for Warren Apologetics Center, Vienna, W.Va. **Kraig Stockstill**, president and CEO of Arm's of Hope's Board of Directors.



Lynn

NEW ELDERS: Allen Craig and Wes Hendrick, North Canton, Ohio church.



Fletcher

NEW MINISTERS: Les Bonnett, Northview church in Statesville, N.C. **Justin Imel**, Del Ridge church in Virginia.

ANNIVERSARIES: 70th: Alfred and Marie Johnson, Lubbock, Texas. 64th: Paul and Kitten Hoyle, Hillsboro, Texas. 59th: Jim and Ann Rogers, Edmond, Okla.

BIRTHDAYS: 99th: Mary Stewart, Chicago. Gladys Tomlinson, Garland, Texas. 97th: Mildred Holt, Oklahoma City. 95th: Dorothy Fredrick, Irving, Texas. 94th: John L. Kooiker, Minneapolis. 80th: Eva Jean Stewart Chaumette, Chicago.

PASSAGES: Staff Sgt. Chris Birdwell, 25, Aug. 27, Kalagush, Afghanistan, member of the U.S. Army, a generous friend and servant of many. **Treff Carpenter**, 28, Sept. 2, Loveland, Colo., loved volunteering for charities and sponsoring mission work. **Clois Fowler**, 84, Sept. 15, Abilene, Texas, worked with Herald of Truth Ministries and served as an elder at Highland church in Abilene, Texas. **Daphene D. Kennedy**, 88, Aug. 14, Humboldt, Tenn., a retired professor from Freed-Hardeman University and a missionary to Paris, France.



Carpenter

Neil Lightfoot, 82, Sept. 18, Abilene, Texas, a lecturer and preacher, a professor at Abilene Christian University and an elder for the Eleventh and Willis church in Abilene, Texas. **Emma Gene Shouse**, 81, July 17, Westside church in Midland, Texas.



Lightfoot

Oct. 5-6 Michigan Church of Christ Conference. Brighton, Mich., church. Contact (810) 229-7051.

Oct. 6 20th Annual Ladies' Day. "Jesus, Our Knight in Shining Armor." Bright Angel church, Las Vegas. Contact Robin Beaudette at rmbeaudette@yahoo.com.

Oct. 7 50th Anniversary Bonner Springs, Kan., church. Contact (913) 422-5529 or bonnerspringscoc.org.

Oct. 9 An Evening with Laura W. Bush. Global Samaritan Resources annual benefit dinner. Abilene Civic Center in Texas. Contact (325) 232-9527 or www.globalsamaritan.org.

Oct. 12-14 ZOE Worship Conference. Campus church, Norcross, Ga. Contact kim@zoegroup.org or (615) 306-6596.

Oct. 21 117th Homecoming Pearl, Texas church. Contact (254) 865-9282.

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 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.

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. 28-Mar. 2 National Urban Ministry Conference. North City church, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Jim Harbin at (901) 385-9858 or jim.harbin@nationalurban-ministryassociation.org.



Southwestern Christian College personnel and friends rejoice to announce the celebration of its

75th Annual Lectureship Anniversary on November 18-22, 2012.

The theme of the 75th Annual Lectureship will be "What mean ye by these stones?" (Studies in Joshua). This is, of course, in reference to the setting up of the landmark memorial stones by the Israelites after they had crossed the Jordan into the promised land. The theme of the Lectureship will feature many landmark accomplishments that God has granted to SwCC.

In addition to celebrating its 75th Annual Lectureship Anniversary, SwCC will honor Dr. Jack Evans, Sr. for 45 years of dedicated service as President of the College.

Sunday, November 18

Dr. Ed Robinson	God's Formula for Good Success"
Dallas Walker	"Give Me This Mountain"
Robert Holt	"And the Wall Came Tumbling Down"
Dr. Carl Baccus	"The Lord Will Work Wonders Among You"

Monday, November 19

Dr. Jack Evans, Sr.	"Biblical Teaching on Same-Sex Marriage (Homosexuality)"
Andrew Hairston (Attorney and Judge)	"The Legal and Social Aspects of Same-Sex Marriage"
Fred Gray (Attorney and Judge)	"The Legal and Social Aspects of Same-Sex Marriage"
Dr. Robert Woods	"Divine Directives for Greatness and Honor"
Orpheus Heyward	"Saved by the Scarlet Thread"
Dr. Eugene Lawton	"What Mean Ye by These Stones?"

Tuesday, November 20

Dr. W. F. Washington	"A Great Stone for a Witness"
Dr. Warren Blakney	"When the Sun and the Moon Stood Still"

Wednesday, November 21

Dr. David Penn	Inspirational Message
Dr. Jack Evans, Sr.	President's Address

In addition, the [A Cappella Chorus](#) will be in concert on Wednesday evening!

For more information on the Lectureship and to send a congratulatory and/or monetary expression to Dr. and Mrs. Evans for an unprecedented fifty years of dedicated service to SwCC, please contact Dr. James Maxwell, SwCC Lectureship Director, at P. O. Box 10, Terrell, TX 75160. You may also call him at the following numbers: 972-524-3341, Ext. 144; or 214-616-4728.

Come and Celebrate With Us – Hear some of the greatest preaching, teaching, singing this side of heaven!



SwCC offers Associate degrees in the liberal arts and the B.S. degree in Religious Studies. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Its mission is to offer "academic excellence in the context of commitment to spiritual and moral values." Its slogan is: "Large Enough to Matter, Small Enough to Care."



EDITORIAL

The high calling of free speech

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Those of us who work for *The Christian Chronicle* feel doubly blessed by those words, ratified nearly 221 years ago as the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. A few of us can recite them by heart, along with Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd ..."), John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world ...") and Acts 2:38 ("Repent and be baptized, every one of you ...").

We cherish the words of our forefathers, which give us the freedom to worship God as the Bible tells us — and to write stories that inform, inspire and unite believers in our nation and around the world.

The riots in North Africa and the Middle East reveal the dark side of the freedoms granted us by the First Amendment.

A shocking, poorly produced

YouTube video, insulting to the Muslims' prophet, Muhammad, sparked violence across the region, leading to the death of Americans — including those who had dedicated their lives to serving those who killed them.

We join our voices with those who have expressed distaste and disapproval of this insulting video. Jesus would not do this, as one of our experts says in our Page 1 story. Just as we oppose any mocking depiction of our Savior,

we oppose any demeaning portrayal of others' beliefs.

We also add our voices to those who condemn the senseless acts of violence across the Arab world, carried out by Muslim extremists and those duped into following them. No

insult justifies slaughter.

We understand that, in many cases, the video is just an excuse. A host of social, political and economic factors contribute to the rage that we see on our television sets. But no oppression — real or perceived — justifies the shedding of innocent blood. Only one being was pure enough that the shedding of his blood would

free us from oppression. And the grave could not contain him.

Instead of clubs and guns, we believe that hateful speech must be combatted with better speech — the words of life that have sustained followers of Christ for nearly 2,000 years.

Read this month's Views column on Page 31 to see how Christians used these words to voice their opposition to an extremist group in our midst — the Ku Klux Klan.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome, gives us a wonderful example of the responsible, judicious use of free speech by followers of Christ.

Oddly enough, Paul's example in Romans 14:14 doesn't deal with what comes out of our mouths, but what goes in.

"I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil."

May love guide our speech, and may God protect our right to speak.

'Just as we oppose any mocking depiction of our Savior, we oppose any demeaning portrayal of others' beliefs.'

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



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How a sermon led a minister to face the KKK

Look for evil and confront it.” That was the second bullet point of a sermon I put together a few months ago. It was based on Psalm 97 — which proclaims that “righteousness” and “justice” serve as the foundation of God’s throne. We might choose other pairings, but the Lord chooses to undergird his kingdom with righteousness and justice.

Of particular interest to me was the 10th verse, “Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.”

As I was composing an exhortation for righteous believers to carry light into a dark world, a news story popped up on my homepage. *The Huffington Post* reported, “Whites-Only Christians Conference Held in Alabama.”

As a minister in Huntsville, Ala., I constantly am looking for ways to change the perception of our state and the Deep South, especially when it comes to bigotry. After reading the article, it was apparent this group was doing everything they could to keep those stereotypes intact.

The Church of God’s Chosen near Winfield, Ala., was holding a gospel meeting, and all Christians were invited. The event was sponsored by the Ku Klux Klan, but non-Klan members were welcome as well — as long as they were white. According to the group’s schedule, at the close of the lectures that evening, the Klan would conduct a cross-burning ceremony.

I could not believe what I was reading.

I didn’t know if it was the smartest thing to do, but I felt like I was being led to do something. I had found evil. Now I felt I had to confront it.

Views



Brad Cox

Before making this two-hour trip, I laid my fleece before God that I wasn’t going alone. The Lord had to lay it on someone else’s heart as well. I began putting out feelers around lunchtime.

“I’m thinking about driving out to the deep woods of West Alabama to tell some members of the Ku Klux Klan that I don’t approve of their ‘whites only’ gospel meeting. Don’t worry, we won’t stay

long. I want to leave before the cross burning. Wanna come?”

Out of the 10 calls I placed I didn’t have any takers. I was kind of relieved. Before I left the office I said a prayer, “Lord, forgive me when I misinterpret your will and get ahead of what you would have me to do.” A few minutes later, Brian Bellomy, my insurance agent called me back and said, “Our babysitter is willing to stay late. I’m in!”

Just outside of Winfield, we located the gravel road listed in the article. Nervously we pulled off the highway. About a mile back in the woods, we drove up to a locked metal gate flanked by two young men. When we got out of our car and noticed they were wearing shirts that said “Ku Klux Klan — The Original Boys in the Hood,” we knew we were in the right place.

When they asked our intentions, we told them we were there to speak with the person in charge of the event.

Inside the gate and past a parking area, we were led to a white, wood-

framed building in the middle of a clearing where the meetings were taking place. Inside were old, wooden chairs with the words, “whites only” stenciled on the back.

After a few minutes, the Rev. Mel Lewis emerged from an old school bus up on blocks.

As he approached, our hearts began to race when a younger man walked up behind us holding a roll of bailing wire in his hands. We introduced ourselves and told him we were there to gain a better understanding of what they were trying to do, but also to voice our displeasure.

We explained that bigotry was one thing, but bigotry in the name of Christ was something altogether different.

For the next 20 minutes, Rev. Lewis explained their warped view of Scripture, namely that Jews, blacks, Hispanics and Muslims — “the mongrels” — were created “without souls” in Genesis 1, and the pure line of Adam, white people, were created later by God in Genesis 2.

We tried to explain that, in Christ Jesus, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female. We all are one in Jesus. Our host responded that Jesus’ words in Matthew 15:24, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel,” refer only to whites, and they trump Paul’s letter to the Galatians.

Knowing that we were not going to make headway with them theologically, we shared that our church strives for racial reconciliation and tearing down the walls that divide us. We also shared that events like this set back perceptions of the church and the message of Jesus.

When the sky turned to dusk and a group of men brought out the cross wrapped in old sheets we knew it was time for us to go.

As we were escorted back through the gate, the thing that stuck with me was the final thing that the Klan leader told us, “Well, there have been several reporters and news crews coming out here, but you are the first folks from a church to come talk with us.”

I’m glad we made the effort to let them know not all believers in Christ fall in line with their understanding of Scripture and the way they are walking out their beliefs.

Though we were surrounded and outnumbered the entire time we were there, Brian and I felt at peace, “for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.”

BRAD COX is preaching minister for the Twickenham Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala. Before moving to Alabama six years ago, he and his wife, Jill, worked with youth groups in the Texas cities of Houston, Garland and Waco. Contact him at brad@twickenham.org.

‘I’m thinking about driving out to the deep woods of West Alabama to tell some members of the Ku Klux Klan that I don’t approve of their “whites only” gospel meeting. Don’t worry, we won’t stay long. I want to leave before the cross burning. Wanna come?’

VOICES

Why did you attend the Mid-Atlantic Evangelism Seminar?

Asked by Joy McMillon at the seminar, hosted by the Brooks Avenue Church of Christ in Raleigh, N.C.



This seminar is a mountaintop experience for me. I’ve learned that mountaintop experiences help us get through the valleys.

Steve Morales | Leland, N.C.



I anticipate coming here for weeks because of the quality of the speakers. This seminar has become a gathering place for many Christians in this area because of the good word, the great singing and the fellowship.

Carol Hunter | Decatur, Ga.



We come every year to this seminar. It gives us a chance to hear godly men and women address issues that are relevant to us and to our time.

Mary Miller | Fayetteville, N.C.



It revives, renews and urges believers to persevere in their faith.

It equips ministers and teachers to go back to our home churches

and build them up.

Sheldon Williams | Springfield, Mo.



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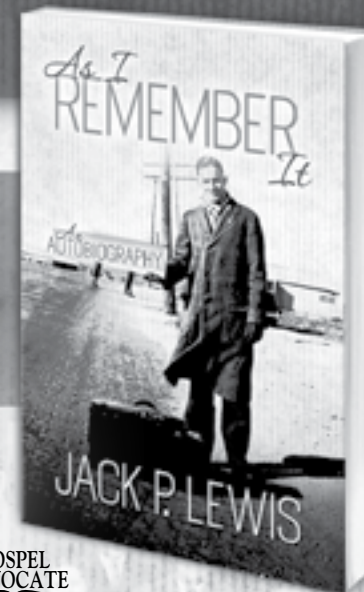
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*"Cast your bread upon the waters,
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[Ecclesiastes 11:1]

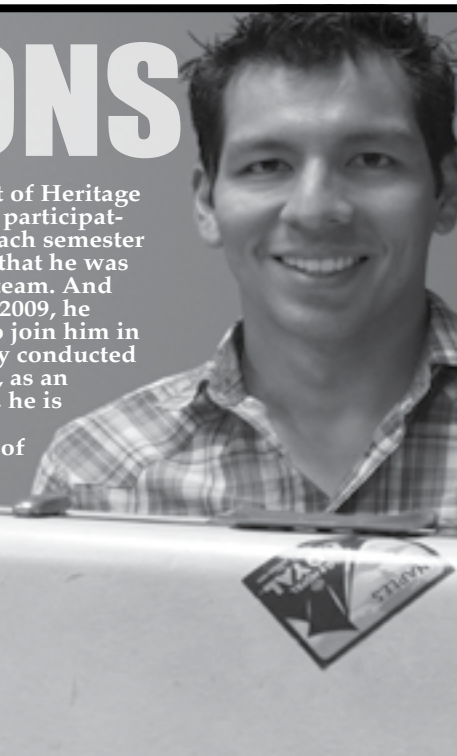
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MISSIONS

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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HERITAGE
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Bringing one Christ to a world of many paths

BY KIMBERLY MAUCK | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Jesus said the fields are white for the harvest, yet many of us bow out of the reaping. We claim that we don't know how or that we're worried about offending others.

Evangelism is a challenge to most Christians. A 2009 Barna Group survey found that only 1 percent of "born-again Christians" surveyed believe evangelism is one of their spiritual gifts.

A new book, **Connecting Christ: How to Discuss Jesus in a World of Diverse Paths**, written by theology professor Paul Louis Metzger, empowers Christians to reach out to groups we often consider "untouchable."

Although an academic author would seem more likely to approach apologetics with facts and research, Metzger does the opposite, focusing on relationships and respect as the best methods for apologetics. "We need to engage not simply people's minds but their whole lives," he writes.

Whereas many apologetics professors often clarify on the first day of class that this field of study is not about apologizing, Metzger contends that Christians should do just that. Many

people do not want anything to do with Christians or churches because they have been hurt by them in the past. Even though we as individuals may not be culpable for these past transgressions, we should, like Jesus, take on the sins of others, so that our listeners might truly understand grace and sacrifice.

Although Metzger's humble attitude here is commendable, the fact is that there is no biblical example of a disciple apologizing before sharing the Gospel.

The rest of Metzger's apologetic plan, however, is eminently practical and biblical. He writes that we must make Christ the stumbling block, not ourselves, and we must function as his body, not simply tolerating other religions and individuals, but touching them, serving them and suffering with them.

After giving this overview, Metzger moves into the meat of his book — 13 chapters on different belief systems that are missing Christ.

Much more than a dry overview of what each religion believes, these chapters provide vital entry points for how Christians can approach these people on common ground, with respect for different admirable parts of their religion.



★★★★☆

Paul Louis Metzger.

Connecting Christ: How to Discuss Jesus in a World of Diverse Paths. Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2012. 352 pages, \$16.99.

'Christians ... should approach other belief systems with respect for what they do right, rather than derision for what they do wrong.'

Just as the apostle Paul in Athens first commended the pagan philosophers for being "very religious" before preaching the Gospel, Christians too should approach other belief systems with respect for what they do right, rather than derision for what they do wrong.

Muslims, for example, are "people of the book," just like Christians, and like us, they are disgusted with the unraveling morality of the United States. We should use these likenesses as bridges into meaningful discussions, much like the apostle Paul did.

As Metzger says, in his typically florid language, "the kingdom of God advances by bearing our crosses, not America's sword."

Also helpful in understanding each of the belief systems are some responses at the end of the book by leaders within each movement. The Muslim response is particularly enlightening, as its author, Richard Reno, writes that Muslims cannot accept Jesus as a savior because he was defeated on the cross. The Christian takeaway: understanding of the Resurrection is crucial for Muslims (and for all).

Other religions covered are Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Unitarian Universalism, Mormonism, Nietzschean atheism and neo-paganism. Metzger also approaches what he calls "hot topics," with chapters devoted to

religious pluralism (the belief that there are many ways to get to heaven), the belief that there is no hell, new atheism, homosexuality and the belief that Christians are fascists.

In each of these, Metzger shows why adherents believe what they do and what bridges Christians can use to connect Christ to them.

Metzger's endnotes are copious and diverse, citing Nietzsche's "The Antichrist" to understand some atheists, Oscar Wilde to understand homo-

sexuality, a Japanese haiku poet to understand Buddhism. He uses literature well to illustrate points, quoting Steinbeck and Shakespeare.

Philosophically provocative films also provide the backdrop for some discussions. Indeed, Metzger's willingness to engage with culture in his research

illustrates his philosophy of "bearing witness to Christ in contemporary culture." However, the Bible is still the dominant source here.

Although at times Metzger's passion drives him to overblown metaphors and language, his overall approach is worthwhile. With creativity and sensitivity, he reaches out to the untouchables, much like Jesus did with the lepers.

This is recommended reading for anyone who desires to bridge the gaps between "us" and "them" that often seem impassable.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

BIBLE STUDY

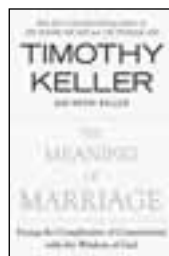
Roger Hillis. **One Another Christianity: Restoring Life-Changing Relationships in the Church.** Spring, Texas: Theatron Press, 2011. 136 pages, \$12.



Written by an evangelist and teacher at a Church of Christ in Kentucky, this book details 12 ways Christians can serve one another, based on the Greek New Testament's 58 references to that phrase. Appropriate for a study group or a sermon series, this easy read includes many practical applications.

MARRIAGE

Timothy Keller with Kathy Keller. **The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God.** New York: Dutton Adult, 2011. 288 pages, \$25.95.



The bestselling author of "The Reason for God" teams up with his wife to discuss matrimony. Keller combines stories and experience from his own 37-year marriage, thousands of singles and the Bible to write a practical guide.

CHRISTIAN FICTION

Cliff Graham. **Covenant of War (Lion of War series).** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2012. 352 pages, \$14.99.



Based on the stories of King David's mighty warriors of Israel from 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles, this novelization of biblical events is the follow-up to the best-selling "Day of War."

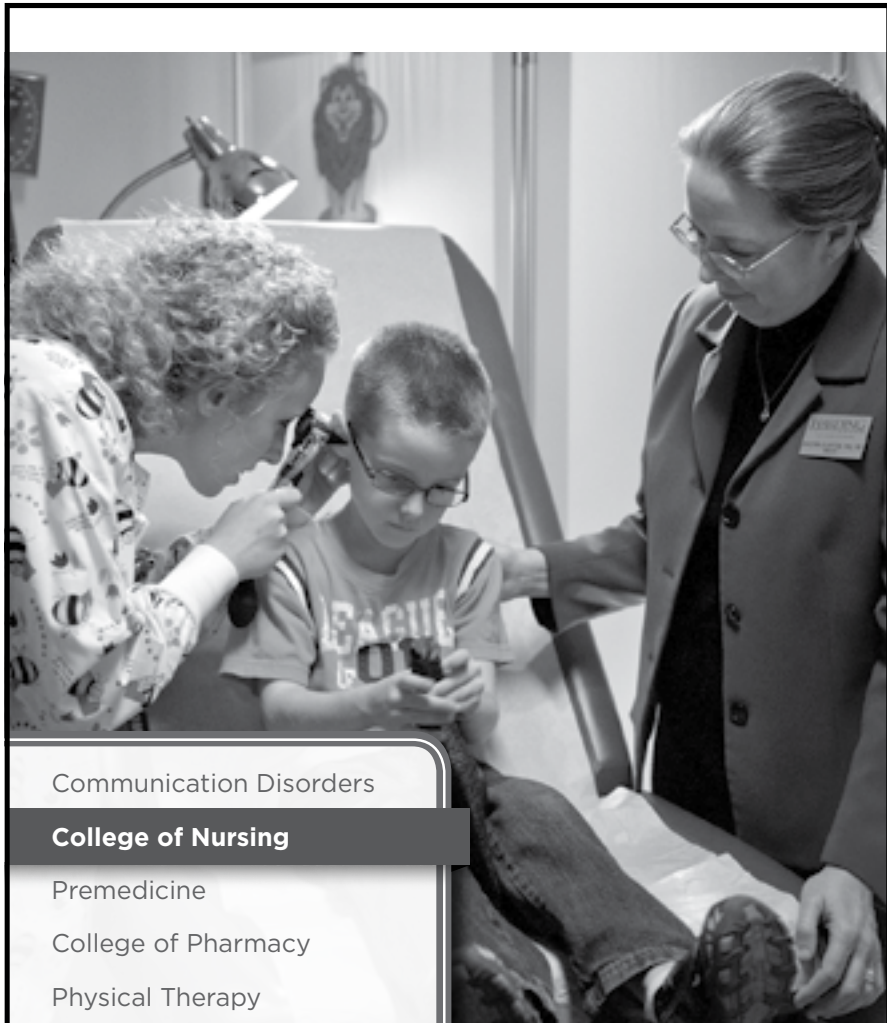
The author is a former U.S. Army officer, so the battle scenes are brutally realistic in their historical accuracy.

APOLOGETICS

Christine Dillon. **Telling the Gospel Through Story: Evangelism That Keeps Hearers Wanting More.** Nottingham, England: IVP Books, 2012. 224 pages, \$15.



A church-planter in Taiwan, where less than 1 percent of the population is Christian, Dillon uses "storying" — adapting Bible lessons to story form in a coherent arc. With Platonic teaching methods of discussion and questioning, she argues that this method can be more effective than apologetics.



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Sweet November evokes memories of baptism and reasons to be thankful

Thoughts of November always make me very happy.

In 1945 I was baptized on the last Sunday night of October. The next month seemed to be a continuous celebration as I went to bed each night feeling so clean and so close to God.

I realize now that I had such a limited idea of what I had done, but I sensed that I really was free of guilt and was a child of God. Even now after all these years, I relish November for the sweetness of the new relationship.

I still love November because the heat is over and the cold has not come. Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It is the holiday with the least stress: No trees to put up and decorate. No presents to buy (only to begin thinking about them). No cards to address. Yet.

We usually don't have all our family together, but those who are local are all together. We have our daughter and her family, our son and his family and the other grandparents of my son's children. It is a movable feast. Whichever family is least loaded in the fall hosts.

Although being with family for Thanksgiving is the central event, I believe that the spirit of being thankful deserves special consideration. Life is so busy that I have a very difficult time acknowledging to God my appreciation for all he does for me every moment.

How would our attitudes change if we really did count our many blessings, naming them one by one? Surely we would be humbled by the realization that we have done so little for ourselves. That dose of humility would help us adore God more fervently.

A serious reckoning of how much God has done for us would definitely alter our petitions to God. We might spend all our time in prayer thanking God for his great blessings, and growing from that count will open our hearts to praise God more fully.

This year has been marked by the deaths of many people who truly are precious to me. Thankfully, all eight of them were baptized believers.

The loss for families and friends has been great, but greater comfort comes from the expectation that these dear people have been born into eternal life.

I keep discovering at funerals that the deceased had wonderful traits and did

amazing things I was completely oblivious to. Recognizing that, I am trying to make a point of knowing more fully all the brothers and sisters that are in my life. If I am at their funerals, I do not want to learn that I missed the opportunity to celebrate with them the important things they are doing. I want to give thanks for them now.

Insight



Bailey McBride

One of the most satisfying blessings of life comes through family. I am blessed by children with good hearts, and they have married very special people.

My adult grandchildren are people who want to serve others, and they have married people of that same mindset. My five grandchildren 20 and younger are lively and fun. I constantly celebrate a family that is maturing and growing.

For 47 years Joyce and I have been part of the same church family. It has had many newcomers and many who have moved away. We work under elders who are godly and spiritual men. They love the church, and they seek to support and encourage the membership to be transformed into mature Christians who are reflecting God's love and grace to the community and the world.

Most of the members are middle-class and have modest incomes. Still, the church gave three-quarters of a million dollars in July for mission work (this special contribution for missions does not include the budgeted items for missions).

The church supports Helpers in Missions workers for two years. These workers raise about half of their support, and the congregation provides the other half. The church also has a two-year internship for young adults who want to learn and do ministry. These interns are serving in many places to promote the Kingdom. Our church family blesses us daily.

God is constantly watching and working to strengthen his Kingdom. Each should look thoughtfully to see what God is doing.

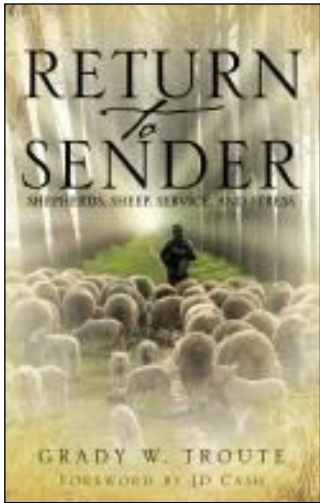
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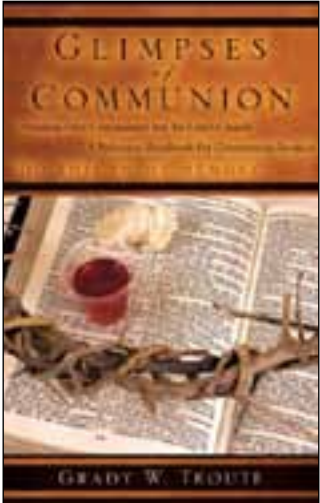
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