



CHILDREN'S HOME DEDICATES PRAYER ROOM

Bus crash victim's legacy celebrated

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MEDINA, Texas — A year and a half ago, Anabel Reid and fellow Abilene Christian University volunteers helped clear a pasture at Medina Children's Home.

On a recent Saturday, supporters of Arms of Hope — the ministry that oversees the children's home — celebrated the opening of a 250-seat chapel built on the tree-lined site where Reid donated time and sweat.

Arms of Hope dedicated a prayer room at the new chapel in memory of Reid, a 19-year-old sophomore killed last fall in a bus crash on her way to ACU's annual Medina service project. A slide show played at the

ceremony showed Reid sporting a purple Abilene Christian shirt and holding a chainsaw — a big smile on her face.

"There were pictures that I had never seen," said Shelly Reid, Anabel's mother and

a member of the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas. "That always takes me back a little bit. But I wouldn't trade that."

The yellow-brick Chapel of Hope features a 45-foot-high bell tower and is designed to serve the spiritual needs of at-risk children and single-mother families on the Medina campus, about 225 miles south of Abilene, Texas.

Curtis and Molly Bedrich, members of the Spring Creek See **MEDINA**, Page 14



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Worshippers bow in prayer as the Chapel of Hope opens at Medina Children's Home.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Haiti: Hope, healing in a land of voodoo

Lacey Thomas, left, and Erin Downing play with children at the Cap Haitien Children's Home in Haiti. The church members, both nurses, were part of a medical mission team to the impoverished nation, where many people seek healing from witchdoctors.

RELATED STORY, Page 10

Holt brings NBC News to Pepperdine

MALIBU, Calif. — Just call him "Dr. Holt."

NBC News' Lester Holt, a member of the Manhattan Church of Christ in New York, gave the commencement address at Pepperdine University and received an honorary doctorate April 28.

Lester's son Stefan Holt, a 2010 Pepperdine graduate working in television news in Chicago, surprised his father and participated in the ceremony.

"Receiving this honor is humbling, but more than humbling, I must admit it is improbable," said Lester Holt, who left college short of earning his degree to work full time in news.

"Graduates, I never made the walk you are about to make."

Holt anchored that Saturday's "NBC Nightly News" live from Pepperdine President Andy Benton's back yard, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.



Lester Holt



Brave women of faith

From Africa to Asia, books detail changed lives. **32**



Training to lead

Youth conventions draw 40,000 across the nation. **17**



A singular mission

Cris Carpenter on serving the Lord "solo" in Brazil. **25**

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2011 Ukraine National Champion Bible Competition Team.

12-year-old has a date — with Dad

On a recent Thursday night, Southern Africa Bible College hosted a fundraising dinner in Oklahoma City.

Three years ago, I was privileged to visit the preacher-training school in Benoni, South Africa, east of Johannesburg. So I was happy to attend the dinner close to home.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

But I didn't want to go alone, so I invited a

date — a younger woman, actually.

Truth be told, I'm in love with this girl, and I don't think Tamie, my devoted wife of 22 years, minds at all.

Nearly 13 years ago, God blessed our family with a precious baby girl. Kendall joined older brothers Brady and Keaton in our happy home, and our lives have never been the same. (Insert the joyful noise of children quarreling here.)

Before my daughter's arrival, I always thought I didn't understand women. Now, I realize my lack of understanding goes double for those complex creatures known as little girls.

Every bit as pretty as her mother, Kendall has known how to melt my heart from the day she was born.

Most of the time, all she has to do is smile and say "Daddy" in the sweetest voice you've ever heard.

As a preschooler, she'd

See **KENDALL**, Page 4



MICHAEL HILL

All smiles for children in Central American village

Hannah Claiborne and Lauren Martinez, students at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., pose with children in a small mountain village outside Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The students were part of a recent mission team that conducted a Vacation Bible School and prepared daily lunches for the children.

In Nigeria, anti-Christian violence on rise

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria — Recent attacks against churches in Nigeria have brought Christians around the world to their knees, praying for stability and peace in the troubled West African nation.

In Maiduguri, a city in Nigeria's predominantly Muslim north, gunmen opened fire at a Church of Christ chapel in Nigeria, killing five people, including a pastor preparing for communion. The attack is similar to ones carried out by a radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram. Two months earlier, in the city of Jos, a suicide bomber detonated a car

full of explosives outside the headquarters of the Church of Christ in Nigeria, killing at least three people. Both churches are part of a denomination, often abbreviated COCIN, with no ties to Churches of Christ associated with the Restoration Movement.

Churches of Christ have congregations in Jos and Maiduguri. In 2008, the Wulari-Jerusalem Church of Christ in Maiduguri hosted a food preservation workshop, attended by Muslims and Christians. The next year, during a wave of anti-Christian violence, local Muslims protected the church.

No secret to their success

SINGING SISTERS stay true to their Christian roots in secular music.

BY KIM MAUCK | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The first time you hear The Secret Sisters, you're likely to think you've heard them before.

The haunting melodies of Alabama natives Laura and Lydia Rogers call to mind old hymns such as "Poor Wayfaring Stranger." Their tight sibling harmonies evoke memories of the Everly Brothers. And the vocal twangs and acoustic guitar recall the sounds of bluegrass and old country.

The sound of the Rogers sisters — who grew up at the North Carolina Church of Christ in Killen, just south of the Tennessee border — is as refreshing and nostalgic as a chilled glass bottle of Coke.

In their music, "you hear the history of rural American music from the 1920s and a reverence for every musical genre this country has produced," said T. Bone Burnett, a Grammy winner and executive producer of the sisters' self-titled debut album.

So what's their secret?

"We'd never performed together" before auditioning for Burnett, says Lydia. "We would sing in church or in the living room with our daddy."

Now the two young singers — Lydia is 23 and Laura is 26 — have been launched into the thick of the music

See **SECRET SISTERS**, Page 22



WWW.SECRETSISTERSBAND.COM

Laura and Lydia Rogers form the bluegrass duo The Secret Sisters.

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• **Songs of faith in Haiti:** See video of Christians in Cap Haitien, Haiti, singing hymns written by a Church of Christ minister.

• **Breaking news:** Don't wait to read all the latest news or check out exclusive online features.

KENDALL: Father reflects on daughter's baptism

FROM PAGE 3

see my face covered with shaving cream and pretend I was Santa Claus.

"Will you buy me a present?" she'd giggle and ask.

After staring into her bright blue eyes, I'd buy her anything — then and now.

As an infant, my bald-headed sweet-heart wore colorful hair bows to church each Sunday, courtesy of her fashion-conscious mother. Now, she's in seventh grade, and her hair runs down her back.

In many ways, Kendall reminds me of her mother. She's outgoing and talkative. She's artistic and loves to knit. She enjoys Chinese

and Greek food (unlike her picky father). She fawns over small animals ("small" being a relative term given the size of the pot-bellied pet rabbit that shares her bedroom). She's caring, sensitive and sassy.

On the other hand, Kendall somehow picked up her father's competitiveness (be it volleyball or cards, she hates to lose) and occasional grumpiness, not to mention his love of Texas Rangers baseball, country music and wacky humor.

She's at an age when tears seem to flow easily. Our minivan hit a pothole the other day, and the floodgates burst open.

"You don't have to cry about every little thing," her older brother Keaton complained.

"You don't have to judge me all the time," she replied.

In the front of the van, all I could do was smile and think of the Trace Adkins song where he sings: *"You're gonna miss this. You're gonna want this back. You're gonna wish these days hadn't gone by so fast."*

Of course, Tamie and I have had one prayer for Kendall — that she would

accept Jesus as her Savior and devote her life to serving him.

God answered our prayers a few weeks ago when Kendall asked to be baptized.

Her older brother Brady, a preaching ministry major at Oklahoma Christian University, immersed her for the forgiveness of sins on a Wednesday night.

Now, all three of our children have made that most important of decisions to follow Jesus.

"Our work is done," I joked to Tamie. She suggested that we might have a little parenting left to do.

As I shared in a recent column, Tamie deals with health issues that keep her from being as active as she'd like. When my wife didn't feel like going to the Southern Africa Bible College event, she proposed Kendall as a stand-in.

Kendall hesitated only slightly before agreeing to join me. She looked beautiful in a new purple dress that her mom bought for her small-group chorus performance at Leadership Training for Christ.

"Is it going to be boring?" Kendall asked as we pulled out of the garage.

"Yes," I replied.

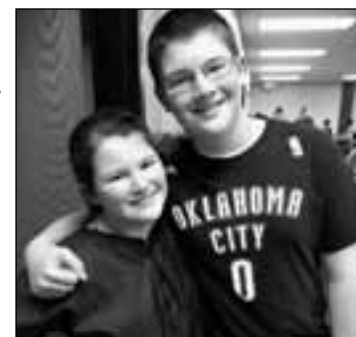
She groaned but didn't try to escape.

School director Fred Bergh, a former South Africa ambassador to the United Nations, spoke at the dinner, describing how he left a high-profile government position to focus on the Great Commission.

On the ride home, Kendall confided that she was a little disappointed when she realized Bergh worked with Nelson Mandela, not Howie Mandel.

I couldn't help but laugh.

Did I mention that I love that girl?



Kendall Ross and her brother Keaton before her baptism.

BOBBY ROSS JR.

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Jared Looney, adjunct professor, Bronx, N.Y.

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- D.Miss., Fuller Theological Seminary

- Urban missionary in Houston, New York City, and short-term service in various locations in the U.S. and Latin America
- Experience in church planting, youth ministry, small groups, mentoring and team leadership
- Family includes wife, Hylma, from England and a daughter, Adalia

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ARKANSAS

HEBER SPRINGS — The recent ninth annual Heber Springs Bible Bowl drew 102 participants from 12 Arkansas congregations.

Students took five exams covering 1 Samuel, said Lance Mays, pulpit minister for the Heber Springs Church of Christ.

Other participating congregations included the 14th Street Church of Christ in West Memphis, the Cloverdale Church of Christ in Searcy, the Guy Church of Christ, the Harrison Street Church of Christ in Batesville, the Highway Church of Christ in Benton, the Liberty Church of Christ in Conway, the Mulberry Church of Christ, the Paris Church of Christ, the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Van Buren, the Rena Road Church of Christ in Van Buren and the Robinson and Center Church of Christ in Conway.

HOT SPRINGS — It was *egg-cellent*.

That's the report from the National Park Church of Christ's "One Egg-cellent Day for Jesus."

As part of the Easter outreach effort, 400 children and families enjoyed activities ranging from bounce houses to face painting to arts and crafts. "I am grateful for the opportunity to provide an event for families in our community to have fun and spend time with each other," preacher Allen Coker said.

MISSISSIPPI

STARKVILLE — One hundred Bible studies set up in 10 months. That's the result of the Starkville Church of Christ simply asking assembly guests, "Would you like to study the Bible?"

"While many congregations may be hesitant to ask visitors for a Bible study, the Starkville Church of Christ is not," minister Andy Miller said.

As a result, the congregation's number of baptisms has increased fivefold since 2006, Miller said. He has developed "Spread the Word" outreach literature to train Christians to share the faith.

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS — After two years of working on merging, the McKnight Road Church of Christ and the Mid-County Church of Christ have become the McKnight Crossings Church of Christ.

The Mid-County church was started in 1983 after a split from the McKnight Road congregation.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Baseball, barbecue and a benefit for missions

Darren Croom, center, and his sons, Forrest, 13, and Grant, 5, pray before enjoying a barbecue buffet in the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame in Arlington, Texas. The meal was part of a recent "Night at the Ballpark in Arlington" sponsored by Great Cities Missions, formerly Continent of Great Cities, which is preparing to plant a new Hispanic Church of Christ in the hometown of baseball's Rangers. Funds raised also will help new mission teams in Brazil, Bolivia and Colombia.

When merger discussions began, "it was decided they would only merge if they could do more outreach together than they could do independently," said David Bearden, preaching minister for the former McKnight Road church.

Bearden serves as co-lead minister of the new congregation with Jeff Kryder, the preacher for the former Mid-County church. The church offers simultaneous Sunday assemblies — one with a cappella singing and the other with instrumental music.

OHIO

CINCINNATI — Through its Bread of Life Cafe, the 120-member Central Church of Christ offers a free meal to anyone every Wednesday night.

"We get people who are clearly homeless, and we get those who eat at Olive Garden and similar restaurants other

nights," member Lanita Bradley Boyd said. The goal is to draw people with more than food by offering friendship, conversation and a time of singing, prayer and spiritual thoughts, Boyd said.

Typically, the church feeds between 90 and 150 people from the neighborhood.

OKLAHOMA

TULSA — The North Peoria Church of Christ hosted a prayer service for the victims of a recent shooting rampage that made national headlines.

Three people died and two were seriously injured during the series of shootings. Tulsa police arrested two white men. All of the victims were black.

About 100 people gathered for the prayer service as church leaders called for residents to unite, regardless of race, in the wake of the shootings, the *Tulsa World* reported.

SPOTLIGHT**Barefoot Sunday**

FRIENDSWOOD, Texas — The Southeast Church of Christ is heavily involved in Haiti, partnering with the faith-based nonprofit Hope for Haiti's Children.

On a recent Sunday, church members experienced a unique opportunity: take the shoes off their feet, place them on the stage and go home with bare feet.

The congregation donated not just the shoes that members wore to the assembly, but they also brought other shoes from home.

In all, 3,500 pairs were contributed.

"To see our people ... give their shoes as a sacrifice to God and for the people of Haiti was overwhelming," minister Rick Fyffe said. "It was an amazing day for us. To God be the glory!"



PHOTO PROVIDED BY RICK FYFFE

Girls at the church show off their bare feet.

TEXAS

FORT WORTH — "Mr. Optimist" Wyatt Sawyer lost his battle with leukemia April 22. The beloved seniors minister for the Southside Church of Christ was 87.

Sawyer helped pioneer youth ministry.



Sawyer

A fatherless child, he felt an urgency to give boys what he grew up without by organizing sports programs for inner-city youths. The one stipulation for playing on his teams was to attend Bible school each Sunday.

Under his leadership, Red Oak Springs Youth Camp was built. He also wrote books, including "Must the Young Die, Too?"

Later, Wyatt and Chris, his wife of 67 years, shifted to ministering to the needs of older Christians and shut-ins.

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'Had a dream, and it filled me with wonder'

Theron Denson, who attends the Riverwood Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., performs as "Black Diamond: An Unreal Neil Diamond Experience." The native Missourian told the *Tennessean* that fellow church members at the Stadium Boulevard church, now the Riverwood congregation, used to tell him he sounded like the famous singer. "After the 500th Caucasian person told me I sounded like Neil Diamond, I listened to 'The Jazz Singer' album," he said. The rest is history.

More than 1,400 women gather in Georgia

ATLANTA — The more than 1,400 women who met together for the 27th Annual Church of Christ Ladies Lectureship Retreat were anything but shy, one organizer said.

They greeted each other with original cheers, songs, skits and choreography, their voices and steps ringing through the Renaissance Waverly Hotel.

And that was just the opening gala.

Pre-teens through senior adults enjoyed four days of fellowship, exhibits, choral performances and classes at the annual event, which rotates cities each April. Organizers said the 2012 theme, "Stepping Up to the Throne," fit the mood perfectly.

"It was a weekend fit for queens," said Nancy Cannon, a member of the



TEEJAY'S CREATIONS

Attendees enjoy the conference in Atlanta.

Schaffer Road Church of Christ in Marietta, Ga.

Among the highlights were a semi-formal dinner and a formal breakfast, she said. The Bouldercrest Church of Christ in Atlanta sponsored the event.

For information on next year's retreat, see ladiesretreat.org.information.



SARAH STIRMAN

Dan Rodriguez speaks at a Latino church-planting summit in North Richland Hills, Texas.

Reaching U.S. Hispanic culture – in English – is focus of Latino church-planting summit

BY SARAH STIRMAN | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, Texas — When it comes to reaching their Latino neighbors, a lot of U.S. churches are speaking the wrong language — Spanish.

“Many denominational and local church leaders equate ‘Hispanic ministry’ with ‘Spanish-language ministry,’” said Dan Rodriguez, professor of religion and Hispanic Studies at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.

Rodriguez discussed findings from his book, “A Future for the Latino Church,” during a summit with ministers and ministry leaders at The Hills Church of Christ. Hector Hinojosa, a member of The Hills church, stressed that the summit’s purpose “is not to replace Spanish-speaking churches.”

“This is reaching second- and third-generation Latinos,” Hinojosa said.

In Texas, people of Hispanic descent comprise 37.6 percent of the state’s population, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Many don’t consider Spanish their primary language, Rodriguez said. The professor, himself a third-generation Hispanic American, cited surveys that show 96 percent of U.S.-born Latinos are either English-dominant or bilingual.

When churches focus exclusively on ministry to immigrants from Latin America, they miss the chance to reach U.S.-born Latinos, he added. Church

planters in Latino communities face the challenge of engaging a Hispanic culture in an English-language context. While researching his book, the professor found examples of congregations doing this, but none are Churches of Christ.

Ron Carlson hopes that will change. The preacher for the Duncanville Church of Christ said he sees predominantly Anglo churches in his community, in the southwest Dallas metro, shutting down.

“If we don’t reach out to the Hispanic community, who will be left in the church?” Carlson asked.

Jerry Gonzalez, the Duncanville church’s Hispanic minister, said he relates to what many of his peers refer to as “living in the hyphen” of the Hispanic-American demographic. Many don’t feel comfortable in English- or Spanish-language services and lose interest in church. Gonzalez said he wants them to return — and to help spread the Gospel to future generations of Latinos.

Church planting and targeted ministries alone can’t guarantee success, Rodriguez said. Reaching Hispanic Americans — or any Americans — requires Christians to see themselves as missionaries.

“I’m not here because of an evangelistic program. I’m here because of good neighbors,” he said, referring to the family that spent 11 years inviting and bringing his family to church. “Good neighbors are patient.”



Healing Hands International is currently seeking a Director for its Ft. Worth office and warehouse. Responsibilities include overseeing day-to-day operations; fundraising through both personal visits and group presentations; building relationships between HHI and Texas church leaders, local business organizations, foundations, and individuals; and planning development projects and delivery of aid to selected mission points around the world. The successful candidate will have a love for missions and the desire to reduce suffering and save lives.

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Youths rally in El Valle: Panama event yields record attendance, nine baptisms

Young Christians pose for a group photo during a National Youth Rally in the Central American nation of Panama. A record-breaking 110 youths attended the 10th annual rally in the resort community of El Valle, two hours west of Panama City. "It was the best ever," said Tito Miranda, a minister and member

of the planning committee. "We had a tremendous guest speaker from Mexico, eight effective discussion groups and nine baptisms, which gave meaning to our entire effort. The young people who attended are now motivated to be better Christians and leaders in their home congregations."

CROATIA

CRIVENICA — Church members gathered in this seaside city recently for the seventh annual leadership conference of Churches of Christ in Croatia.

"Connected and Held Together in Christ" was the theme. The Christians discussed their congregations' triumphs and challenges and prayed for the future of their work.

JAPAN

ISHINOMAKI — Marlin and Jean Ray, missionaries in the Japanese city of Tomobe, spent four days in the coastal city of Ishinomaki, which was devastated by the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami.

The Rays worked with fellow missionaries Jonathan and Michiko Straker. The Strakers, who assisted in relief efforts after the disaster, moved to Ishinomaki to work full time with a young congregation there.

"They felt the great need for someone to be in that area and work," Marlin Ray said. "Japan has so few Christians. The Strakers put aside their own plans to become the answer to the prayers of many."



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The Straker family.

KENYA

LODWAR — Kenyan minister David Marube traveled to this city in the country's drought-stricken northwest, bearing boxes of sanitary towels for students at a girls' school.

The school's principal, Florence Namanang, told the minister that her students miss a

significant amount of class time — and even drop out — due to a lack of sanitary products.

"This is why I started knocking doors for funding to help buy the girls sanitary towels," Marube said. He found a partner in Ruth Orr, a long-time World Bible School teacher and promoter of mission efforts worldwide. Orr helped Marube raise funds for the initiative, though more funds are needed, the minister said.

Marube also has enrolled girls at the school in World Bible School correspondence courses.

MADAGASCAR

ANTANANARIVO — Six Christians from Europe and the U.S. traveled to this island nation of 20.7 million souls, east of Africa.

The team worked with two congregations in the capital city and Betikara, a children's home overseen by Malagasy Christians and missionaries Barry and Stacy Rosie. One

team member, Rossemay Angulo from Lausanne, Switzerland, conducted vision clinics and distributed more than 200 pairs of eyeglasses.

PERU

NUEVA JERUSALEN — "New Jerusalem" is far from the Middle East, but not far from the Amazon River.

The community, near the Peruvian city of Iquitos, is home to a new Church of Christ, said minister Helmut Garcia.

Church members from Peru's capital, Lima, and workers from the U.S. hosted gospel meetings, Vacation Bible School and medical clinics for communities along the Amazon. Until a few years ago, there were no Churches of Christ in the communities visited by the team, Garcia said.

"Through this great effort," he said, "now we have five established ... congregations in this jungle area for God's glory."

SPOTLIGHT

Smashing idols in West Africa

YA-BO-GAWN, Burkina Faso — "Hey demons, go home! No one wants you around here anymore."

Christians in this African village sang those words — in their local language, Dagara — as two church members burned piles of hand-crafted idols that were buried in their homes.

The church members, named Benoit and Prosper, asked Andy Johnson to pray with them, help them dig up and smash the idols — pots, gourds, animal skins and skulls — after a recent worship service. Johnson is part of mission team working in Burkina Faso, a landlocked nation of about 16.5 million souls in West Africa.

Villagers watched as the idols burned and the Christians sang, Johnson said.

"The courage and faith of these men amazes me," he added. "Destroying the physical presence of the gods your ancestors have worshiped for generations is a fearful thing."

"I received a phone call a few days later from one of the guys in the church, letting me know that nothing has happened to those two men, that God has protected them so far. He sounded pleasantly surprised."

Johnson asked for prayers for the Christians "as they take on Satan head to head."



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Andy Johnson talks about baptism with villagers in Burkina Faso.



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STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE



Sculptures of human hands on the rooftop of a hut in Limonade, Haiti, denote that a voodoo priest performs rituals within. Nearby is a Church of Christ.

LIMONADE, Haiti

The witchdoctor is in. That's what the red sash means, says Julien Pierre Antoine, pointing to a tattered cloth tied to a tree branch next to a mud-brick house.

"This place is a voodoo place," the Church of Christ minister says of Limonade, a community of 69,000 souls in northern Haiti. It's rumored to be the site where Christopher Columbus spent Christmas in 1492.

Nearly 520 years later, many here practice the religion of their African forefathers, brought as slaves by the French.

Voodoo priests make weekly visits, charging the poor for the promise of healing, prosperity — change for the better — as they attempt to appease the angry spirits responsible for their woes.

Footsteps from the mud-brick house, a medical mission team from the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City also offers healing to the people. Seated on folding chairs placed around the dirt floor of

the Limonade Church of Christ, doctors examine children with skin rashes and adults with joint pain. Haitian Christians translate the patients' symptoms from Creole into English.

Some of the ailments are minor. Others once were minor but, without proper medicine, have become severe. One woman has a large, bulbous growth protruding from her cheek — likely an infection caused by an abscessed tooth.

A young boy has developed pneumonia. In the U.S., he would be taken to a hospital. Here, he receives antibiotics, Tylenol and prayer.

'I KNOW GOD CAN CONVINCE THEM'

Haiti's ills go far beyond what the mission team can treat. The nation of nearly 10 million is regarded as the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. Its people have endured poverty and political unrest. In 2010, an earthquake rocked the capital city, Port-au-Prince, killing 230,000 people. Two years later, the presidential palace remains in ruins.

The Limonade church building mirrors the needs in Haiti. There are no security fences, windows or flooring. Across its high ceiling, wood beams

buckle under the strain of a heavy, sheet metal roof.

Antoine, a graduate of the Center for Biblical Training in nearby Cap-Haitien, does his best to serve his congregation of 100 members. He preaches the Gospel to his community — even the witchdoctors.

Some say "I know God. God is a good god" but refuse to give up voodoo, he says, because it's their only source of income.

He says he's thankful for the missionaries, who help show the community that the church can be a place of healing — physically and spiritually. Last

year, after a medical team visited, five people were baptized.

"I know God can convince them to come to Jesus," Antoine says.

ZOMBIES, FEAR AND JESUS

On scraps of paper, the doctors write prescriptions for the people of Limonade. The patients take them across the room to a makeshift pharmacy — set atop a thin sheet of wood supported by sawhorses.

Jillian Kittrell gathers plastic bags of medicine with Creole instructions and carefully explains the dosage to the patients.



Medical missionary Darren Jones lets children listen to his heart during a visit to a home for special-needs children in Cap-Haitien, Haiti.

Kittrell, a native of Nashville, Tenn., was 16 when she first visited Haiti on a medical mission trip about 10 years ago. While her team conducted a clinic similar to the one in Limonade, a woman with a 4-year-old boy approached the missionaries.

The boy had special needs, she explained, and his family was unable to care for him. The missionaries agreed to take him to a nearby children's home.

The boy, named Ridlin, still lives at Cap Haitien Children's Home, an orphanage for about 60 Haitian children supported by Churches of Christ.

Last year, Kittrell and her husband, Hunter, became directors of the facility. The couple makes sure the children attend school and church. They help them with homework and play games.

Many of the youngsters live in fear of voodoo, Hunter Kittrell said. Some believe their parents were killed by "zombies" — mindless slaves controlled by witchdoctors and drugs.

Retelling a scary story whispered by those who live at the home, Hunter Kittrell tells visitors the children believe that "if you go to the garden at midnight and put your head between your legs, you can see them coming for you." He has attempted to debunk the myth, but most of the children are too scared to believe him, Kittrell said.

To help educate the children about voodoo, the medical missionaries invited Ken Beckloff to travel with the team. The international minister for the Memorial Road church has served as a missionary to the African nations of Sierra Leone and Kenya.

In animistic beliefs, "the predominant emotion is fear ... constantly worrying about offending spirits," Beckloff explained. When he spoke to the older children at the orphanage, a young woman asked him how a bad spirit gets inside a person.

"When the spirit of God is not



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Ken Beckloff speaks about voodoo at the Cap Haitien Children's Home.

living in a person, other spirits can come in," Beckloff replied. "They won't control you if the Son of God controls you."

Beckloff related the story from the book of Acts about Paul's preaching in Athens. The apostle encountered altars to many gods, including an "unknown god," and told the people that he had knowledge of this unknown deity — the one true God who's above all others.

Beckloff said he applies this approach to educating young and old about animistic teachings, engaging people's beliefs instead of dismissing or ridiculing them.

"I know it's getting through," Hunter Kittrell said of Beckloff's lesson. "One girl asked two questions about magic. The times when we see them getting involved are the big moments."

CAN HAITI CHANGE?

Living in Haiti, surrounded by need, the Kittrells say they have experienced multiple emotions — joy, sadness, even anger.

"What in the world can we even do?" is a question they've asked more than once.

But the couple sees small signs of hope here. Three children from the orphanage have completed school and

are attending college across the border in the Dominican Republic. That's an opportunity few Haitians can even fathom, Hunter Kittrell said.

"These 60 kids, if we can change their lives, they're the ones that are going to change this country," he added.

A CYCLE OF POVERTY AND SALVATION

Back at the Limonade church, as the medical missionaries treat the aches and pains of the Haitian people, a woman approaches the group with



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jillian and Hunter Kittrell with Dalincia, a child at the Cap Haitien Children's Home.

her 8-month old granddaughter. The baby's mother left shortly after her birth, looking for money in the Dominican Republic. She died there, and her family knows that soon they will not be able to care for the child.

In a scene reminiscent of 10 years ago, Jillian Kittrell agrees to take the girl to the children's home.

The infant doesn't yet have a name, her grandmother says. Tabitha Dunkerly, a worker at the children's home, chooses Naomi — a woman in the Old Testament who lost nearly her entire family, only to be saved by her daughter-in-law, Ruth, who refused to leave her side.

"She picked the best one," Jillian Kittrell says of the name. "That seems to fit."

In Haiti, 'the solution is development'

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti — Despite the pervasiveness of voodoo in Haiti, "the church is spreading," says Fonrose Teogene.

The native Haitian is administrator of the Center for Biblical Training in Cap-Haitien, a church-supported ministry school that sends young preachers across the region. At least 150 Churches of Christ exist in northern Haiti, and the center's graduates actively plant new ones, Teogene says.

However, few congregations can support their ministers. In fact, many church members rely on ministers for assistance.

Teogene and his fellow

Haitian ministers have attempted to break the cycle of dependence through micro-loan programs, encouraging church members to become entrepreneurs.

Thus far, they have experienced little success, he said. Yet they remain convinced that, to address their country's needs, "the solution is development."

Increasingly, U.S. church members are shifting the focus of their mission trips from relief and handouts to training and life skills.

Recently, Christians from Colorado, Wyoming, Louisiana and Arkansas traveled to Haiti with hand-crank sewing machines. The church members taught sewing classes.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BARBARA DEAN

Haitian women participate in a sewing class with machines donated by churches.

"The class in Cap-Haitien said that the first thing they planned to do was buy fabric and make dresses for girls in an orphanage," said Barbara Dean, a church member in Colorado and coordinator of the sewing project. "We hoped that they would each start a business to support themselves, but they were thinking first of how they could bless others."

Other U.S. church members have taught courses on gardening, electrical engineering and diesel engine mechanics.

Haitian churches, meanwhile, are launching their own ministry initiatives, including Bethesda, a retirement home for aging church members.

Two-thirds of Haitians have no formal employment, and the country has no system of social security, explained Michelle Toussant, who oversees the home. The

ministry, supported by churches in the U.S., allows Haitian Christians who reach old age to be cared for in a safe environment.

"This place means a lot to us," said Seladon Ladonis, age 76, speaking through a translator, as a visiting nurse took his blood pressure. "We have food and shelter, and we have worship on the porch. I'm very happy in this place."

When asked about his dream for his country, his answer was simple — "that it will change."

FOR MORE INFORMATION on development-based mission trips to Haiti, see www.wfr.org/missions/HCP/Menu.htm.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Katie Ritter, a nurse and church member in Oklahoma, performs a checkup on a senior Haitian at Bethesda.

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The department of **Language and Literature** at **Oklahoma Christian University** invites applications for an **Assistant Professor** position to begin Fall 2012.

Candidates should emphasize their ability to teach composition, courses related to the Teaching English as a Foreign Language [TEFL] degree, and basic-intermediate language courses corresponding either to one of the university's overseas programs — German, Japanese, Chinese — or to one of the department's current language offerings: French, Spanish.

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Electronic attachments and cover letters preferred. The search will continue through Spring 2012 or until a suitable candidate is found.

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WORSHIP LEADER YOUTH AND FAMILY

The **Morningside Drive church of Christ** in Alice, Texas, is searching for a man to lead our worship and work with our young families. Successful candidates will enthusiastically direct the singing and praise portion of our worship assemblies. Additionally, he will develop and coordinate membership activities for members under 40 years of age. This is a full-time position, but we will consider part time employment as well. Alice is located in South Texas, 45 miles northwest of Corpus Christi. Our church family currently is served by five elders and one preaching minister. Compensation package is open. You may learn more about us by visiting our web page at **www.mdchurchofchrist.org**.

If interested, please send a resume, written philosophy of ministry, and three references to SEARCH COMMITTEE at 1396 Morningside Drive, Alice, Texas 78332. You may also e-mail same to roys@stx.rr.com.

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Maxwell Ave. Church of Christ in Ardmore, Okla., is seeking a Youth & Family Minister.

Our desire is to have a spiritually mature person who is able and eager to work with youth and young families. Due to the Lord blessing us, groundbreaking for a new building will begin in September 2012.

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Thank you,

*The Elders of Oro Grande
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'And he bids us all freely drink'

Prayers for clean water are answered in Ethiopia.

PHOTOS BY LISA DUNN | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE



In the rural village of Dedoc, Ethiopia, a Christian leads a prayer for the community before well drillers with Healing Hands International dig into the earth in search of clean water.



Without a well in their community, many Ethiopians gather water from polluted ponds.

Thirsty souls abound in East Africa, where drought has claimed countless lives.

Curt King and a crew of Ethiopian well drillers do what they can to answer the need.

Working through Healing Hands International, a ministry supported by Churches of Christ, they recently completed a series of 42 wells, only 10 of which were dry. "So, finally, the thirsty will have more water," King said.

As the workers look for more opportunities to dig wells, they pray for rain.



The first, muddy waters flow from the well. As work continues, the water will become clear.



Curt King, field director and driller for Healing Hands, measures the flow from the new well.



Smiling villagers line up to fill their containers with clean water from a completed well.

MEDINA: Victim’s legacy honored

FROM PAGE 1
Church of Christ in Tomball, Texas, gave the money to build the 7,600-square-foot chapel in Texas Hill Country. Tammy Baker of Abilene donated the bell.

Since 2009, 76 children and young adults have been baptized at the Medina Children’s Home, said Troy Robertson, Arms of Hope’s director of ministries.

Before the construction of the chapel, spiritual activities were held in a gymnasium.

“While we’re grateful for that space, the chapel now offers our residents and visiting groups a beautiful and tranquil place to pray, worship and feel the presence of the Lord,” Robertson said in an e-mail. “I know that God will use this chapel in many different amazing ways, but none more important than using it as a tool to offer redemption and help repair the broken lives of our precious residents.”

AN EMOTIONAL RETURN TO MEDINA

Anabel Reid was on her way to serve and encourage the residents of Medina Children’s Home when tragedy struck.

She died Nov. 4 when a bus carrying a 16-person mission team from ACU’s Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Department crashed near Ballinger, Texas, about a third of the way to Medina.

The driver, ACU professor Michael Nicodemus, lost control and struck a culvert. According to a Texas Department of Public Safety report, Nicodemus cited drowsiness and said he may have closed his eyes for a few seconds.

As the vehicle overturned, its canopy ripped away, ejecting 12 of its occupants. Most suffered injuries, but all but Reid survived.

Two of those survivors — ACU professor Emmett Miller and his wife, Pat — have helped lead the Medina mission trip for seven years. Their son Terry Miller and daughter-in-law Beth formerly served as relief house-parents for the children’s home, established in 1958.

Joining the tribute to Reid, Emmett and Pat Miller, both 64, returned to Medina for the first time since the crash.

“There’s a lot of emotion all the way around,” said Emmett Miller, a long scar on his right hand providing a visual reminder of the tragedy.

Seeing the newly built chapel — in the same place where Anabel worked so hard in 2010 — conjured up a flood of memories and emotions, he said.

“Anabel loved to come down here and work,” said the professor, who has taught at ACU for 24 years. “She loved to serve other people and do things for other people.”

‘THE MOST PREPARED TO GO’

When the bus overturned Nov. 4, Pat Miller suffered severe head and internal injuries.

Two weeks after the crash, her family moved the comatose mother and grandmother to a hospice center in Abilene. With doctors finding no evidence of brain activity, Emmett Miller resigned himself to honoring his wife’s desire — outlined in a living will — not to remain on life support.

“She is in no pain and is at peace,” he wrote on his Facebook page. “We are allowing her wishes of going home where she will no longer hurt, but rejoice in heaven with those who have gone before.”

But on Nov. 19, Pat Miller opened her eyes and started asking about people.

A miracle?

“All we can say is that the good Lord took care of it,” Emmett Miller said.

He chuckled as he described a conversation with the hospice nurses the next day: “They said, ‘We’re going to move her over to the regular hospital.’ But they said, ‘We don’t know how to do that. We don’t ever do that.’”

Pat Miller remained hospitalized for two months after that.

“So many people come up and say, ‘I prayed for you,’” she said. “It’s prayers that got me through it, I feel like.”

As for Anabel Reid, the Millers said they take comfort in knowing that she was a dedicated disciple of Christ and fully ready to meet her Lord.

“Out of everybody on the bus,” Emmett Miller said, “she was probably



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARMS OF HOPE

Anabel Reid, right, and Jessica Cosby show off their chainsaws as they work during a 2010 mission trip to Medina Children’s Home in Texas, part of the Arms of Hope ministry.

the most prepared to go.”

SHE WANTED TO ‘CHANGE THE WORLD’

When asked what she wanted to do with her life, Anabel Reid once answered with a photo.

She submitted a picture of herself — next to a glass of clear water, with her face painted to resemble a globe — as part of a video project for a scholarship application.

“She wanted to show that she planned to bring clean drinking water and the joy of the living water of Jesus Christ to the world,” her friend and classmate Lindsey Roach said in a description of the photo on Facebook.

To help fulfill her dream, the ACU community recently hosted the first Anabel Reid Run for Water. Runners and walkers logged thousands of miles during the 24-hour event and raised more than \$30,000 to build water wells for Tanzanians, her mother said.

“Anabel was all about changing the

world, just like her boyfriend, Alex Wann,” said Jarrod Anthony Bray, 22, a senior outdoor studies major and one of the water run’s coordinators. “We wanted to honor God through her passion, which was bringing clean water to people that could not access it.”

In Medina, Kevin McDonald, Arms of Hope’s president and chief executive officer, presented Shelly Reid with a plaque recognizing her daughter’s commitment to Christian service.

A duplicate plaque will hang in the prayer room named after the crash victim.

“Anabel spent a substantial amount of time serving and helping others,” McDonald said. “The reason why that’s so special to Arms of Hope, and to me, is that we can’t do what we do without a whole lot of Anabels.”

“The fact that God decided to bring her home when she was en route to here opened our eyes ... to the sacrifice that so many people make on behalf of



LINDSEY ROACH

Anabel Reid painted her face as part of a video project for a scholarship application. Two months before her death, she visited Water4, a well-drilling ministry in Oklahoma.

making this ministry successful.”

Students who survived the crash planned to participate in the Medina ceremony but stayed home when a bus like the one involved in the crash was assigned to the trip, the Millers said.

“There were unforeseen transportation issues at the last minute that kept our students from making the trip,” said a statement by Ed Brokaw, chairman of ACU’s Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Department.

Tiffany Lutz, a senior animal science major, said she regrets not being able to attend. However, Lutz hopes to return to Medina Children’s Home next school year.

“I’ve gone to Medina every year since coming to ACU,” said Lutz, 21, who suf-

fered a broken neck, back, pelvis and ankle in the crash. “I really enjoy going and interacting with the people there.”

Lutz and Reid were close friends.

“We talked about everything,” Lutz said, “but mostly our dreams of being used by God to make a lasting impact in the world.”

For Shelly Reid, the efforts to keep her daughter’s legacy alive bring joy and gratitude, she said.

“Joy is almost always the overriding emotion in anything that was connected to Anabel at all,” Shelly Reid said. “Anabel was service. Anabel was a servant. More than anything on this planet, that’s what Anabel was all about.”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARMS OF HOPE

An outside view of the new chapel in Medina, Texas.

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Oklahoma Christian University (OC) seeks a full-time Nursing Faculty member: Assistant /Associate Professor rank to begin on or before August 2012. A terminal degree in nursing and/or related field is strongly preferred; however a completed Master of Science degree in Nursing is required. An active RN licensure in Oklahoma or the ability to obtain Oklahoma licensure is required. A minimum of 5 years of professional teaching and /or clinical experience is preferred. All applicants should be active members of the Church of Christ and should be committed to the mission of the university. Faculty members are expected to maintain active participation in research, scholarship, college governance, service, academic advisement and professional development activities. The nursing program at OC offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing for RNs. Current plans for the addition of an RN-BSN program are underway.

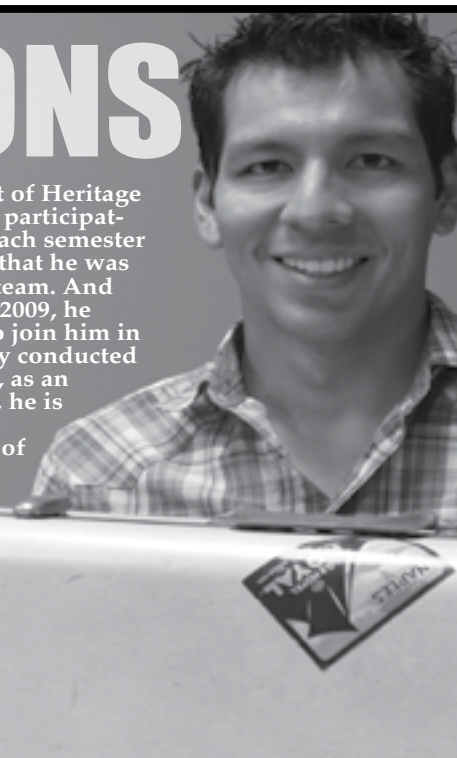
OC is dedicated to superior teaching and proud of its heritage as a liberal arts institution within a Christian tradition. The candidate will provide didactic and clinical/laboratory instruction for baccalaureate students and will provide leadership in curricular review, design and implementation of courses, evaluation of students, outcomes measurement, continual improvement and full implementation of curriculum.

Interested applicants should provide a letter of application describing teaching and research interests, current vita, transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation (one must be a source from current congregation), a writing sample, and evidence of professional teaching and clinical experience (including statement of teaching philosophy which specifically addresses the integration of faith and learning). Please send the information electronically to Ms. Linda Fly (linda.fly@oc.edu), or by mail to Ms. Linda Fly, Chair and Assistant Professor of Nursing, Oklahoma Christian University, Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK, 73136. Questions may be directed to Linda Fly at linda.fly@oc.edu or 405-425-1920.

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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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Employment Opportunity



Lauren Harper from the Waterford Church of Christ in Michigan accepts the first-place trophy for Songs of Praise at Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes in Indianapolis. Also pictured is third-place winner Natalie Justus from the Alkire Road Church of Christ in Grove City, Ohio.

ASHLEY VICTORIA AMIRKHANIAN

Training to lead

YOUTH CONVENTIONS DRAW more than 40,000 members of Churches of Christ to 16 venues in a dozen states. "I am growing in my faith," a 13-year-old proclaims at Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

INDIANAPOLIS

The crowd was loud and rowdy, ready to explode with excitement.

From all over the Midwest — and as far away as New York — they had traveled for the big event, filling a downtown hotel.

Giant red banners and colorful balloons decorated the stage. Hundreds of trophies adorned a white-clothed table.

But before the festivities commenced, silence washed across the ballroom as nearly 1,400 men, women and children bowed to pray.

For two days leading up to the Saturday night awards assembly, boys and girls — and Scripture-quoting puppets — from Churches of Christ in 10 states packed the Downtown Marriott in the heart of Indiana's capital city.

The future church leaders came for Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, a national training program that features competition in speaking, song leading, Bible Bowl, mass media, puppet theater and art.

Non-competitive events include Scripture memorization, Good Samaritan service projects, oral Bible reading, PowerPoint presentations and categories such as "Know the Books" and "Teach to Teach."

Cassie Cummings, 13, a member of the Franklin Church of Christ in

Kentucky, stepped to the podium before the awards ceremony and offered a brief testimonial.

The eighth-grader spoke with confidence and poise about the role of Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes in her spiritual development.

"I am growing in my faith," she told the crowd. "I have learned how to use my abilities in many areas, especially

puppets. I love being able to be on a puppet team. These puppets get the message out about God.

"I love to sing," added Cummings, who led singing for a female-only group. "Songs of Praise has helped me learn more about how to read music and lead songs. I would say Songs

of Praise is my favorite area."

About 15 miles away, 1,000 members of Churches of Christ assembled at a different Indianapolis-area Marriott for the Midwest Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) convention.

Dane Roper, 18, a member of the Lafayette Church of Christ in Ballwin, Mo., has competed in the Midwest LTC's Bible Bowl every year since 2003.

Most years, he's signed up, too, for large-group chorus and live Christian drama, while occasionally choosing puppets and art projects.

"Overall, the LTC experience is something that I look forward to because it really forces me to dig deep in God's Word," Roper said, "and it also helps

CONTINUED



MIKE BOSLEY

A puppet team from Oklahoma prepares to take the stage at the Great Plains Leadership Training for Christ convention in Rogers, Ark.



DIANE BOONE

Olivia Marlin from the Bellevue Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., leads "You Are My All in All" at the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes convention in Nashville.

CONTINUED
me build relationships while practicing for things like chorus or drama. It is definitely a time of spiritual growth."

Across the nation this spring, Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes and Leadership Training for Christ conventions drew more than 40,000 members of Churches of Christ to 16 sites in a dozen states. Most of the conventions occurred over Easter weekend — a slow period for most hotels when organizers can take advantage of reduced rates.

"I have never seen another program that drives young people to spend hours studying the Scriptures, and that has to bring about something good," said Reda Redding, whose husband, Lawrence, preaches for the Aberdeen Church of Christ in Washington state.

The Reddings, who serve the only Church of Christ in a county of 70,000 people, brought 10 young people to the Northwest Region

Leadership Training for Christ convention in Richland, Wash.

"I personally love the Christian attitudes I see exhibited in these youths as they rejoice with each other when they do well," said Reda Redding, suggesting that LTC helps young people from smaller congregations recognize that they are not alone.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes began in 1968 as a special Sunday morning class for eight boys at a Church of Christ in Warner Robins, Ga.

Roy Johnson, now executive director of the Montgomery, Ala.-based organization, was one of the initial group of boys trained by Lads founder Jack Zorn.

Johnson remembers traveling with Zorn, his older sister's husband, to speak at numerous churches and Christian colleges and even address politicians such as then-Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter.

Training to lead



CHANDRA CLARK

Lee Jamieson Jr. speaks at the Southeastern LTC in Mobile, Ala.



HENRY HOLUB

Brianna McCorkle from the Shiloh Road Church of Christ in Tyler, Texas, takes a Bible quiz at the North Texas LTC in Dallas. Also pictured is Whalen Garza.

ment" over doctrine resulted in Lads ceding Texas and Oklahoma to a group that started a new program called Leadership Training for Christ, which became known as LTC.

The North Texas LTC held its first convention in Dallas in 1989 and has grown to annual atten-

dance of about 12,000 church members split among three major hotels.

One point of contention concerned women's roles, Johnson said. Lads does not allow men in the room when girls read Scripture. The LTC in Dallas permits men in the room unless a girl requests otherwise, registration coordinator Tim Henderson said. At other LTC convention sites, the stance varies.

In the past two decades, the North Texas convention has sparked the creation of LTC events in nine additional cities across the nation — from Charlotte, N.C., to San Jose, Calif.

Lads has expanded from Nashville to convention sites in Atlanta; Indianapolis; Memphis, Tenn.; and Orlando, Fla.

Last year, Lads returned to Texas after a quarter-century away — starting its newest annual convention in Dallas. In its second year in Dallas, Lads drew 918 people.



LAUREL SEWELL

Wren Wilkerson, 3, of Branford, Fla., prepares for her speech at the Lads convention in Orlando, Fla.



DIANE BOONE

Puppeteers Anna Grace Rampy, Tollie Boone, Maddie Hunter, Tessa Aly, Dakota Villers, Ryan Jackson, Anna Kate Horn and Ann Elise Jackson (not pictured) from the Bellevue church celebrate their team winning first place in Nashville.

Jeff Jenkins, a national board member for Lads and the Dallas convention's director, said Lads fills a special niche.

"I know firsthand the caliber of young leaders it produces," said Jenkins, who preaches for the Lewisville Church of Christ in Texas and voices concern about the worship style at some LTC conventions.

Henderson, a youth minister for the Shiloh Road Church of Christ in Tyler, Texas, has served on the North Texas LTC board since the early 1990s.

He said he had no problem with Lads entering Dallas.

"If their philosophy fits a church better, then I'm fine with it," Henderson said. "We all need to do as good a job as we can in serving and ministering to kids."

LADS VS. LTC

To the casual observer, the formats and approaches of Lads and LTC seem strikingly similar. A closer look reveals differences:

• **Organization:** A single national body coordinates the Lads conventions. Independent boards oversee each LTC convention.

"We're a lot like McDonald's," Mike Horn, Lads' field services manager, told church leaders in Indianapolis. "If you go to McDonald's in Indianapolis, Detroit or Montgomery, Ala., the french fries are exactly the same."

On the other hand, Henderson said LTC extends the concept of congregational autonomy to the regional conventions.

"We're not here to oversee everybody else," he said of the North Texas LTC. "We want each convention to be able to make local decisions."

• **Competition:** In competitive events, Lads awards first-, second- and third-place trophies.

LTC uses a ratings system — gold, silver and bronze — whereby any number of participants can attain the highest medal.

"One of the things we felt strongly about, and I feel

strongly about, is that there's enough first, second and third places in the kids' world, on the soccer field and such," said Rusty Maynard, co-founder of the Midwest LTC and youth minister for the Center Road Church of Christ in Kokomo, Ind.

On the other hand, Johnson said competition allows the "cream of the crop" to rise as Lads produces top-notch preachers, song leaders and other high achievers who excel at Christian universities.

The Lads director stressed that a majority of pre-convention events — such as service projects — are non-competitive. Those who do win trophies one year are moved into a "Winners Circle" the next. That ensures that a first-time participant won't compete against someone who already has won a trophy.

• **Categories:** Lads conventions do not include drama and choral groups. Such groups comprise a major element of

'I personally love the Christian attitudes I see exhibited in these youths as they rejoice with each other when they do well.'

— **Reda Redding**, minister's wife, Aberdeen, Wash.



ASHLEY VICTORIA AMIRKHANIAN

A puppet team from the Northside Church of Christ in Jeffersonville, Ind., accepts a second-place trophy at the Lads convention in Indianapolis.

most LTC conventions.

"Our training is specialized toward service in the church," Johnson said of Lads' reasoning. "In the church, you would not have a choir."

PROPER FOCUS?

Some churches opt not to



CHANDRA CLARK

Carleigh Clark from the Central Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, Ala., signs during the Southeastern LTC.

participate in either event.

"We prefer ministry training that culminates in a role, not an event," said Brandon Baker, youth and family minister for the Western Hills Church of Christ in Temple, Texas.

"While the goals of programs like LTC and Lads to Leaders are to equip and integrate students into the ministries of the church," Baker said, "many students and children become focused on the annual trips, competition and awards."

However, Stephen Lindberger, youth minister for the Northwest Church of Christ in Canton, Ohio, said the Lads convention rewards young people for hard work throughout the year.

"Here at Northwest, we don't emphasize the 'winning' aspect of Lads to Leaders," said Lindberger, who spoke at the Indianapolis convention. "We want them to do well because they love the Lord, not because

CONTINUED



LIBBY CAMPBELL

Georgia Claire Campbell and Julia Collins from the Burnt Hickory Church of Christ in Marietta, Ga., before a drama event at the Southeastern LTC.

CONTINUED

they want a trophy.”

Malik Danzy, who attends the Northwest church, has Down syndrome, but that didn't keep the 8-year-old from participating in oral Bible reading and song leading.

“Even with his special needs, we want him to be a strong leader in the church,” said his mother, Trina Danzy.

Sarah Palmer, a member of the North Central Church of Christ in Indianapolis, said the Midwest LTC has made a profound impact on her children.

“Studying Romans in 2011 brought our two oldest girls to the decision to be baptized,” Palmer said of Rachel, 12, and Annie, 11.

Katie DeVore, 17, a member of the East Peoria Church of Christ in Illinois, has competed in song leading, speech, puppets and other events at the Lads convention in Indianapolis. She has served as a hostess who congratulates younger winners as they rush on stage to receive awards.

“In the church today, we focus so much on training our young men and looking for them to be good Christian men, to be song leaders, preachers, deacons and elders,” DeVore

said. “In Lads, I used to be upset that I would never be a song leader or a preacher or lead a congregation as an elder.

“Not anymore,” she added. “I am blessed to be a woman. I will have the privilege of loving a husband, raising children and teaching other women to glorify God. Lads has taught me that and so much more.”

For years, Shannon and Susan Houtrouw's two oldest children worked on Bible Bowl questions, Scripture memorization and service projects for the Midwest LTC.

Now, Daniel Houtrouw, 19, is a freshman at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., on a full-tuition scholarship.

His training and service through LTC “are all beginning to pay off,” said Shannon Houtrouw, a member of the West Kalamazoo Church of Christ in Michigan. “I am eager to see where the Lord takes him in the future and beyond.

“Grace has also turned out to be a lovely, God-fearing young woman,” Houtrouw said of his 16-year-old daughter. “And even though both these teenagers have been attending public schools, by the grace of God, they have been unwavering in their commitment to Christ.”

LADS TO LEADERS AND LTC CONVENTIONS



● Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes

● Leadership Training for Christ

ALABAMA

• **Southeastern LTC in Mobile, Ala.** — Convention participants (including students and adults): 900. Year started: 2001. States represented: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

ARIZONA

• **Southwest LTC in Phoenix** — Convention participants: 1,000. Year started: 1993. States represented: Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

ARKANSAS

• **Great Plains LTC in Rogers, Ark.** — Convention participants: 2,500. Year started: 1995. States represented: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

CALIFORNIA

• **Western LTC in San Jose, Calif.** — Convention participants: 300. Year started: 1998. States represented: California, Oregon and Nevada.

FLORIDA

• **Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes in Orlando, Fla.** — Convention participants: 2,064. Year started: 2005. States represented: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Virginia.

GEORGIA

• **Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes in Atlanta**

— Convention participants: 2,783. Year started: 2003. States represented: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina.

INDIANA

• **Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes in Indianapolis** — Convention participants: 1,384. Year started: 2006. States represented: Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.

• **Midwest LTC in Indianapolis** — Convention participants: 1,000. Year started: 1996. States represented: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

MISSOURI

• **Heart of America LTC in Kansas City, Mo.** — Convention participants: 1,200. Year started: 2002. States represented: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

NORTH CAROLINA

• **Eastern Region LTC in Charlotte, N.C.** — Convention participants: 389. Year started: 2004. States represented: Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina.

TENNESSEE

• **Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes in Nashville, Tenn.** — Convention

participants: 9,987. Year started: 1987. States represented: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

• **Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes in Memphis, Tenn.** — Convention participants: 1,892. Year started: 2009. States represented: Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Georgia.

TEXAS

• **Central Texas LTC in Houston** — Convention participants: 1,500. Year started: 2000. State represented: Texas.

• **Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes in Dallas** — Convention participants: 918. Year started: 2011. States represented: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington.

• **North Texas LTC in Dallas** — Convention participants: 12,000. Year started: 1989. States represented: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

WASHINGTON

• **LTC Northwest Region in Richland, Wash.** — Convention participants: 400. Year started: 2004. States represented: Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

SOURCE: Christian Chronicle survey



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"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

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East Cobb Church of Christ — www.eastcobbccoc.org — is seeking resumes for the position of full-time Children's Minister.

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SECRET SISTERS: Church members see musical success as providential

FROM PAGE 3

industry, a trip as unexpected as it has been overwhelming.

Their father, Ricky Rogers, a salesman for General Electric and weekend bassist for a bluegrass band called Iron Horse, says that, although the girls have diverse musical influences, “their heart, like mine, is with simple country music.”

TRAGEDY AND ‘HUNGER GAMES’

In October 2010, the sisters released their first album. It featured mostly cover songs, including “Somethin’ Stupid” by Frank Sinatra and two songs written by Laura.

Since then, they have earned honors for which many artists wait decades. They have toured nationally and internationally, recorded a track with platinum-selling artist Jack White and performed at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Arguably their biggest break came earlier this year

when their song “Tomorrow Will Be Kinder” was selected for the soundtrack of “The Hunger Games,” a film adaptation of the young-adult best-seller by Suzanne Collins. The film tells the story of a post-apocalyptic empire that forces teenagers to battle to the death in an outdoor arena — and broadcasts the battle as a reality show.

When *The Christian Chronicle* reported the news on its blog, the post sparked discussion among readers. Some expressed disappointment that Christians would be part of a film that some believe glorifies killing, while others were pleased to see a Christian group reaching such a wide audience and reinforcing the film’s themes of strength from survival and hope for the future.

The song itself was inspired by real-life tragedy — the 2011 tornadoes in northern Alabama that killed nearly 250 people and destroyed countless buildings, including the meeting place of the Central Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa.

The sisters were on tour in Australia when the storms hit their home state. The song is “about God making tomorrow better than today,” Laura says.

After Burnett got them the spot on the soundtrack, the sisters read the book. They both believe the book and film have an overall positive message, despite the violence, and they consider the soundtrack an opportunity to introduce a younger audience to their music. A YouTube version of the song has more than a quarter-million views.

“I hope (the song) leads people into our music and they hear our gospel songs and hear us testify about our faith,” Laura says.

And they do, every chance they get.

In the music industry, “there are people who roll their eyes when you mention your faith or gospel songs,” Laura says. “I have had label people tell me not to talk about

Jesus so much when I’m in New York and L.A.

“I tell them, ‘My faith has gotten me to where I am, and I’m not going to hide it.’”

‘IF I DIDN’T BELIEVE IN GOD, I WOULD NOW’

After all, the sisters see their success — from playing for small crowds in Muscle Shoals, Ala., population 13,000, to walking the red carpet at a film premiere — as nothing short of providential.

“If I didn’t believe in God



WWW.SECRETSISTERSBAND.COM

The Rogers sisters honed their skills singing during worship at the North Carolina Church of Christ in Alabama.

before, I would now,” Laura says. “Everything was too natural, nothing was contrived. It was just us being ourselves, and that was enough. I truly believe it was a part of a big plan. It’s inspiring.”

For Laura, the first step was the hardest. She traveled to Nashville on her own to audition for a record deal. The thought of singing in front of strangers as they judged her seemed terrifying.

Lydia, who enjoyed singing at family reunions and with her dad’s band, was the “real” singer in the family, as Laura saw it. She went to the audition without any expectations of recording or touring. She only wanted to overcome her stage fright.

“I just thought it would make me a better person,” she recalls.

She was shocked when, not only was she able to sing, but she wowed the music business

reps at the audition.

Laura quickly called her sister, who was in the middle of a ceramics class at Middle Tennessee State University where she was studying graphic design, and her dad, who was in a business meeting in Birmingham, Ala.

Lydia drove the two hours up to Nashville, sang for the reps, and then, almost as an afterthought, with Laura.

The rest of the story is the stuff of Nashville dreams — an album, a record label contract and a whirlwind 15 months of performances, media interviews and almost constant travel.

The grind of touring presented a new challenge to the sisters’ routine of Sunday worship. When they couldn’t find a church, they would take communion together on their tour bus or in a hotel room, watch sermons on YouTube, read their Bibles, pray and, of course, sing hymns together.

“We just did the best we could being away from our home congregation,” Laura says. “It’s changed our faith and made us more mature and not confined our faith to the walls of the building.”

Right now, the sisters are enjoying some time back in their hometown, worshiping with the congregation where they were raised. They’re writing music for their new album, which they hope to record this summer and release in the fall.

One song, “River Jordan,” is about baptism, Laura says. It contemplates the yearning people feel to have their sins washed away.

“Every time we play that song, people love it, even people who aren’t religious at all,” Laura says.

A song about baptism playing alongside songs by Taylor Swift and Rascal Flatts?

Stay tuned — stranger things have happened.

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Saturday - 1:30 PM



Dr. Scott McDowell
"Not Ashamed of Jesus"
Friday 1:30 PM



Dr. Bruce McLarry
"Not Ashamed of Our Hope"
Saturday - 8:00 PM



Dr. David Young
"Not Ashamed to Live Out Loud"
Friday - 8:00 PM



Dr. Jerry Rushford
"Not Ashamed"
Sunday - 9:00 AM



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FACULTY POSITION AVAILABLE FALL 2013

Heritage Christian University invites applications for a full-time faculty position in Theology and Scripture. The successful applicant will teach undergraduate and graduate courses. Course load is usually fifteen hours per academic year (alternating between three courses and two courses per semester). Competitive compensation and benefits. HCU is affiliated with the Churches of Christ; all qualified applicants must be professing Christians who are active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and be committed to the training of Christian ministers. HCU is a university with an increasing focus on graduate education. The school is served by the Overton Memorial Library, which specializes in divinity resources and recently received the late Frederick W. Danker's collection of books and papers. Candidates should be committed to the integration of scholarship with the life of faith, and they must articulate a well-developed research agenda. Applicants should hold a PhD in Theology or a related field; however, strong ABD's are encouraged to apply. Teaching competency in New Testament is advantageous, as is experience in administrative work. Interested persons should email the following materials to Edmon L. Gallagher, Chair, Faculty Search Committee (egallagher@hcu.edu): (1) curriculum vitae, (2) names and contact information for three academic references and one spiritual-life reference, (3) a statement of teaching philosophy (one page), and (4) a research plan. After the initial round of application review, we will request all transcripts of graduate and undergraduate work. Anticipated starting date is August 1, 2013, subject to negotiation. Review of applications will begin July 1, 2012, continuing until the position is filled. HCU does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, or disability. Applications from qualified minorities are especially encouraged.



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Submit resume to Dr. Jill Fuller, Chair of the Department of Social Work and Criminal Justice, by mail at LCU, 5601 19th St., Lubbock, TX 79407.

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

At age 27, Cris Carpenter is serving Christ while she rediscovers her roots in the country where she was born.

Her parents, Bob and Donna Carpenter, served as missionaries in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, during the 1980s. Cris Carpenter enrolled in Abilene Christian University in Texas and, while working on a psychology degree, went on a mission trip with Let's Start Talking. The church-supported ministry helps non-native speakers improve their conversational English skills using the Bible.

She traveled to Natal, a city of about 1 million souls in northern Brazil. She picked up some Portuguese and fell in love with the Church of Christ there. She quickly accepted the invitation from two Brazilian couples — Roberto and Marisa Signoretti and Osmildo and Marta Braga — to do an 18-month internship with the church.

That 18 months has become four and a half years. Churches of Christ in Texas and several individuals support Cris Carpenter's work, which includes oversight of an English outreach ministry. She is particularly fond of her Monday night bilingual Bible study, where she examines the Gospel of Luke alongside a dentist, two hair stylists, a security guard and a candy vendor.

"They know that, while I care that they learn and practice their English, I care more that they learn and internalize what their lessons are about," she wrote on her blog, crisinbrazil.blogspot.com.

You are a single female serving on a team with two Brazilian couples who are old enough to be your parents. What is required to make that relationship work?

The same that is required to make any relationship work — respect. I deeply respect my teammates for the sacrifices they have made for the sake of sharing the Gospel in Natal,



ANDRESSA SIGNORETTI

Cris Carpenter overlooks the city of Natal, the capital of Rio Grande do Norte state in northeastern Brazil.

DAUGHTER OF MISSIONARIES *shares her faith — and finds a new family — while serving on an all-Brazilian mission team.*

and I love them as my family in Christ. They are the most hardworking people I know, and I admire their dedication to God's ministry in Natal.

Since none of us are native "Natalenses," the word "family" has taken on a whole new meaning as we have adopted each other, not only as family in Christ, but as let's-spend-our-holidays-together family. They love me as a daughter and often like to treat me as such — lots of advice and home-cooked meals.

But when we gather around our meeting table, they are eager to hear what opinions, ideas and input I have to share. They also respect me as a fellow servant in ministry.

What are the greatest challenges for you as a single woman on the mission field?

Even as part of such a vibrant church community, I still experience a lot of loneliness,

not having an automatic family support system at home like the others do. Skype and e-mail are a tremendous blessing but often don't bridge the distance between my family and me as well as I would like for them to.

Another challenge is one that is not specific to the mission field, but something I suspect many single Christians face in churches worldwide — being pigeon-holed into singles groups and ministries. I think singles and married couples have a lot to share with and learn from each other.

Many of my friends with whom I identify the most are married, but it seems there is an unspoken rule that once the Bible study starts we should split up into two groups. I would love to see this change.

What have you learned about sharing the Gospel?

That it's much more complex

than simply passing along information. Sharing the single-most meaningful aspect of my life with another person requires a lot of love and vulnerability.

When I share the Gospel with someone, I have to be prepared to follow through with that person until the end, through questions, through crises, through joys and victories. I have to be vulnerable enough to allow that person to see Christ at work in me, which at times can be easier than others.

I've learned that I must meet each person where they are at that point in their beliefs and work from there, trying to move too quickly can be painful and damaging.

I believe that God grows the seed inside a person's heart, but I also believe he entrusts us with the responsibility to stick around and make sure it's getting plenty of water and sunlight.

What advice do you have for those working in short-term mission efforts?

Go with the attitude and spirit of a learner. Even if the purpose of the trip is for you to "bless," "encourage" or "teach" people, go prepared to learn. Learn words in the language, learn about their cuisine, learn why the local Christians take communion the way they do, learn their greetings, learn what they believe about God, and learn what they are excited to teach you.

Going prepared to learn will help in your adjustment and any culture shock, first of all, but it will also make you more approachable to the ones to whom you will minister.

The impact you make — and your own spiritual growth as a result — will increase the more open you are to learning about them. And your hosts will thank you.

What would you say to other single women considering mission work?

John 12:26 is a verse that has been very meaningful to me in ministry: "If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me" (from "The Message").

If God is calling you to the mission field, follow him.

When I first came to Natal I did not feel prepared or equipped to undertake the task in the least, but I felt called. I trusted that God would provide, prepare, equip and bless. And he has, in ways I never could have imagined.

Moving by myself to a place where I would be the only American was terrifying. I still can't really believe I went through with it. But God has rewarded that leap of faith by blessing me with a loving church family, a fulfilling ministry and an ever-growing desire to do exactly what he asks of me.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTER NEEDED

Faith Village Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, Texas, is seeking a Youth and Family Minister. Desired attributes include that of a mature individual who is experienced in working with youth and their families. Congregation size is approximately 600 (Sunday a.m. attendance). If interested, please send resume to nbeaver@faithvlg.org.



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Youth Ministry Position Available

The Northside Church of Christ in San Antonio is searching for a minister to lead our youth ministry far into the future. Northside is a Christ-centered, Spirit-led, grace-based, people-loving, forward-looking family of believers, consisting of approximately 750 members in attendance, including about 100 young people in Middle School and High School. Our church family is currently served by sixteen elders, five ministers and a host of servant-minded ministry leaders. The ideal candidate we're praying God will send our way would have a degree in Youth and Family ministry (or the equivalent in experience) and have a heart for cultivating relationships with young people and helping families navigate the challenges of our culture. Potential candidates should visit our website at www.nscoc.org to learn more about us. If interested, please send a resume, written philosophy of ministry, three references and a transcript to Dr. Johnnie Rosenauer, chair of the search committee, at jodaro@gvfc.com or call 210-275-8828. The deadline for inquiries is May 15.

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHILDREN'S HOMES INC.

PARAGOULD, Ark. — What to do with that empty parsonage next to the church?

The Mountain Home Church of Christ in Arkansas turned its parsonage into a foster group home for children in need.

"It is a great relationship," said Micah Brinkley, CEO of Children's Homes Inc. "We provide our services, including a boarding payment that is equal to what the state of Arkansas would provide. The church takes care of many of the other expenses.

"It is a great way to get the local church involved in child care," Brinkley added. "The congregation actually selected the foster parents from within their church family."

HIGHER EDUCATION

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — The Mabey Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., has given Harding a \$1.7 million challenge grant toward the construction of an \$8.5 million facility to house the Carr College of Nursing and the Communication Science and Disorders Department.

The new building will be constructed on the south side of campus next to the Farrar Health Sciences Center. Construction is expected to begin this summer, and the facility is expected to open in time for the 2013 fall semester.

"This is certainly a pace-setting gift on this very important project for the Harding community," President David Burks said. "The Mabey gift will ensure the project will be completed next year."

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Beth Harwell, Tennessee's first female Speaker of the House, has been named Lipscomb's 2012 Alumnus of the Year.



Harwell

A 1978 Lipscomb graduate, Harwell has served in the state Legislature for nearly a quarter-century.

"Beth Harwell exemplifies the Christian business leader we hold up to our students, alumni and community," said Bennie Harris, Lipscomb's vice president for development and alumni relations. "We



JUDSON COPELAND

Remembering Oklahoma City bombing victims

A group at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, including new President John deSteiguer, reflects and prays on the 17th anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The university flew 168 U.S. flags and 168 Oklahoma state flags on campus in memory of the victims of the April 19, 1995, terrorist attack.

are so proud to claim her as one of our alums."

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mike O'Neal, who retired April 30 after 10 years as Oklahoma Christian's president, will remain at the university as president emeritus. New President John deSteiguer said O'Neal accepted his invitation to continue serving Oklahoma Christian.

"I will continue working with some of the projects that I have championed, such as the university's relationship with the people of Rwanda," O'Neal said.

"And with my extensive experience in planned giving, I look forward to providing some assistance to that office and speaking periodically on behalf of the university," he added.

YORK COLLEGE

YORK, Neb. — Larry Roberts, York's president from 1991 to 1995, died April 20 in Florida, where he served as a minister for the Avon Park Church of Christ. He was 77.

Roberts' long history in ministry and in Christian higher education included

stints as vice president of Lubbock Christian University in Texas and president of now-defunct Northeastern Christian Junior College in Villanova, Pa.



Roberts

"Larry Roberts was so important to our campus during his years here," York President Steve Eckman said. "He was a great example of Christian servant leadership. He will be missed."

MINISTRY TRAINING

SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE

SINGAPORE — Tim Burow, dean of international studies for Lubbock, Texas-based SIBI, traveled to this island city-state recently as part of a tour of Sunset's ministries in Asia.

"SIBI, along with its partners in the Pasir Panjang congregation, is doing its best to help equip servants of Christ to share the good news with their home country," Burow said. The Singapore

SPOTLIGHT

OVU honors minister

VIENNA, W.Va. — Frank Higginbotham, minister for the Virginia Avenue Church of Christ in Chester, W.Va., for 48 years, recently received the Christian Service Award from OVU.

Tom Butterfield, the Christian university's director of church relations, lauded the faithfulness of Higginbotham and his wife, Rose.



DEREK COLE

Frank Higginbotham and his wife, Rose, accept the Christian Servant Award at OVU.

school has students from Asian nations including Singapore, China and Vietnam.

PUBLICATIONS

CHRISTIAN NEWS OF SOUTH TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO — Paul McQuien, a member of the Northside Church of Christ with 40-plus years of experience as an English professor, has been named editor of the *Christian News of South Texas*.

"Just as I enjoy reading *The Christian Chronicle* every month to stay informed about the activities of the Church on a national and international level, I also enjoy reading the *CNST* to keep informed on local and area activities concerning our fellowship," McQuien wrote in an introductory column.

However, he said the San Antonio-based publication risks limiting its circulation or even being discontinued because of decreased financial support.

"I hope and pray that interested congregations, Christian-owned businesses and committed individuals will step forward to keep this worthwhile newsletter going on a sound financial basis," he wrote.



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

acu.edu

College of Arts and Sciences

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.

Music

The Department of Music invites applications for the position of department chair beginning June 1, 2012. Applicants should have a doctorate in music (D.M.A. or Ph.D.) with demonstrated significant achievement in an academic or performance discipline that would qualify the applicant for appointment at the rank of associate professor or professor. An academic background in music history and/or music theory is preferred, as well as previous administrative experience. The chair oversees all operations of the department, including the management of budgets, supervising and assigning teaching and non-teaching responsibilities of faculty and staff, faculty and staff evaluations, curriculum and accreditation matters, and works with various campus offices (Admissions, Alumni Relations, Advancement) to advance departmental and university objectives. The chair will represent and be an advocate for the department within the university and to the greater public, as well as promote a focused vision for the department and its future. The position is divided equally between administrative and teaching duties. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/music.

Political Science

The Department of Political Science invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant professor of political science beginning Fall 2012. 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.

College of Education and Human Services

Dr. Malesa Breeding, Dean

ACU Box 28276, Abilene, Texas 79699-8276

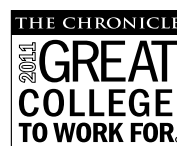
School of Social Work

The ACU School of Social Work invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant/associate professor of social work beginning Fall 2012. Applicants should have an M.S.W. and an earned doctorate in social work or related field. A Ph.D. or related doctoral degree is preferred, but applicants who are ABD will be considered. Responsibilities include teaching social work courses at both the B.S.S.W. and M.S.S.W. levels, pursuing scholarly research, and performing service for the university, profession and community. Applicants should have experience in diverse areas of social work practice, be able to teach across the curriculum, and engage the broader community in which the school partners. Information about the school is available at acu.edu/socialwork.

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.



110324-0512

May 6 WindSong Church of Christ Centennial Celebration. North Little Rock, Ark. Contact windsongchurch.org.

May 16-20 Camp College. Camp Manatawny, Douglassville, Pa. Contact www.manatawny.org/campcollege.htm.

May 17-19 23rd Annual Area-Wide Men's Retreat. "Rise Up." C-N Camp, Augusta, Mont. Contact alfredfamily@hotmail.com.

May 20-26 RoundUp Bible camp for older adults at York College, Neb. Contact york.edu/news/roundup/theme.asp.

May 27 Celebrating the Life and Ministry of Clinton Brazle. Southbrooke church, Tulsa, Okla. Contact 918.747.5798 or southbrooke.org.

June 3-8 "Go! Camp." Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. Contact fhu.edu/go.

June 10-16 "Soul Quest" York College, Neb. Contact york.edu/soulquest/index.asp.

June 22-24 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend. "Solid Foundation, Bright Future." Grandville, Mich., church. Contact 616.534.8884 or grandvillecoc.org.

June 22-24 2012 Midwest Regional Youth Explosion Conference. University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Mo. Contact 816.444.9511.

June 28-July 1 Spiritual Growth Workshop. "Not Ashamed." Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Fla. Contact www.spiritual-growthworkshop.com.

June 29-July 1 Houston-Gulf Coast Women of Wisdom Conference. "Metamorphosis: Emerging, Improving, and Unleashing for God's Purpose." Westin Houston-Memorial City. Contact www.wowc2012.com.

June 29-July 1 National Women in Ministry Conference for the Churches of Christ. Tall Grass Retreat Center - Kansas City area. Contact womeninministrycc.com.

July 8-12 Christian Training Series. Contact fhu.edu.

July 25-29 Global Reunion - Camp for TCKs and Parents. Oklahoma Christian University. Contact www.oc.edu/tck.

July 28 Bible Teacher's Workshop. York College, Neb. Contact york.edu/.

Aug. 4-8 Campaign for Christ. George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston. Contact houstonchurchesofchrist.org.

Sept. 21 Global Leadership Summit. Laurel, Md., church. Contact ofwmissions@gmail.com.

Nov. 3-10 Pan American Lectureship. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Contact lectureship.org or 800.533.7660.

COMPLETE CALENDAR at www.christianchronicle.org

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: John Reese, member of the board of trustees at Harding University, Searcy, Ark.



Randy Goodman, executive-in-residence, Lipscomb University's College of Business, Nashville, Tenn.

Jeffrey A. Dimick, executive vice president at Ohio Valley Univ., Vienna, W.Va.

Dimick

AWARDED: Jeremy

Barrier, the Alexander von

Humboldt Post-doctoral Research Fellowship.

Barrier is Director of Graduate Studies at

Heritage Christian Univ., Florence, Ala. **Margie**

Smith, Madison Academy in Alabama, the

Don Gardner Service Award, **Clint Parnell**,

Goodpasture Christian School in Madison, Tenn.,

the Educator of the Year Award. **Barry Farris**,

Columbia Academy in Tennessee, the Teacher of

the Year Award, **Kevin Starks**, Harding Academy,

Searcy, Ark., Coach of the Year Award, **Robert**

Burton, Madison Academy, The Vaughn D.

Luster Jr. Administrator of the Year Award, all

from the National Christian School Association.

NEW MINISTER: Keith R. Driscoll Sr., Park

Gardens church, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

ANNIVERSARIES: 66th: Bill and Pearl Boyd,

Mariposa, Calif. 60th: Jerry and Dian Beck,

Amarillo, Texas. John and Ruthell Hamil, DeSoto,

Texas. Robert and Carleene Whinery, Dill, Okla.

59th: Eldon and Bonnie Berry, Amarillo, Texas.

BIRTHDAYS: 97th: Mary Frances McHam,

Bryan, Texas. 90th: Wanita White, Lafayette, Ind.

PASSAGES: Leon H. Burton, 81, Dec. 23,



elder, teacher and song

leader for the Honolulu

church and member of the

Honolulu Symphony. **Lady**

Claire Harless, 98, Jan. 29,

Tullahoma, Tenn., minister's

wife and family matriarch.

Roy Dean Merritt, 93, March

21, longtime minister and

church planter in Canada.

Jeanie Marie Payne, 31, April

26, wife, mother of two and

member of the University

church, Conway, Ark. **Curtis**

Edward Ramey, 81, April

8, Fort Worth, Texas, Army

veteran, judge, and minister

who baptized more than 800

during his time preaching and

teaching. **William Allen "Bill"**

Richardson, 80, April 2, minister for more than

50 years and former missionary to Korea.

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EDITORIAL

Thanks to you, faithful readers

We love bringing you inspiring and informative stories about Christians, churches and ministries around the world.

But we also depend on your donations to keep this ministry strong. Without your support, we couldn't reach as many souls and share as many stories from as many parts of the world as we do.

We want to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to each of you for keeping *The Christian Chronicle* healthy and growing. We are thankful for this service to the Lord and to you, and we are grateful for the many ways you encourage us and make this ministry work.

We are determined to inform, inspire and unite Churches of Christ around the globe — not just the places where they seem strongest. In the past year, Bobby Ross Jr. has traveled to Salt Lake City, Jacksonville, N.C., and Marshalltown, Iowa, to share the stories of faithful believers there. Erik Tryggstad has witnessed vibrant ministries and moving stories of faith in Japan, Brazil, Ethiopia and the world's newest nation, South Sudan.

We love what we do, and your warm comments inspire us.

The Christian Chronicle is

Readers' Survey, 2012

(Insight Research, Oklahoma City)

Overall, how satisfied are you with *The Christian Chronicle*?

Very Satisfied: 60 percent
Satisfied: 38 percent
Total: **98 percent**

***The Christian Chronicle* is a quality newspaper.**

Strongly Agree: 48 percent
Agree: 50 percent
Total: **98 percent**

I trust what I read in *The Christian Chronicle*.

Strongly Agree: 39 percent
Agree: 57 percent
Total: **96 percent**

I would strongly recommend *The Christian Chronicle* to a friend.

Strongly Agree: 39 percent
Agree: 50 percent
Total: **89 percent**

***The Christian Chronicle's* appearance is very professional.**

Strongly Agree: 39 percent
Agree: 57 percent
Total: **96 percent**

growing, with slightly more than a quarter-million readers. That's up about 11 percent from a year ago. We're adding subscribers at a time when most newspapers are cutting back.

Each year, we publish and mail 1.4 million newspapers, serve 500,000 visitors to our website, interact with 30,000

mobile users and inspire 250,000 readers of our blog. We seek to reach more readers through our Facebook fan page and our new IgniteFaith.org website.

We strive for efficiency, employing only four full-time and four part-time employees to write stories, place ads and process donations. Our operating costs are about \$1 million per year — most of that for printing, mailing, salaries and postage.

In the coming months, those costs likely will rise.

Advertising sales cover 43 percent of our expenses. The remainder comes directly from tax-deductible donations.

Every three years, we contract with a research company to conduct an impartial study of how our readers perceive the *Chronicle*. This year, 3,500 names were randomly selected from our mailing list. We had a remarkable 9.34 percent return of those surveys.

No less remarkable were the survey's findings, some of which are posted here.

Your continued support is what has kept the *Chronicle* so highly rated and so highly informational. We couldn't do it without you, and we deeply appreciate you.

— **Lynn McMillon**



TO OUR READERS

A new drive for directories

In the past 16 months, the *Chronicle* has added about 12,000 new readers to its mailing list.

We relish each additional person we can reach, and there's always room for more.

With that in mind, we're reinstating our church directory drive that helped us expand our mailing list last year. Add the members of your congregation in bulk. There's no charge, no obligation, and

we promise to keep all names and addresses confidential.

We also extend this offer to church members deployed overseas. Send us their AE or AP addresses and their length of deployment.

Send directories to *The Christian Chronicle*, P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100. For more information, e-mail joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5070.



Our mission: To inform, inspire and unite

www.christianchronicle.org

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The Christian Chronicle welcomes and encourages feedback that promotes thoughtful and respectful discussion. Letters/comments should be 150 words or less and may be edited for length and clarity. Comments to the print or online editions are considered to be letters to the editor and may be published. Please include name, city and state of residence, as well as home congregation.

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A fungus among us: 'Haunted' African tree teaches lessons about our differing views of evil and Satan

The old tree stretches nearly 40 feet into the sky, its huge trunk gripping the earth with thick, gnarled roots.

Its dense foliage merges into the African forest, casting the ground below into shadow.

It is a silent, eerie place for the sounds from the nearby villages are muffled by the tangle of vines and brush.

People told us the old mango tree was haunted, possessed by an evil spirit from the devil himself. Christians in the area said they'd seen smoke come from a hole in the trunk by day and fire burn from within at night. Our interest was piqued, though we were skeptical. Surely this was just schemes of a witch-doctor trying to drum up business.

Our coworker was teaching in the area and went to see the tree firsthand. Sure enough, there was a hole in the trunk about 12 feet up. The bark around the hole was black, as if seared by lightning. Odder still was a large, misshaped growth, grotesque and tumor-like, growing right above the hole.

Though no fire came from the tree, wisps of smoke whirled in the slight breeze and disappeared into the dim light of the branches.

We decided to camp by the tree, just to see the fire ourselves. But before we had a chance to carry out our investigation, tragedy struck the Christian family on whose land the haunted tree stood. Their two little girls had suddenly become ill with malaria, and one had died.

Everyone in the area knew the cause of her death. It wasn't microscopic para-

sitic protozoans transmitted by the bite of anopheles mosquitoes. It was the tree.

Christians from surrounding congregations came to give comfort to the mourning family. Neighbors and extended family wondered fearfully who would be the unfortunate recipient of the next tree-induced tragedy.

Finally, the local Christians decided to put an end to speculation. They bravely gathered around the tree, said a prayer and, while a few nervous villagers watched, knocked

down the growth from the tree. The Christians carefully brought the growth to our house. We discovered it was a fungus — a huge fungus — growing in and around the hole. As the wind blew, thousands of spores were scattered by the breeze — hence the "smoke." At night the fungus caused the decaying timber to emit phosphorescent light called foxfire.

This case of the mysterious tree illustrates the contrast in the worldview of many Africans and our own Western mindset. They saw this haunted tree on a Christian's property as a conflict between forces of good and evil. When the children got sick and one died, it was the devil who was winning.

We, however, saw it as a mango tree (*mangifera indica*) infected with a fungal parasite (*polyporus squamosus*) on the property of a man whose children happened to get cerebral malaria (*plasmodium falciparum*).

Subsequently, when the offending tumor on the tree was knocked down by

Christians and the other child recovered, the villagers believed God had evicted the evil spirit and healed the child.

But we saw it as one less over-sized fungus and a child who was well because she had taken the sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine tablets we had bought her.

We sound so smart. But we're not.

Though many Africans' perceptions of Satan may give them needless fears, their awareness of his work in the world keeps them on guard against him.

We in the West, on the other hand, have reduced Satan to a guy in a funny red suit with a pitchfork, oblivious to the subtle inroads he makes into our lives.

Though many Africans' perceptions of God may give them over to fatalism, their awareness that all good things come from him results in thanking him for every blessing. We, on the other hand, have reduced so many blessings to luck or our own great wisdom, oblivious to the subtle and not-so-subtle providential work God is performing in our lives.

Once again we Western missionaries have been taught by the people we've come to teach. The fungus of our arrogance and self-reliance is exposed. The spiritual battle raging around us can't be comfortably labeled and classified.

Satan is not a wimp, but like a roaring lion is looking for souls to devour (1 Peter 5:8). It's not our educated, logical reasoning that is the source of our strength and blessings — it's a powerful God working daily in our lives.

REBECCA TALLEY and her husband, Tim, are missionaries in Tanga, Tanzania. The Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, supports their work.

Views



Rebecca Talley

LETTERS

Pure hearts needed for high-risk fields

Having served as a missionary in some "troubled lands" (Mindanao in the southern Philippines, Albania), I commend the editors for an editorial which is spot on. ("Should we go willfully into danger?" Page 28, May.)

Informed strategic planning, intercultural competence and flexibility are each indispensable to long-term productivity and persistence in "high-risk" mission fields.

Needed above all that, though, is a heart made pure by God's grace, which can see his presence and providence in all circumstances.

Steve Byrne | Honolulu

Praise for Andrew Hairston's dedication, congregation

An excellent essay on an outstanding Christian leader. (See "Fifty years, one pulpit," Page 3, May.)

Andrew Hairston's talents can be further seen in the new Simpson Street church building, which features a baptistry that sits above the pulpit, on level with the balcony.

Designed by Hairston, the baptismal architecture reveals the importance of the church's doctrine.

David Fleer | Nashville, Tenn.

Having visited the congregation several times, I can say it is the friendliest that I have been to.

Brother Hairston always delivers a fine lesson and makes you feel right at home.

Charles Lovelace | Morrilton, Ark.

VOICES

What inspires you about Leadership Training for Christ?

Asked by managing editor Bobby Ross Jr. of LTC coordinators.



One young man said that he had read the book of Genesis five times before September of last year. That was pretty inspiring to me personally as I dearly believe in the reading of the Word of God.

Rhonda Blythe | Western LTC, San Jose, Calif.



God has used LTC to develop a spirit of cooperation and teamwork among young people that is uniting instead of competitive. At the same time, LTC has helped the spiritual and leadership growth of many adults, thus serving as a tool for intergenerational ministry.

Ron Bruner | Great Plains LTC, Rogers, Ark.



So many of our kids have grown up and are using their skills in all aspects of life. And they have developed the leadership and heart of Christ that they return to the kids in their own congregations.

Angie Flick | Southwest LTC, Phoenix



Watching the kids of all ages stretch themselves to lead is what keeps me going. I stand in some of these events, and I'm just in awe of what they're able to do. ... I still coach a puppet team. Just to watch them excel and be excited about what they can do for the Lord, I get excited.

Rusty Maynard | Midwest LTC, Indianapolis

Brave women share journeys of faith

BY DANIEL MCGRAW | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

God rarely asks easy things of us. He asked Noah to build an ark, Abraham to leave his homeland and journey to an unknown world and Mary to give birth to a child borne of the Spirit.

Our God is the same as Noah's, Abraham's and Mary's. Sometimes obeying him means getting off the path toward the future we had planned, leaving behind the comfort that we have always known.

Two new autobiographies tell the stories of contemporary women who have done just that.

"Kisses from Katie" chronicles the journey of Katie Davis, a young woman who left her life as a Nashville, Tenn., college student to serve the poor and suffering in Uganda. At 22, she has founded and runs a nonprofit ministry that provides food, tutoring, medical services and Bible studies to hundreds of Ugandans daily. Perhaps more indicative of Davis' tender heart, she has become the adoptive mother of 14 Ugandan girls.

A short-term mission trip ignited her passion for the people of Uganda, leading her to postpone college for a year to continue serving.

"I saw myself in those little faces. I looked at them and felt this love that was unimaginable and knew that this is the way God sees me," she writes.

At the end of the year, although she missed the comforts of family and home, she chose to stay in Uganda.

As a missionary in Argentina with roots in Kansas, I understand the pull of home, and I had great admiration for Davis' choice. She compellingly describes her attempt to alleviate the enormous need in a developing country as "trying to drain an ocean with an eyedropper."

Unable to do enough on her own, Davis began to recruit American donors.

This led to the foundation of Amazima Ministries, which administers sponsorship for over 400 families, gives small business micro-loans to Ugandan women, provides health care and hosts Bible studies.

Her touching stories and candid voice can move the reader to tears, and other times to laughter.

Each chapter closes with an excerpt from Davis' diary, where she shares her joys and struggles as she adapts to life in a new culture, deals with homesickness and despair, discovers how to be a parent, and struggles with life, death and poverty.

Davis' faith and dedication are challenging. We are, after all, not called to be comfortable; we are called to be faithful. While she comes across as idealistic in some instances, we cannot doubt her sincerity or the difference she is making.

This book is an inspiring story of living in faith. It would be especially meaningful for youth ministries or small groups.

Half a world away, Chai Ling was born in a small village in communist China.

A young girl born to a family desiring a boy, she drove herself to achieve greatness in every aspect of life, encountering joys and hardships along the way.

"A Heart for Freedom" is the autobiography of Ling, the only female leader during the 1989 student protests at Tiananmen Square.

Following the government shutdown of the protests and massacre of hundreds of students, which Ling narrowly escaped, she made her way to America. In her new life, away from her family, Ling went on to graduate from Princeton and Harvard Business School, intern on Capitol Hill, and lead a successful career in business.

Now a Chinese-American married mother of three girls, Ling created All Girls Allowed in 2010, a ministry that works to end China's one-child policy

and what she calls the "gendercide" of millions of Chinese girls each year.

Her intelligence and drive is apparent throughout her book. Ling provides a firsthand look into the events leading to the protests in Tiananmen Square. All of her life, Ling had a longing for something bigger than herself. She pursued democracy, hoping to find fulfillment.

"I now see that the thirst I had is the longing for freedom placed in our hearts by God," she writes.

Ling is open and forthright as she shares her story. She bares her struggles and self-doubt, sharing the pain of her broken marriage and the abortions she underwent in China.

While Ling's book is an incredible insight into China, it lacks details about the influence of Christ in her life. Indeed, she has been a Christian only for three years, so she is still growing in her faith and knowledge. Ling's faith is

only mentioned in the first and last few pages of the book. She does, however, attribute her current ministry and direction to Christ.

"God used the Tiananmen events to save me and free me ... I see I'm completely helpless unless I trust and rely only on him," she writes.

In addition to being a suspenseful, well-told memoir, Ling's book provides great insight for churches or individuals ministering to Chinese-Americans. It would also be a blessing for those who are considering Chinese adoption, or women who have experienced abortion.

These two women are working in faith to change the world. May these books challenge us to do the same in our communities and circumstances.

DANIEL MCGRAW, a graduate of Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn., works with the Let's Start Talking ministry at the Caballito Church of Christ in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

NEW AND NOTeworthy

MEMOIR

Audra Grace Shelby. **Behind the Veils of Yemen: How an American Woman Risked Her Life, Family, and Faith to Bring Jesus to Muslim Women.**

Grand Rapids, Mich.: Chosen Books, 2011. 238 pages. \$13.99.

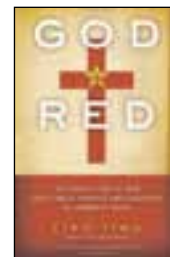


A Baptist missionary in the Middle Eastern nation of Yemen for nine years, the author was able to physically see beyond the veils of Muslim women. This book is both a memoir of a missionary mother and cultural insight for Americans on Muslim women.

CURRENT EVENTS

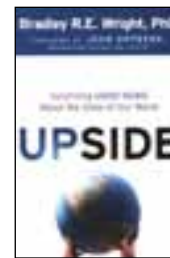
Liao Yiwu. **God is Red: The Secret Story of How Christianity Survived and Flourished in Communist China.** New York:

HarperOne, 2011. 256 pages, \$25.99.



Although China is still predominantly atheist, this book shows how Christianity has become the country's No. 1 formal religion, surpassing both Buddhism and Taoism. Written by a Chinese journalist, author and poet who has been imprisoned, this book transcribes touching interviews with persecuted Chinese Christians.

Bradley R. E. Wright. **Upside: Surprising Good News About the State of Our World.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Bethany House, 2011. 255 pages. \$14.99.



Jihads, civil wars, abortion. Is the world today worse than it's ever been? Wright, a sociologist, surveys research in fields including health, the environment and families. He concludes that individuals have worked hard for social betterment — and have succeeded.



★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Chai Ling. **A Heart for Freedom: The Remarkable Journey of a Young Dissident, Her Daring Escape, and Her Quest to Free China's Daughters.** Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale, 2011. 379 pages, \$22.99.

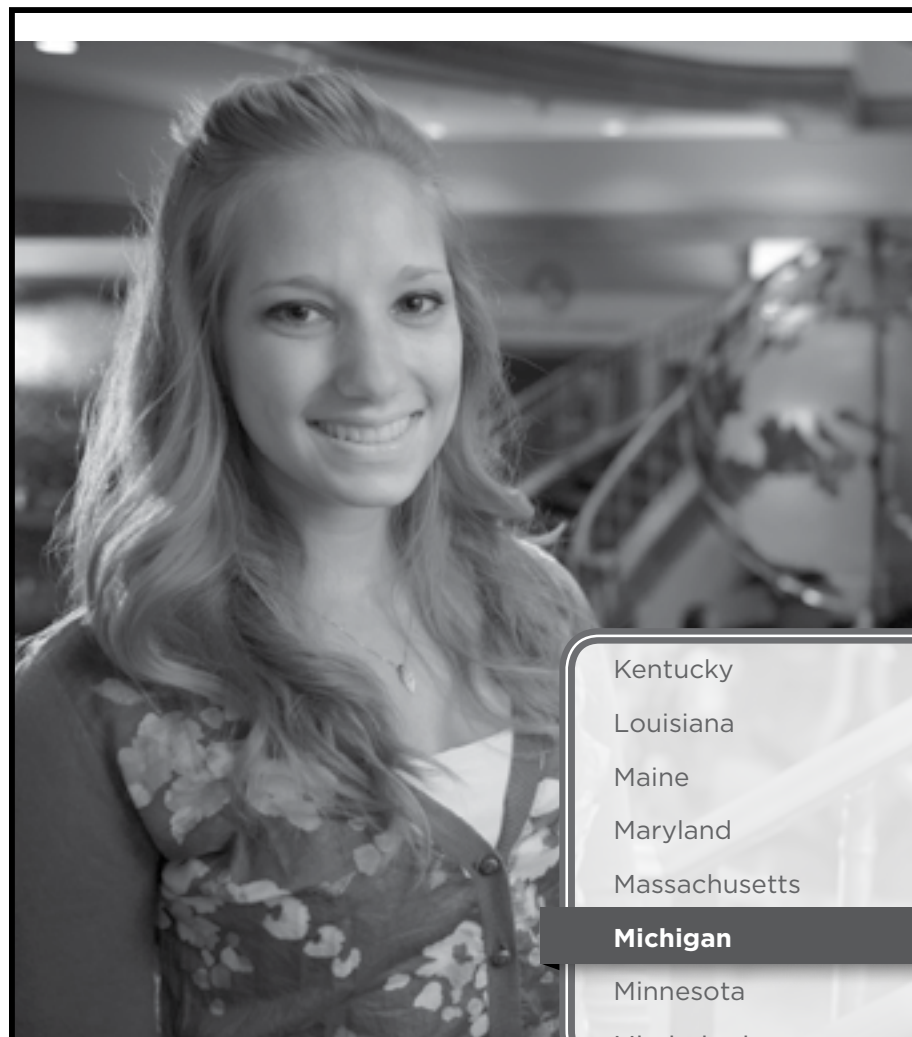
MINISTER NEEDED

Greater Springfield Church of Christ is seeking a full-time pulpit minister/evangelist. Specifically looking for an experienced outreach evangelist. There is a need for a focus in youth ministry in our church of about 75 members. At the present time there are two elders and three deacons in the leadership positions. We are looking for a minister who has the desire to grow with us spiritually and numerically. The Greater Springfield Church of Christ is located in Chicopee, Massachusetts, which borders Springfield. Please send resumes and references to:

Church of Christ
284 Montgomery Street
Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020.
or e-mail questions/resumes to
secretary@gs-churchofchrist.org.
Tapes or CD's of sermons will also
be accepted.

Minister Needed

The Sonora church of Christ is seeking a full-time minister solid in the word and ready to work with our 75-member congregation to preach the Gospel. Interested candidates may submit a resume to the attention of Search Committee. Ed Howard Sr. or Barry Blaylock c/o Sonora Church of Christ, P.O. Box 3111, Sonora, CA 95370 or call Barry Blaylock for more information at (209) 586-8995.



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From 'Fairest Lord Jesus' to 'In Christ Alone,' great hymns enrich our faith

If you are a regular reader of this column, you know how much I love great songs.

I was reminded of this on a recent Sunday evening as our congregation spent most of the hour singing significant and inspiring, meaningful hymns — new and old.

During the service I realized again that religious songs have shaped my spirituality and my theology for a lifetime.

When I was about 2 years old, my mother would rock and sing me to sleep. I don't remember all the songs she sang, but "When He Cometh" which I called for nightly as "bright jewels" made an indelible impression on my thoughts for most of my childhood.

I have never heard the song in church, but I discovered that I could hear many versions of it online. The song is simple, but offers a wonderful image that — even at age 2 — I could understand.

When he cometh, when he cometh, to make up his jewels, his loved and his own. Like the stars of the morning, his bright crown adorning. They shall shine in their beauty, bright gems for his crown.

The last stanza was the prize to me.

Little children, little children, who love their Redeemer, are the jewels, precious jewels, his loved and his own.

The idea of being a jewel in the crown of the Redeemer fascinated me and inspired me to an early attraction to Jesus.

When I was in the eighth grade, I heard the old song "Jesus is All the World to Me." At first I was attracted to the change of key in the middle of the song. But the more I sang it, the more I was attracted to the idea of a lasting friendship. As a child who had moved often, the idea of a friend who was always there meant much.

Jesus is all the world to me: My life, my joy, my all. He is my strength from day to day. Without him I would fall. When I am sad, to him I go. No other one can cheer me so. When I am sad, he makes me glad. He's my friend.

The song continues to describe the way the world receives "sunshine and rain" to produce the "harvest's golden grain." The next stanza includes a simple thought:

Following him I know I'm right. He watches o'er me day and night. Following him by day and night, he's my friend.

My first year in college, I was introduced to the amazing "Fairest Lord Jesus." The song has a series of

Insight



Bailey McBride

wonderful descriptions of the ways Jesus has control over the world. He also is compared to elements of nature and then declared to be greater than those elements of his creation.

The opening stanza has beautiful appeal:

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man

the Son. Thee will I cherish. Thee will I honor, thou my soul's glory, joy and crown.

In such a short statement, so much of the nature of Jesus is drawn out. In the second stanza, the meadows, woodlands, and spring are praised, but Jesus is "fairer," "purer" and "makes the woeful heart to sing."

In the next stanza, the sunshine, moonlight, and starry hosts are adored, and then Jesus shines brighter and purer "than all the angels heaven can boast."

The concluding stanza repeats the "Son of God and Son of Man" concept. He is praised as "Beautiful Savior" and "Lord of all nations" for whom "glory and honor, praise and adoration, now and forever more be thine."

This past fall, I introduced this hymn to a group of college sophomores as part of a poetry unit. To my surprise, not one student had ever heard or sung this song. But most of them came to like the song and its power.

One of my newest sources of inspiration is "In Christ Alone." It is well worth an hour or two of serious meditation, as its gospel message has tremendous appeal to help our connections with our Savior.

Our a cappella fellowship has a wonderful treasure in the elevated language of great hymns. Even many of the new songs are rich with language of praise and adoration. A lifelong love of song has opened my heart to God.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.

Gaining the whole world...



Not every believing student who attends a secular university rather than a Christian college or university loses his or her soul. But many do—some studies show that a majority do. The secular agenda can be very enticing; *remember, education is not neutral*. It's either based on the ideals and teachings of Christ or on the values and opinions of mere men. That's the very reason Christian institutions were founded.

Some have their faith survive and even strengthened while attending secular schools, but frankly, that's the exception today. A few of those universities retain their original moorings, but most are no longer your father's and mother's universities—the philosophy, teaching and environment at these schools have changed dramatically over the past 50 years as traditional Christian values have been crowded out or are now even ridiculed.

Our Christian universities and colleges are excellent in training students for success in today's world—but also for *a life grounded in eternity*. It's time to challenge conventional wisdom.

*Consider Christian higher education,
the true open mindedness.*

Abilene Christian University
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COLOSSIANS 2:9-10



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The Oklahoma Christian University Honors Program invites applications for the 2012 Honors Summer Academy. Come earn academic credit, meet master faculty, make great friends and experience undergraduate life this summer at OC. Full details and applications are located at www.oc.edu/honors/summeracademy.

The cost of the Summer Honors Academy has been underwritten to provide high school students completing their freshman, sophomore or junior year up to two hours of academic credit, plus room and board, for only \$450 per student. For more info, email lisa.carroll@oc.edu or call 405.425.5304. Space is limited!



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A Third Culture Kid (TCK) is someone who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents' culture. Such persons might come from missionary families, corporate families or military families.

With the increasing globalization of the workforce, the population of TCKs on Oklahoma Christian's campus is steadily growing. Third Culture Kids have a unique ability to understand and work with the world's rapidly growing population of migrants and refugees. In helping TCKs navigate the cross-cultural adjustment phase during their college years, we empower them to use their unique perspective and experience to benefit the campus community and beyond.

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