



TEN YEARS LATER: THE LEGACY OF 9/11



ALLEN HAREN

Thousands of flags fly on the Pepperdine University campus in Malibu, Calif., honoring victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Pepperdine — which is associated with Churches of Christ — plans a special memorial service commemorating the nation's fallen heroes. For more information, see www.pepperdine.edu/911-heroes.

Air Force chaplain welcomes the fallen home

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The massive, gray C-17 transport plane landed at Dover Air Force Base on a Tuesday afternoon.

A group of dignitaries, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the secretary of defense and President

Barack Obama, walked onto the tarmac.

Joining the families of fallen soldiers, the group watched in silence as U.S. servicemen transferred flag-draped aluminum cases, one by one, from the plane to a truck that would take them to the Delaware base's mortuary. About 20 minutes later, a second C-17 moved into

position — and the process began again.

"Each one got its salute," said Lt. Col. Dennis Saucier, referring to the remains of 30 American troops killed in the Aug. 6 crash of a Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan. It was the U.S. military's single-largest loss since Operation Enduring Freedom began 10 years ago in the wake

of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Saucier, a member of the Dover Church of Christ, See **CHAPLAIN**, Page 17

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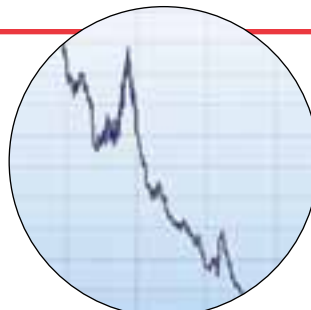
'Small' blessings



Healing Honduras

Clinic serves ministry students and community.

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Age of uncertainty

Unstable global markets show need for 'solid Rock.'

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Family counts its blessings, even after shooting

What kind of guy is Grant Edmonds? “He’s the kind of guy,” Jeff Phillips told me, “who’ll show up and cut your yard, and you’ll not know who it was, and he’ll never tell you.”

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

“He’s the kind of guy,” added Phillips, youth and involvement minister for the Covington Church of Christ, north of Memphis, Tenn., “who, if he saw somebody in need, would help them.”

In a word, he’s a “servant,” said his close friend and brother in Christ.

What kind of guy is Grant Edmonds? He’s the kind who, when a robber shoots him in the belly, covers the wound with his hand and drives himself to the hospital, according to friends, family and a Memphis police report.

Edmonds, the Covington church’s youth ministry deacon, works the second shift at a truck distribution center in Memphis. About 11 p.m. on a recent Tuesday, he exited a highway on his drive home. A car in front of his truck stopped. Another car blocked him from behind.

“A person ran up from the rear car, pointed a gun at him, got into the truck and made him drive off the main road,” his sister Laura Craft said. “He took \$60, rifled through the glove box and shot Grant in the stomach.”

See **SHOOTING**, Page 4



MELISSA K. SMITH

No. 39 car with ACU logo races in NASCAR

Abilene Christian University in Texas sponsored a NASCAR Nationwide Series vehicle when driver Casey Roderick raced in the recent Zippo 200 at Watkins Glen International in New York. Some 40,000 spectators at Watkins Glen and a worldwide audience watching ESPN saw the No. 39 Ford Mustang with an ACU logo and web address on the hood and rear bumper. ACU alumnus Randy Hill, a NASCAR team owner and member of the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, funded the ACU sponsorship.

At some small churches, part-time youth ministers fulfill a calling

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A full-time youth minister?

Not many small Churches of Christ can afford to support one.

Realizing that, Wes Baldwin enrolled in law school at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. As an attorney, he hopes to return to his childhood home of Wyoming and split time between legal work and ministry.

“I would hope to go half and half with the church,” Baldwin said in an interview over cheeseburgers at the 2 Doors Down restaurant in this state capital, best known for its annual Frontier Days rodeo.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A sign along Interstate 25 greets drivers driving north from Colorado.

Nearly 1,000 miles south of Cheyenne, Jessica Knapp works full time as a math professor at a community college in Tucson, Ariz.

But her passion is youth ministry, and she devotes 20-plus hours a week to the teenagers of the 120-member Mountain Avenue Church of Christ.

Many of the teens — products of a free meal program that the Arizona church offered for neighborhood kids years ago — attend church without their parents and

See **YOUTH**, Page 12

INSIDE: Can a youth ministry thrive in a small church? An Oklahoma minister outlines keys for success on Page 35.

Ministries rush to relieve ‘children’s famine’ in Africa

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Milton Jones traveled from one drought-stricken land to another — 8,900 miles away.

Since last June, the longtime minister has served as president of Amarillo, Texas-based Christian Relief Fund, a child sponsorship ministry that assists families in 30 countries, including nations in East Africa that are experiencing the worst drought in decades.

Recently, Jones left his home in Amarillo to check on children sponsored by the ministry in Barwessa, Kenya.

As the plane flew over the forests of Ethiopia, his first thought was, “This doesn’t look as bad as Texas,” he said. Rainfall in Amarillo is at least 11 inches below normal for the year.

But when he arrived in Barwessa, Jones quickly learned the dire nature of the famine gripping the region, known as the Horn of Africa. Water is scarce. What is available is contaminated with cholera.

Now, children in the drought-affected lands face a grim choice — drink and get sick or don’t drink at all.

“In Amarillo, we can get water and get food” despite the drought, Jones said.

“And if we get sick, we can pay \$228 to get pills,” he added, referring to what it cost to treat the case of malaria he picked up during the trip. “They can’t do that in Africa. They die.”

In the past three months, “the children’s famine,” as it’s been called, has claimed the lives of more than 30,000 children under the age of 5, according to news reports. Worst hit is Somalia, a nation that has been without an effective

See **FAMINE**, Page 14



PHOTO PROVIDED

Milton Jones holds a child supported by Christian Relief Fund in Texas.

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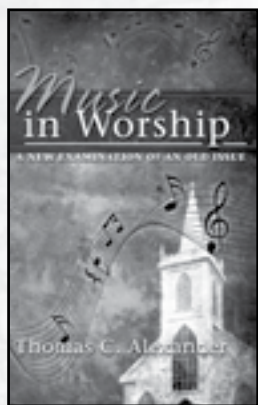
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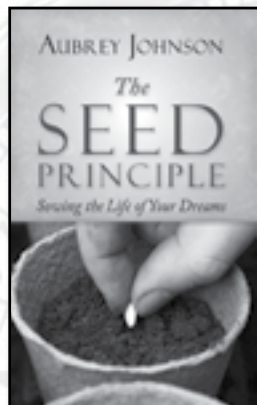
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SHOOTING: Tennessee member survives close call

FROM PAGE 3

No arrests have been made, Memphis police Sgt. Karen Rudolph said.

Despite the late hour, Phillips was on his way to help a friend hang a door when the minister's wife, Jennifer, called and told him something had happened to Grant. Jeff and Jennifer Phillips rushed to the Edmonds family's home. Jennifer stayed with Grant's daughters — Lydia, 12; Abby, 10; and Melea, 8 — while Jeff drove the victim's wife, Crystal, to the hospital.

The bullet perforated Grant's colon and small intestine. Five hours of surgery ensued, followed by a second surgery.

Meanwhile, the waiting room filled up — as countless people touched by a humble Christian servant came to offer prayers and support.

"Dozens of members of the Covington church spent all day Wednesday at The Med," said Susan Edmonds, wife of Grant's brother Jim and a member of the Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tenn.

Earlier, during the Covington church's Wednesday night summer series, Tom Childers from the New Hope Church of Christ in Middleton, Tenn., had talked about the pros and cons of online social networking.

After the shooting, the positive side of all that electronic connectivity became apparent. In an e-mail, Craft described the family's experience:

"We have been able to keep friends and family informed of Grant's problems and progress through e-mails, texts and Facebook. ... When we post something on Facebook, it is transported by so many people to so many places that the number of people praying for Grant, his wife, his

three daughters and our entire family cannot be counted. Our lives have been involved with so many congregations of the Lord's church. To know that prayers are being offered by so many people in so many places shows us the power of our God."

Grant's mother, Faye, died in 2006. His father, Jim, a trustee for Freed-Hardeman

University, remains active with the Covington church. Crystal Edmonds' parents, Joe and Faye Venable, attend the South Jackson Church of Christ in Tennessee.

In a recent Facebook post, Craft shared news of Grant's improvement but noted that he "has got to get to eating!"

Fellow church member Elaine Watkins immediately volunteered to bake Grant "an apple pie that his daddy likes so much."

"Daddy will probably be babysitting him some, so I'm sure they both would like

that!" Craft replied.

Craft knows it might sound strange at a time like this, but she said the family "has been truly blessed" by the outpouring of love and prayers.

When there's nothing you can do but pray, Jeff Phillips said, "you tend to realize that God's working."

"I personally believe that whether you can see it or not, God's working," he added. "But when you do see it and begin to understand the impact that one individual really has, that one family really has, and how much people care, the spiritual impact is phenomenal."

What kind of guy is Grant Edmonds?

He's the kind who can help family and friends see God more clearly, even in the midst of a senseless act of violence.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Grant Edmonds, with wife Crystal and daughters Melea, Lydia and Abby, before the shooting.

CONTACT bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

ARIZONA

KINGMAN — This summer, Dennis Nelson was baptized into Christ at the Kingman Church of Christ — by Dave Johnson.

Johnson himself was converted just a few months ago.

“Dave came out of the waters of baptism running and on fire for Christ and has not looked back,” minister Steve McCall said.

ARKANSAS

SEARCY — Those who walk into the SAME Cafe get a belly-warming meal and soul-warming fellowship.

The cafe, a ministry of the West Side Church of Christ, provides a free meal to anyone who walks through the doors, *Arkansas Online* reported. SAME stands for “So All May Eat.”

Although the church hosts the cafe twice a month, there is no “preaching,” deacon Daniel Dawson told *Arkansas Online*.

“We didn’t want it to be a ‘bait and switch’ sort of deal where we start preaching when they walk in the door,” Dawson said. “We do it like Jesus would do. ... We’re there if someone needs a prayer, and we have literature there. It’s pretty low-key and very laid back.”

CALIFORNIA

REDONDO BEACH — America’s newest congresswoman is a Church of Christ member and alumnus of Abilene Christian University in Texas.

Rep. Janice Hahn, D-Calif., elected in July, becomes the third member of Churches of Christ in the U.S. House.

Hahn is a member of the Redondo Beach Church of Christ. During the recent debate on the nation’s debt ceiling, she took time out on Sunday to drive to church in Arlington, Va. “And that was no easy feat,” her chief of staff, Jason Linde, told Grant Rampy, ACU’s director of public relations.

**Hahn**

Hahn joins Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, a member of the Bammel Church of Christ in Houston, and Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Ky., a member of the Lehman Avenue Church of Christ in Bowling Green, in the House.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, is a member of the University Avenue Church of Christ in Austin.



TABITHA FULTS

Oklahoma church reaches out with Back to School Roundup

Church member Rebekah Hall paints a child’s face during the recent seventh annual Back to School Roundup at the Alameda Church of Christ in Norman, Okla. The church gave out 720 backpacks filled with school supplies, provided haircuts to 53 students and served lunch for about 1,200 people, Alameda deacon John Helton said. “We always have a great response from the community,” Helton said of the outreach effort.

LOUISIANA

HARAHAN — When Eric Dishongh began exploring the history of Churches of Christ in the New Orleans area, he never dreamed it would lead to him writing a book, the *Times-Picayune* reported.

“What started as a curiosity about the Churches of Christ quickly turned into a research project,” said Dishongh, minister of the Harahan Church of Christ. “I realized there was a story here that no one had written or told, and I felt it should be told.” Dishongh’s book, “From Campbell to Katrina: A History of the Churches of Christ in New Orleans,” was published recently by Heritage Press in Florence, Ala.

**Dishongh****MISSISSIPPI**

COLUMBUS — The motto of the 7th Street Church of Christ is “Love God. Love

Each Other. Serve the World.”

In recent months, the missions committee planned a special Missions Giving Day and asked the 300-member congregation to contribute \$100,000.

Instead, the church gave \$150,000 that day and in the months that followed, member Kenny Bush said.

“That amount far exceeds the missions budget in previous years,” Bush said.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK — Lark Mason is an Asian arts expert — and an elder of the Manhattan Church of Christ.

Mason made national headlines for a recent discovery: A man arrived at the Tulsa, Okla., Convention Center with five Chinese carved cups and learned the set, made from rhinoceros horn, was valued at \$1 million, the highest amount in the history of PBS’ “Antiques Roadshow.”

“As each one came out of the box, my jaw started to drop a little more,” appraiser Mason told KTUL-TV in Tulsa.

SPOTLIGHT

50 years of service

MANCHESTER, Conn. — As the Manchester Church of Christ celebrates its 50th anniversary, founding minister Gene Brewer remains active with the congregation.

He and wife Barbara moved to Manchester in 1961 to plant the church, which began with 17 adults and 13 children and has grown to 300 members.

Brewer, 84, served as minister until 1992 and as an elder from 1973 to 2003. “Gene has been a very prominent figure in the Northeast for the last 50 years,” member Mary Brown said. For more information, see www.manchesterchurchofchrist.org.

**Brewer**



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LONNIE DAWKINS

Back-to-school touchdown

Former Washington Redskins safety Clarence Vaughn poses with children who received new backpacks at a back-to-school event hosted by the Beltway Church of Christ in Camp Springs, Md. Vaughn, who won two Super Bowls with the Redskins, was a special guest for the event.

Two Alaska girls critically wounded, other members injured in collision

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — Alaska is a big state but a tight-knit community for members of Churches of Christ.

After a recent head-on collision that left two girls from a Fairbanks congregation critically wounded, that community came together to pray and reach out to the victims.

Brittany Bennett, 16, and her sister, Erika Bennett, 10, whose family attends the Northern Lights Church of Christ in Fairbanks, were taken by medical helicopter to an Anchorage hospital Aug. 7. They remained hospitalized at press time.

A note on the Anchorage Church of Christ website provided details: "While driving home to Fairbanks after a weekend at Midnight Sun Bible Camp, Roxanne Stickel, her two children and the four Bennett children were involved in a serious accident. Everyone was injured after being struck by another vehicle and rolling multiple times down a 30-foot embankment."

The two critically injured girls attended the first two days of the Juneau Church of Christ's Vacation Bible School the previous week and



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KATHRYN CLEMENS

The Bentley children are pictured before the accident. From left to right are Erika, 10; Brianna, 13; Brittany, 16; and Donald, 10.

then flew north that Friday to join their family at the Midnight Sun Bible Camp, north of Anchorage, said Kathryn Clemens, a member of the Juneau congregation along with her husband, Mike.

"The Bennett family has lived and worshiped in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks and are active and loved wherever they are," Clemens said. "The church in Alaska isn't very large so something like this affects us all."

READ UPDATES on the girls' conditions online at erikaandbrittany.blogspot.com.

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AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY — More than 170 Christians from 16 Australian churches and the U.S. attended the five-day Macquarie School of Biblical Studies lecture-ship, hosted by the Macquarie Church of Christ. "The Fingerprints of God!" was the theme. Twenty-one men and women presented lessons.

FRANCE

MARSEILLES — The Pitman Church of Christ in Sewell, N.J., sent a work crew of 40 Christians to southern France.

Along with 15 French and Swiss church members, the team refurbished and made improvements to Centre Bonnefoi, a 37-acre camp and retreat facility purchased in 2002 by five Churches of Christ in France with assistance from U.S. Christians.

The work group focused much of its efforts on an unfinished annex at the camp that will serve as a dormitory for campers and staff, Pitman minister Dan Cooper said. The team roofed, painted, mopped, built walls and fences and hosted daily devotionals.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Church members hoist roofing materials at Centre Bonnefoi.

INDIA

NEW DELHI — Minister R. Sanga received two awards recently from the Friendship Forum of India, an organization that recognizes efforts to foster cooperation and understanding among the people of India.

Sanga oversees Angels' Place, a children's home in



RESENDEZ ALFARO

Youth camp in remote Mexican village yields baptisms

Raymundo Delgado, minister for the Church of Christ in Aquiles, Mexico, baptizes Rosa Isela during the La Sierra Christian Camp. Members of the Edmond Church of Christ in Oklahoma helped organize the camp, now in its third year but could not attend due to violence in northern Mexico. The camp was limited to one session but resulted in four baptisms. Resendez Alfaro, minister for the Church of Christ in Victoria, Mexico, is the camp's Mexico director.

the eastern Indian city of Imphal. He also preaches for the Imphal Central Church of Christ and operates a school of preaching.

**Sanga****PANAMA**

SANSON — A team of Christian doctors, dentists, nurses and medical professionals from the Southwest Church of Christ in Jonesboro, Ark., traveled to this remote city in eastern Panama to work at the Clinic of Hope. The medical facility

shares its property with the Sanson Church of Christ. Alabama-based Panama Missions coordinated the trip.

The team traveled by boat to serve the Embera indigenous people in the community of Las Blancas. They also worked in the Kuna Indian village of Ipeti Kuna, where they treated a two-month old baby suffering from a high fever.

"Everyone on the team dropped what they were doing to focus on saving the life of this child," said Panama Missions director Larry Brady.

Once stabilized, the child was transported to a hospital

in Panama City and received treatment there for eight days.

RUSSIA

ST. PETERSBURG — Why do people with equal levels of education and intellectual abilities respond to the Gospel in different ways? Why do some become believers and others remain atheists?

Those questions were the topic of discussion at "Search," a series of informal discussions hosted by the Neva Church of Christ. Sixteen people — many of them first-time visitors, participated in the discussion, church leaders said.

SPOTLIGHT

11 countries in 11 months

AIKEN, S.C. — Raquel Bagnal is part of a team that will scurry around the globe, much like contestants on the TV show "The Amazing Race."

Instead of competing for money, Bagnal and her teammates will spread the love of Christ.

Bagnal, a member of the Aiken Church of Christ, is participating in The World Race. The year-long mission trip is sponsored by Gainesville, Ga.-based Adventures in Missions, an interdenominational organization (unrelated to the same-named Church of Christ ministry in Lubbock, Texas).

Bagnal, 23, moved to the U.S. from the Philippines at age 7. The race will take her back to her home country, plus China, South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador and Nicaragua.

During the 11-month trip, her six-member team will build schools and homes, minister to victims of genocide and child prostitution and feed the hungry.

"This is what I define as taking a big leap of faith," she told the *Aiken Standard*.

Bagnal said her church helped raise funds for the trip and has overwhelmed her with support.

"I appreciate the Aiken Church of Christ. It's such an amazing community that has helped me in so many ways," Bagnal said. "I'm just very blessed to have this church."

FOLLOW BAGNAL'S TRIP at raquelbagnal.theworldrace.org

**Bagnal**



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(From Dr. Leonard Goldberg in *The Bible and Strong Drink* by Howard Winters, page 31)

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ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Dr. Nohelia Ynestroza, a dentist, stands in the dental room at the JMA Clinic in Honduras.

Honduras clinic treats patients' physical, spiritual needs – and teaches them to sew

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Stethoscopes and sewing machines share space at the James Moody Adams, or JMA, Clinic in this Central American capital.

The faith-based clinic recently launched an initiative to help Hondurans escape the cycle of poverty. In addition to providing low-cost medical and dental care, the clinic sponsors a nutrition program.

When Honduran social services identify mothers and children in need, the clinic provides food for the families. The recipients are required to attend classes here and learn a skill. Hairdressing and sewing are among their choices.

Learning a marketable trade allows mothers to earn income they can use to feed their children without relying on benevolence programs, said Dr. Xiomara Erazo, the clinic's supervisor of operations and a member of the La Vega Church of Christ.

The clinic is located next to the campus of Baxter Institute, a ministry training facility in Tegucigalpa. Launched in 1984, the clinic offers medical and dental care for Baxter's students, staff and their families and also treats people



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Students from the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine work at the clinic.

from the nearby community.

Third-year medical students from the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine spend a month at the clinic through a partnership between the clinic and the in Blacksburg, Va., medical school.

Patients line up before 6 a.m. to receive treatment, Erazo said. Every morning, the patients and medical staff participate in a devotional and hear a message from the Bible.

"I think it's important," Erazo said. "A big part of the patients' health problems have to do with spiritual needs. ... Being able to receive a word of hope helps them a lot."

VOLUNTEER DENTISTS AND HYGIENISTS are needed to work at the JMA Clinic. For more information, contact the clinic through the website www.baxterinstitute.edu.



Erazo



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Dr. Charles Mattis, Dean

ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-9210

Engineering

ACU seeks an experienced engineer to develop an engineering program. This new position will work closely with the ACU Department of Physics, which currently offers an engineering physics degree. The department unanimously supports this venture and encourages the inclusion of the department's internationally recognized research groups into the engineering program. The faculty member will have the opportunity to use his or her experience, drive, connections and tenacity to develop a world-class engineering program. The ideal candidate will have experience with the ABET accreditation process and proven leadership skills to ensure a successful accreditation process. Rank will be commensurate with experience. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/physics.

Foreign Languages

The Department of Foreign Languages invites applications for a tenure-track position. The ideal applicant will hold a terminal degree in Spanish or linguistics. The primary need is for teaching linguistics applied to elementary and intermediate language levels. Innovative opportunities exist for leadership in language pedagogy and within the Dialektos language program. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/cas.

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 2011). 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, a Peace and Social Justice minor. It hosts the Jack Pope Fellows Program, and is actively engaged in ACU's new interdisciplinary Core courses. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/politicalscience.

Sociology

The Department of Sociology and Family Studies invites applications for a tenure-track position in sociology or a closely related field (e.g., criminal justice). Applicants at all levels of instructional rank will be considered; a terminal degree or ABD status is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching general undergraduate sociology courses, pursuing scholarly research, and performing service for the department and the university community. The successful applicant will demonstrate an ability to work in collaborative, collegial

relationships in a multi-discipline department. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/sociology.

College of Biblical Studies

Dr. Jack Reese, Dean

ACU Box 29400, Abilene, Texas 79699-9400

Marriage and Family Therapy

The Department of Marriage and Family Therapy invites applications and nominations in writing for a tenure-track position beginning Fall 2012. The MFT program at ACU has held continuous COAMFTE-accreditation since 1983. The candidate will be expected to teach courses relative to the modern theories of family therapy, family life cycle and human development, testing and assessment, and DSM-IV-TR diagnosis. In addition, the candidate will be expected to supervise graduate interns, mentor student research, and accept departmental, college and university committee assignments. The candidate should possess a well-defined program of research as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications and presentations. The candidate should also demonstrate competence in the integration of theological and spiritual issues with therapy. The candidate must hold the Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy or a closely related mental health discipline, exhibit competence as a classroom teacher, demonstrate eligibility for licensure as an LMFT in the State of Texas, and hold Clinical Membership and Approved Supervisor status or be a supervisor-in-training with the AAMFT. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/mft.

College of Business Administration

Dr. Rick Lytle, Dean

ACU Box 29303, Abilene, Texas 79699-9303

Accounting and Finance

The Department of Accounting and Finance also invites applications for a tenure-track position in finance. A terminal degree or ABD status is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching finance courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, pursuing scholarly research, and performing service for the department and the university community. Teaching excellence is required, as well as an aptitude for research and publication. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/coba.

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. 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.

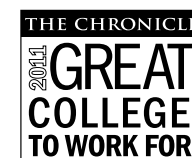
Communication Sciences and Disorders

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders invites applications for a non-tenure track clinical instructor and director for the Center for Speech and Language Disorders at ACU for Fall 2012. This is a 12-month contract position. The master's program in speech-language pathology at ACU is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Applicants must have a minimum of a master's degree in speech-language pathology, hold a current ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP), hold a current Texas SLP license (or be eligible for a license), and have a minimum of five years of professional clinical experience, including three years of supervisory experience. Responsibilities include the supervision of students enrolled in clinical practicum and for providing instruction in diagnosis and remediation of communication disorders. Essential duties include but are not limited to teaching graduate and undergraduate students, administering the daily activities of the clinic including record keeping, billing, scheduling and maintaining equipment and supplies; serving as the professional team member responsible for the evaluation of clients and in the development and implementation of treatment plans; developing and maintaining professional contacts for off-campus student clinical placements; and overseeing/advising supervisors for students in off-campus clinical placements. This person should be well equipped to serve as a liaison between community partners, departmental faculty, students, and clients. Information about the department can be found at acu.edu/cehs.

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.



YOUTH: Blessings seen in small-church ministry



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Dylan Hord holds a sign along U.S. Highway 30 in Cheyenne, Wyo., as the church youth group washes cars to raise money for a mission trip to help tornado-ravaged Joplin, Mo.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Teenagers with the Cheyenne Church of Christ youth group wash a car. The effort raised money to help the group travel to Joplin, Mo., and help tornado victims.

FROM PAGE 3

live in unimaginable circumstances, Knapp said.

“Sometimes, our members do not understand why one of my teens might think it is OK to serve communion in a white T-shirt,” said Knapp, a graduate of Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. “I have to remind them that this teen came with the nicest, cleanest shirt he owns to serve at the Lord’s Table.”

Way up in Maine, Shelly Kellis serves in an unpaid youth ministry role with the 50-member Greater Portland Church of Christ. Over the last 10 years, Kellis has helped coordinate areawide events for teens throughout New England.

This past February, she organized a 17-hour drive by 31 teens and 10 chaperones from three states to the Winterfest youth rally in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

“Our congregations are so small and so spread apart here that gathering teens to worship God and encouraging one another is really a lifeline,” Kellis said. “Often, teens will travel for a few hours just to see one another for a weekend.”

FOCUSING ON RELATIONSHIPS, NOT NUMBERS

After graduating from Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., with a double major in Bible and communications in 2008, Baldwin worked as an

intern with a law firm in Bozeman, Mont. When the 150-member Cheyenne Church of Christ invited him to speak at a youth rally, preacher Mike Schneider asked about Baldwin’s potential interest in serving as youth minister.

In summer 2009, Baldwin moved to Cheyenne to work with the youth group — with the congregation paying him what they could and individual members housing him for a few months at a time.

Before leaving for law school in fall 2010, Baldwin spent 14 months working with the teens. He returned to help part-time youth minister Jordan Dean this summer.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

The Cheyenne Church of Christ sign makes it difficult to miss the church building just off U.S. Highway 30 in Wyoming.

At first, some older members failed to understand the importance of ministering to teens, Baldwin said. But support grew as the congregation saw the results.

“A lot had never been in a church with a youth minister or even where there was a somewhat-active youth group,” Baldwin said. “They didn’t understand why we met all the time and why I made such a big deal out of pushing the older people of the congregation to encourage the younger ones and to try to have a relationship with them.”

Others put too big an emphasis on numbers, he said. The Cheyenne youth group started with four to six regulars and grew to 15 to 20 participants.

“The blessing is that when people finally started realizing it wasn’t about numbers, the small group that was coming to everything started to really connect and unite,” Baldwin said. “These kids became like family to me, and I got to see them grow so much, not just spiritually, but as overall human beings.”

At the Mountain Avenue church, Sunday morning class draws five to eight regulars, while 12 to 15 teens show up for activities and devotionals, Knapp said.

“One of the blessings of a small congregation is that I can spend time with just a few kids and really develop relationships with them,” she said. “I can go to their

marching band performances, choir concerts, football games, school plays, etc.”

The Greater Portland church is down to one teen, Kellis said.

“With such small numbers ... it’s a challenge to cultivate hope,” she acknowledged. “Yet, this is where I find such blessings as well, for it’s an authentic faith that is deep and grounded that causes (young people) to desire to connect with one another.”

TEENS AND CHRISTIAN BONDING

On a recent Wednesday night, teens conducted the midweek assembly at the Cheyenne church — leading sing-



BRADY ROSS

Nichole Corbin, 17, and Zach Smith, 18, spend time at Dairy Queen after a Wednesday night assembly where Smith led singing.



BRADY ROSS

Youth group members pose for a group photo at the local Dairy Queen. Wes Baldwin is in the striped polo shirt. Elder Scott Smith, whose face is partially hidden, can be seen in the back.

ing, praying and presenting the lesson.

Then they enjoyed ice cream and milkshakes at Dairy Queen.

Bright and early the next morning, the young people returned to the church building to wash cars and raise money for a mission trip to help tornado-ravaged Joplin, Mo.

At Wyoming Bible Camp in Lander, Baldwin announced that the Cheyenne group planned to be active in traveling to youth rallies, work camps and other events. He invited teens from churches without youth ministers to join them.

Michelle Mitchell, a member of the Gillette Church of Christ, began driving her children and other church teens five hours each way to catch up with the Cheyenne group.

“I wanted them to be able to go to any and all church things they possibly could,” said Mitchell, a mother of six children ages 12 to 20. “It’s so neat because now they have friends from all over.”

Teens are drawn to Baldwin, she said.

“You can just tell the Lord lives in him,” she added. “I think we all think he belongs in ministry. We would like for him to come back to Wyoming.”

Before Baldwin — and later Dean — started working with the teens, the youth group never really connected,

said Jordan Williams, 18.

“We just had some people from the congregation helping out every once in a while, trying to put on little devos at someone’s house,” Williams said. “But we never really bonded until we got Wes two years ago. It just completely changed, and we actually had a group.”

The high school football player added: “It’s just great to have someone there to actually talk to you about things one-on-one. Before we had a youth minister at all, you couldn’t talk to anyone about anything, any questions you have. It’s just been a lot of help.”

Damon Huston, 18, joined the group reluctantly. As Baldwin remembers, Huston traveled with the Cheyenne teens to the Wichita Work Camp in Kansas because his mother made him.

But the experience of working with other teens to paint houses, pick up trash and remove graffiti changed Huston.

“He came back, and he was on fire,” Baldwin said.

Said Huston: “It was just amazing to see everyone working together. It’s like you’ve known them forever.”

Soon after returning home, Huston asked to be baptized.

READ EXPANDED INTERVIEWS with small-church youth ministers at www.christianchronicle.org.

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To learn more and review the complete position description, visit hr.lipscomb.edu>Work For Us>Faculty Openings. We look forward to hearing what you’re doing now and what you’d like to do here.

Lipscomb University is a faith-based institution. The qualified applicant should be an active member of the Church of Christ. Lipscomb University complies with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws and does not engage in prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability in the administration of its employment practices.

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Seeing • Devin Swindle

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Walking • Dr. Chris Smith

Tuesday, 11 a.m., Administration Auditorium

Warning • Jacob Hawk

Tuesday, 7 p.m., Benson Auditorium

Obeying • Dr. Spencer Furby

Wednesday, 11 a.m., Administration Auditorium

Loving • Dr. Kevin Youngblood

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Benson Auditorium

Knowing • Dr. Alan Martin

Monday, 4:30 p.m., Celebration of Ministry dinner

Dr. Jesse Trice

FAMINE: Changing a 'culture of dependence'

FROM PAGE 3

central government since 1991.

Thousands of Somalis have fled their warlord-controlled homeland for refugee camps along the border, including in Dadaab, Kenya.

Representatives of Christian Relief Fund traveled to the Dadaab camp recently to distribute food and water.

"We have very bad scenario of poor, sick and hungry people," Francis Bii, a Kenyan Christian, said in an e-mail from Dadaab. Men, women and children walk for days from Somalia to reach the camp. Mothers carry their infants on their backs, and "we find that some children have died on the backs of their mothers a long time ago — without the mothers noticing because of hunger," Bii said.

As Christians distribute aid in the camp, other churches and ministries are rushing relief to the Horn of Africa.

• John Kachelman, minister for the Judsonia Church of Christ in Arkansas, is preparing two containers for northern Somalia, filled with 40,000-plus pounds of rice, hygiene kits, shoes and clothing. The containers will be distributed in a refugee camp in Garowe, in the Somali region known as Puntland.

"While the tragedies of earthly life are horrible, the beauty of the Lord's compassion demonstrated by his church is inexplicably wonderful," Kachelman said.

• At press time, Brad Gautney and Brian Wallace were en route to the Dadaab camp "to assess how we can best assist the people being most affected," Gautney said. The two men are part of Global Health Innovations, a nonprofit and sister ministry of Manna Global Ministries, which serves the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

• Global Samaritan Resources is supporting Global Health Innovations' trip to Kenya. Abilene, Texas-based Global

Samaritan also is channeling funds through Christian Relief Fund and plans to provide a shipment of food for famine victims.

• Churches of Christ in Mombasa, on Kenya's eastern coast, have received requests for aid from congregations they planted to the northwest, in Kenya's Kitui district. Ministers Moses Gitau, Julius Mwambu and Michael Mutai are working with U.S. churches to provide famine relief.

"We expect these needs to grow until there can be another crop season if the October rains are adequate," said Ken Beckloff, a former missionary to Kenya.

• Healing Hands International also is collecting funds to help drought victims. Christians are mobilizing along the Kenya/Somalia border to help those in greatest need, said marketing director Alisa Van Dyke.

"As we meet the immediate needs ... we must not forget the urgency of empowering Africans to reverse the trends that have caused this crisis to develop," Van Dyke said.

Since 2009, the Nashville, Tenn.-based ministry has partnered with the Nairobi Great Commission School, — and its supporting churches in the U.S. — to host food secu-

rity and food preservation workshops, teaching Christians how to grow crops and store them in times of drought.

Working with sister ministries, including Christian Relief Fund, Healing Hands plans to identify additional students to be trained in drip irrigation and community gardening.

"We are feeding people who are starving now," Van Dyke said, "but Healing Hands is committed to changing the culture of dependence in hopes that a famine like this will never again claim the lives of thousands of precious children."

TO CONTRIBUTE to famine relief, see a list of ministries accepting funds at www.christianchronicle.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED

A girl in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya holds food and water provided by workers with Christian Relief Fund.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH: African Christian College, Swaziland,

seeks applicants and recommendations of potential candidates for positions on its faculty, staff, administration and board as it pursues the **self-sufficiency** and **accreditation** crucial to its goal of **equipping leaders for Africa** with bachelor's degrees in theology, leadership and counseling. For accreditation, the college must identify trustees, administrators and faculty of African birth or citizenship in addition to American or European faculty who may be partially self-supporting or willing to help raise funds for travel and living expenses. Couples with professional credentials are especially desired.

Faculty will have comfortable housing on ACC's beautiful 200-acre Swaziland campus with good water and infrastructure. Swaziland is safe, comfortable and has no malaria in the districts surrounding the campus.

LEADERSHIP

Administration and trustees

Administration, organizational and business functions: Master's degree preferred; business, academic or other administrative experience required; book-keeping, IT, project management and other leadership skills a plus.

Academics: Master's degree required; doctorate preferred. Must have skills to lead the college in the accreditation process; oversee faculty searches; work, motivate and maintain collegiality; assess and develop the academic programs of the college.

Trustees: Proven leaders in business, academia, government and social services, and professionals of African, American or European origin, with networking base within Churches of Christ, skills in fundraising or willingness to learn, and a cultural knowledge of Africa are sought to become trustees. The board needs one or more trustees who can travel to Swaziland once or twice a year for extended visits. Experience in higher education governance or administration strongly preferred. Board members of African birth or citizenship should be able to travel to U.S. for board meetings or participate via video conference.

In a letter to the search committee, applicants should address their qualifications including personal, biographical and experiential details. Applications must include undergraduate and graduate transcripts and three references with contact information. To recommend an applicant, provide as much of the required information as possible including contact details.

SUBMISSIONS? If you or someone you know has a heart for Africa, submit application or recommendation materials to:

Dr. Colleen Durrington, chair, Search Committee
African Christian College Board of Trustees
 1814 Pemelton Drive, Abilene, TX 79601
 Or send to durringtonc@acu.edu



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FACULTY

Full- and part-time faculty needed in many fields

For all faculty positions, a master's degree is required; doctorate or terminal degree preferred. The college seeks full-time residential faculty and part-time faculty who can teach a semester, a single nine-week module, or a two-week intensive course in these fields:

Theology: Degree in Old Testament, New Testament, practical ministry or related field.

Leadership: Degree in business, education, human resources, communication or related field.

Counseling: Degree in psychology, marriage and family therapy, or other counseling field.

Humanities and General Education: Degree in literature, history, science, mathematics or other areas of general education.

Candidates for all positions must exhibit exemplary behavior and Christ-like attitudes, be culturally sensitive, have good spoken and written English skills, and be good students of the scriptures. Men and women of all ages will be considered.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Agricultural specialist: Row-crop experience preferred with some knowledge of animal husbandry to serve as director of Project S.E.E.D, a college-sponsored benevolent program helping the poor become more self-sufficient in food production; teach and mentor small-plot farmers in effective agriculture practices; manage campus farm; operate a certified maize seed production program.

Nurse: RN or BSN required; MSN preferred. Will help maintain health of students and families; assist with Project S.E.E.D to promote community health practices. Must have compassion for the poor, especially AIDS widows and grandmothers struggling to care for orphans. May have opportunity to teach college course "Introduction to Personal and Community Health and Hygiene."

Support staff: Christians whose passion for grass-roots evangelism and Christian higher education are sought to train Christian leaders for many walks of life. Many other roles are essential to the functioning of a college campus. If you are called to this ministry but your qualifications aren't an exact match to those listed here, we still want to hear from you.

INFORMATION? If you would like to receive more information about the college, please contact:

Dr. Ira Hill
Chairman of the Board
African Christian College
irahill@sbcglobal.net

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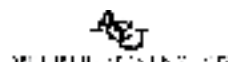
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CHAPLAIN: 'We are seeing families facing the darkest periods of their lives'

FROM PAGE 1

is senior staff chaplain of the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operation. He and his staff of eight chaplains provide spiritual support for the mortuary's military and civilian personnel, tasked with identifying the remains of soldiers killed in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the globe.

The Dignified Transfer is a key focus of Saucier's work. Chaplains offer prayers during the ceremony, thanking God for the soldiers' hearts of service, asking the Almighty to help Americans live lives worthy of each one's sacrifice.

The chaplains also minister to the families who watch as their sons and daughters are returned to American soil.

"We are seeing families facing the darkest periods of their lives," Saucier said. Military families understand that their loved one agreed to step knowingly into harm's way, "and this is where their worst fears are realized."

Some are angry. They want answers about why their child, husband or sibling died. In the Chinook crash, some asked why so many servicemen were loaded onto a single helicopter.

The chaplains can't answer those questions, Saucier said. They can only listen to the families, pray with them and try to offer the kind of peace described in Psalm 23:

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.



Saucier

"We are the rod and staff that God uses to help these families through this very brief — but very intense — time," Saucier said. "We hope that, by being there with them, they are made aware of God's presence, that God is very real and cares about them."

TAUGHT IN TURKEY, BAPTIZED IN GREECE

Saucier, 57, had just gone on leave when the Chinook crashed. He returned to Dover for about a week before resuming his vacation with his wife, Diane, in Connecticut, their home state.

The chaplain grew up Catholic but said neither he nor his wife was a churchgoer when they married in 1973, just before he enlisted in the Air Force as a radio operator.

The Sauciers soon found themselves



ROLAND BALIK, U.S. AIR FORCE

A U.S. Navy "carry team" transports the remains of a fallen Naval officer during a Dignified Transfer ceremony at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

in Turkey at the Karamursel Air Station. Life on the base was lonely, Diane Saucier said, but their neighbors were friendly and invited them to a picnic hosted by the Church of Christ.

Two church members came from the U.S. to the base to study Scripture with anyone interested. They were part of an infant ministry called American Military Evangelizing Nations, or AMEN. Diane Saucier was impressed with their "common-sense approach" to the Bible.

Her husband, however, asked them to leave his house.

Don Yelton, the director of AMEN and a 26-year Air Force veteran, said that more than 20 people were baptized during the Turkey campaign.

Diane Saucier was one of them.

When she told her husband, "he said, 'That's nice, but you better leave me alone,'" she recalled. "I knew if God wanted him to be a Christian, then that was God's job to take care of. It's just my job to be an example."

Six months later, while stationed in Greece, Dennis Saucier was baptized in the Aegean Sea.

"He said the thing that convinced him the most was the change in my life," his wife said.

A UNIFORM WITH A CROSS

As his tour ended, church members recruited Dennis Saucier to leave the Air Force and train for ministry at the

White's Ferry Road School of Biblical Studies in West Monroe, La.

He graduated from the program in 1980 and became interested in military chaplaincy — a chance to combine his love of the Bible and the military. He earned a master of divinity degree at Abilene Christian University in Texas and spent about six years in the Air Force Reserve.

In 1994, he once again donned the uniform of an airman — this one bearing a cross. He now serves as one of 40 active-duty military chaplains, designated by Churches of Christ to minister to soldiers on and off the battlefield — overseeing worship, offering baptismal services and counseling.

In 17 years, Dennis Saucier has served on bases in New York, Georgia, Massachusetts and South Korea. Before his two-year assignment at Dover, he was senior chaplain at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

He and his wife raised two sons. One is a former rescue swimmer for the Navy. The other served two tours in Iraq with the U.S. Army.

"Both of us were at the same base in Kuwait ... in the desert for two weeks," Dennis Saucier said. "It was kind of surreal."

FINDING STRENGTH TO COPE

In Dover, Dennis Saucier occasionally preaches for the 60-member Church of Christ. Recently, he spoke about the

Kingdom of God — how Christians are called to care for their world and fellow humans. Jonathan White, the church's minister, said it's a sermon he sees the chaplain living out in his career.

"I really respect what he does, serving the families of all these fallen soldiers," White said. "I just can't imagine dealing with that on a daily basis."

Since the chaplain began his job at Dover Air Force Base 14 months ago, the remains of more than 600 men and women have come through the mortuary. Some are military stationed overseas who die of natural causes or in accidents. A few are civilians who are afforded special honors by the U.S. government. Most are casualties of the 10-year-old war on terror.

Chaplains must be ready to perform the Dignified Transfer at any hour — day or night. Dennis Saucier and his staff also do their best to support the mortuary staffers who prepare fallen soldiers for burial.

"When you look at human remains and see the effects of combat, it's unlike anything you've seen," he said. He went through a period when he could barely look at a teenager, thinking of the thousands of young men and women who have lost their lives in the past decade.

To cope, he tells himself that what he's seeing is an empty shell. The spirit is gone. He focuses on the eighth chapter of Romans, which teaches that worldly suffering is only temporary and pales in comparison to the glory to come.

"My wife is critical," he added. "I could never do what I do without her support."

Diane Saucier said that their church family also plays a vital role in their lives.

"I know if I had anything I needed, they would be there right away, warm and loving," she said.

Reflecting on the decade that has passed since 9/11, Dennis Saucier said that the sacrifice made by his fellow soldiers, and his own meditations on Scripture, have convinced him that Christians have a duty to make a difference — for good — in lives around the globe. He laments that the church sometimes "refuses to see its role."

He also prays for peace.

"I don't want to do another 10 years of this," he said. "Every one of us at the mortuary would be happy to go out of business tomorrow."

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The war at home

TO A NORTH CAROLINA congregation, the troops fighting terror abroad are heroes — but so are the families left behind.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

On a Sunday afternoon, the high-pitched chatter of boys and girls playing fills the home of Marine Staff Sgt. Ahmal Coles and his wife, Whitney.

In the living room, the children's parents and other grownups share Christian fellowship and sing hymns such as "Worthy is the Lamb" and "I Will Call Upon the Lord."

This weekly small-group meeting brings together military families from the Roosevelt Drive Church of Christ, a 200-member congregation in nearby Jacksonville, N.C., just outside the main gates of this massive Marine Corps base.

The casual gathering — with homemade cookies and iced tea — takes a serious turn when the time comes for prayer requests.

"I would say I'm probably wound up a little tight right now," said Marine Staff Sgt. Tim Harrison, a Roosevelt Drive member since 2008. "I've got a lot of stress because I'm about to leave."

In about a month, the baby-faced Harrison will kiss the pretty young woman in the breezy red dress — his wife, Lindsay — goodbye and fly off

to war. Again.

The 26-year-old father of two already has served two tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. He missed the birth of his son, Declan, now 6 years old. He wasn't home to celebrate his daughter Elleanna's first three birthdays — and he'll be away again when she turns 4.

An explosive ordinance disposal technician — a duty as dangerous as it sounds — he'll begin another seven-month deployment to

Afghanistan in October.

Two colleagues with the same task died in recent weeks. Two others lost legs.

"Really, for our EOD (explosive ordinance disposal) community, it's been a devastatingly hard month," said Lindsay Harrison, Tim's high school sweetheart from their days with the MacArthur Park

Church of Christ in San Antonio.

"And then on top of that," she added, "there's the stress in knowing that Tim's going right where these people are being killed up in northern Afghanistan."

It's an assignment that Tim — a high school sophomore when the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks propelled the nation into war 10 years ago — chose.

CONTINUED

TEN YEARS LATER: THE LEGACY OF 9/11



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LINDSAY HARRISON

Tim and Lindsay Harrison, with son Declan and daughter Elleanna, before Tim's promotion to staff sergeant.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Whitney Coles, with her 16-month-old son, Gideon, contemplates her husband's impending deployment to Afghanistan. Marine Staff Sgt. Ahmal Coles is a maintenance supply chief.



A Marine provides cover fire during an urban training course at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The course covers tactics such as proper room-clearing procedures, maintaining control of a building after clearing it and patrolling techniques in a counterinsurgency environment.

LANCE CPL. JOSHUA J. HINES, U.S. MARINE CORPS

‘This church is our family here,’ wife says



PFC. PHILLIP R. CLARK, U.S. MARINE CORPS

Marines swim in the ocean to wash off the sweat and dirt after physical training during a tactical small unit leadership course, or “Warrior Academy,” at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

CONTINUED
“I was very upset about what happened,” he said. “I wanted to go do something.”

All around the room, the Christians gathered at the Coles’ home can identify with the Harrisons’ mix of duty and dread.

Seated on the couch, there’s Marine Lance Cpl. Patrick Goolsby, 25, who grew up in the Eastman Church of Christ in Georgia.

Just a few months ago, Goolsby and another Roosevelt Drive member helped establish a congregation at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan.

In the desert, the worship is the same, Goolsby said. Except for dust blowing in your face as you praise God.

“All Marines can vouch that, starting from boot camp, you need that spiritual assistance to keep your mind sane,” he said. “And a lot of guys like us, who grew up in the church, that’s where we seek to go decompress with our brothers and sisters.”

By the front door is 2nd Lt. Jordan Reid, who is single and training for his first deployment to Afghanistan.

His motorcycle helmet on the floor, the Texas A&M University graduate leads singing, choosing some of the same songs he enjoyed as a counselor at Camp Deer Run in Texas.

In the kitchen, there’s Whitney Coles, 24, who’s hosting the small-group meeting.

Her husband, 28, is a maintenance supply chief who served a previous tour in Iraq. He’s scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in September — his first combat assignment since the birth of the couple’s 16-month-old son, Gideon.

As his mother talks, the toddler thumbs through a picture book titled “Over There.”

“My daddy is away,” says a page with a drawing of a girl swinging. “And I miss him.”

When terrorists hijacked airplanes and crashed into the World Trade Center, Whitney Coles was a high school freshman.

“I never thought that I would be married to a Marine who would be getting ready to go to his second tour, to his second country, because of the effects of 9/11,” she said. “I never thought that I would be sitting here, helping him get all his stuff together for deployment — all of his uniforms, his gear — and even getting ready to send him care packages.”

She’d prefer her husband stay home where he’s safe.

But she knows that’s not possible.

“I know that, yeah, there’s a possibility that anybody that deploys may not come home,” she said. “I don’t want to have to deal with that. But I have a faith, and I have a (church) family, that can help keep me secure and keep me positive.”



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Minister Ron Edwards welcomes children up front during a Sunday assembly.

While anxious about her husband leaving, Coles expects to draw strength from other wives in the church.

“They’ve been there, and they can help me through it,” she said.

‘DEPLOY, DEPLOY, DEPLOY’

A decade of war has taken its toll. More than 6,100 U.S. military members have died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The fight against terror has touched the Roosevelt Drive church in ways large and small.

“I’ve seen a huge, huge change from the way the military was prior to 9/11,” said Navy Cmdr. Allan Ross, an audiologist and Roosevelt Drive member who recently left for a new assignment in Italy. “The norm now is just deploy, deploy, deploy,” said Ross, an Abilene Christian University graduate who met his wife, Maki, while stationed in Japan. “Prior to 9/11, guys were fighting to deploy because they hardly ever got to go.”



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A handpainted sign hangs outside a home at Camp Lejeune, N.C., the largest Marine Corps base on the East Coast.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Marine Staff Sgt. Tim Harrison hugs Navy Cmdr. Allan Ross — his brother in Christ — on Ross’ last Sunday before deploying to a new assignment in Naples, Italy.

The Roosevelt Drive church, started in 1952 by Marines and sailors, is split about 50-50 between the military and civilians.

“We currently have 20 Marines and sailors serving in Afghanistan,” said involvement minister Jim Bender, a former Marine helicopter pilot who gained combat experience in the Gulf War. “Their families are heroes, too, while their husbands/fathers serve in Afghanistan.”

Ron Edwards, the preacher since 1985, served in the Air Force before attending Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas.

The church sees itself as a “training congregation” that — like the military — helps equip young men and women for service all over the world, Edwards said. Members support 10

missionaries, and the church encourages retired military personnel to train for full-time ministry through Sunset.

Dozens of former members serve as ministers, elders and deacons. “We used to kind of joke about it —

they’d come in, and we’d work with them, and in about three years, they would have developed their giving, they would have developed their potluck skills, and they would have developed as teachers,” Edwards said. “And then they’d leave us.”

Since Sept. 11, frequent deployments have made that spiritual training more difficult.

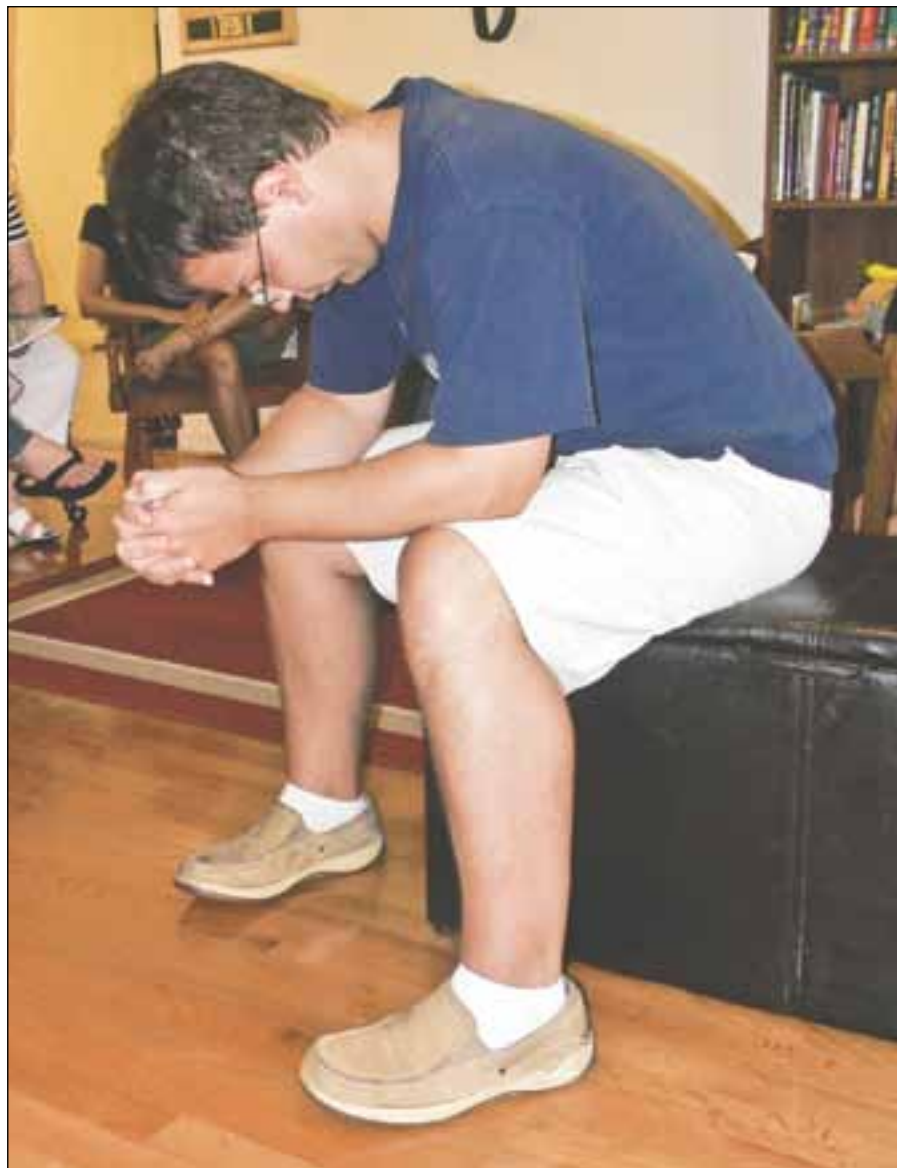
“They’re just not here to help us, and they’re not here to grow,” the minister said. “The men are deployed. The women are still here with the children, and that puts added stressors on them. But I think we’re beginning to notice that you don’t have the longtime association with them where you help them make greater progress.”

WAR AND INNER PEACE

For the families faced with repeated deployments, the stress can have a cumulative effect, said church elder Matt Ingram, a retired Marine sergeant major.

Take the Harrisons, for example. “If you’re in Iraq and Afghanistan, it’s dangerous no matter where you are,” Ingram said. “But with Tim, take it to the 10th power danger because he’s not only going out — what we call ‘outside the wire’ — all the time, but he’s going to known explosive areas.

“So he goes, and they’re on pins



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Roosevelt Drive church member Chris Twohig, a former Marine, prays during a small-group meeting at the home of Marine Staff Sgt. Ahmal Coles and his wife, Whitney.

and needles. ... And then there’s the huge relief when he comes home, and he reintegrates with the children and with Lindsay.”

But in just a few months, the friction starts again because it’s time to prepare for another deployment.

That’s where a strong Christian faith — and a supportive church family — comes in, the Harrisons said.

If she needs help mowing or fixing her car transmission, Lindsay knows she can call church members.

If she needs a break, she trusts fellow Christians to watch her children.

“It’s really everything that gets you through,” she said of her faith. “This church is our family here. It’s what keeps you going and keeps you grounded and keeps you realizing

that even the worst-case scenario isn’t that bad.”

As Tim returns to the war zone, Lindsay said she’ll do her best to live “a normal, everyday life.”

“I feel like, with children at home, you can’t pause their life until Dad gets home,” she said. “So, we go to school, and we do soccer and ballet and just everything else.”

For Tim, knowing that fellow Christians care for his family while he’s deployed provides a huge measure of inner peace, he said.

“Also, I know that people are praying for me while I’m over there. And that’s a big help and a big comfort,” he said. “There’s been quite a few times where, if they wouldn’t have been praying for me, then I wouldn’t be here right now.”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LT. COL. MIKE MANNING

Mike Manning poses with children in Balad Ruz, Iraq, not far from the Iranian border.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Mike Manning offers communion thoughts at the Roosevelt Drive Church of Christ.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LT. COL. MIKE MANNING

Mike Manning visits with police and military officials after a mission in Afghanistan.



LANCE CPL. CARL G. PAYNE, U.S. MARINE CORPS

Marines under Lt. Col. Mike Manning's command remember fallen comrades.

Faith sustains battalion commander

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Nearly a year ago, Marines and sailors from the battalion that Lt. Col. Mike Manning commands gathered with family and friends to pay tribute to fallen comrades.

A battlefield cross — consisting of boots, a rifle and a Kevlar helmet — stood in front of a photo of each Marine who gave his life during the battalion's most recent deployment to Afghanistan.

"They were our brothers," Manning, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, said during the ceremony. "They fought side-by-side with us day and day out. We shared everything. We will always hold a place in our hearts and our thoughts for these brothers."

The battalion lost 10 Marines during its seven-month combat deployment last year.

An additional 168 out of the battalion's more than 1,000 troops were wounded.

Through it all, faith sustained the battalion's commander, a three-time Bronze Star Medal recipient for his service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"There's no doubt in my mind that God was watching over me and giving me strength on a daily basis," said Manning, a member of the Roosevelt Drive Church of Christ in Jacksonville, N.C., a 200-member congregation outside the gates of this 246-square-mile Marine Corps base.

NO RANKS IN FAMILY OF GOD

Manning's future wife, Kimberly, introduced him to the Roosevelt Drive church while they were dating. Minister Ron Edwards baptized him



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Mike and Kimberly Manning stand beside a steel beam from the World Trade Center. The memorial near Camp Lejeune, N.C., pays tribute to the heroes during and since 9/11.

and performed the couple's wedding ceremony eight years ago.

In the Roosevelt Drive church, Mike Manning found a congregation that felt more like a family, he said.

"It's not just another church — it's a

very a tight-knit group," Manning said. "They reach out to each other."

From private first class to three-star general to no military background at all, the congregation treats everyone with the same love and respect, long-

time members say.

"Everybody's family," said Sam North, a civilian and Roosevelt Drive member since 1975. "Quite frankly, when anybody walks in the front door or back door or any door, rank goes out the door. Rank stays outside."

Said member Ron Himsworth, a retired Marine sergeant major: "When we come in here in the family of God, there are no ranks at all. We're all brothers. Brothers and sisters."

They are brothers and sisters who lift up member Marines and sailors in prayer when they're away and take care of their families, Kimberly Manning said. "When you're a part of this congregation, they're praying for you by name," she said.

FOR CHRISTIANS, NO FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN

Mike Manning said he makes it a point to share his faith with his troops.

Marines and sailors without a strong belief in God struggle much more with fear of the unknown, he said.

"One of the things I worked with my chaplain in the battalion ... was to reach out to young Marines and sailors to get them to believe in something, whether they became Christians or not," Manning said. "We have an obligation to bring them on board and enlighten them to what Christianity is all about."

"Having that faith and knowing a congregation is going to take care of your family, it just eases the burden so much."

ROOSEVELT DRIVE CHURCH leaders would like to hear from Christians with relatives stationed or living at Camp Lejeune. E-mail minister Ron Edwards at preacheredwards@embarqmail.com.

TEN YEARS LATER: THE LEGACY OF 9/11

'Each push pin told a story'

THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE'S EDITOR *remembers caring for people who lost loved ones in the World Trade Center*

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Just four days after two hijacked airplanes plunged into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, I boarded a plane along with seven other church members. Our nation was still gripped in shock, anger and fear from that Tuesday's attack.

Sonya Fontaine, Robert Elliott, Luke Anderson, Charlotte Burroughs, Gary Woodbridge, my wife Joy, my son Jeff and I made our way to the airport the day after flights resumed. The 175-seat plane had only a dozen passengers, the eight of us making up the majority of the aircraft.

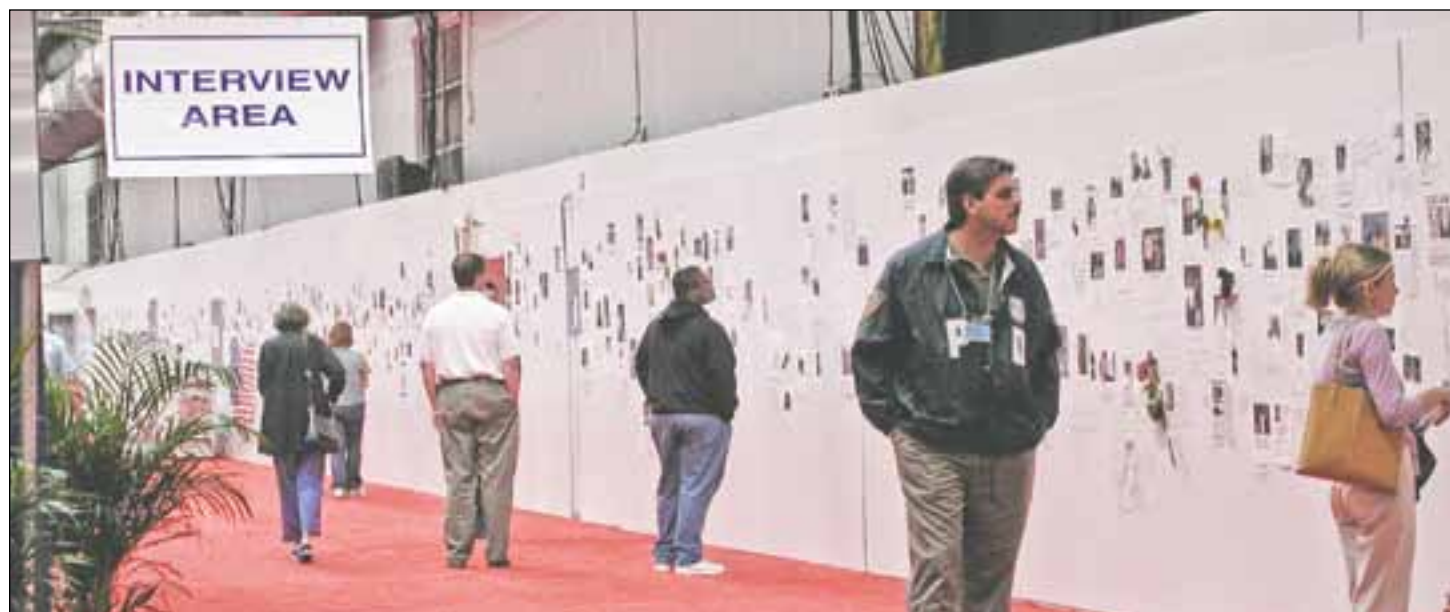
The terminal was empty. Security was tight. The plane silent. The crew anxious. And so were we.

We landed in Baltimore because the New York airports were still closed and drove north on the New Jersey turnpike into the night.

Nearing New York City, we saw the haunting lights amid the decimated buildings at what was being called ground zero. A smoke column spiraled into the night sky where the Twin Trade Towers once stood. No one spoke as we paralleled the city across the East River.

Monday morning, we crossed into the battleground of Manhattan. The empty site of the once-bustling city was sobering. Policemen stood stationed on every corner. The streets were virtually vacant. There was little traffic. The acrid smell of smoldering debris filled the air.

Joy, Robert and Luke went to the Manhattan Church of Christ to help with incoming calls, e-mails and donations. Gary met with families



LYNN McMILLON

Days after 9/11, family and friends of victims of the terrorist attacks study the wall on Pier 94 for information about missing persons.

and Charlotte consulted with local school counselors. Sonya, Jeff and I, all Licensed Professional Counselors, went to the Red Cross on Amsterdam Street to be credentialed.

The police put us in a cab, and we crossed the Brooklyn Bridge to the Red Cross in Brooklyn, passing only one car on that fabled bridge. It was eerie.

We were assigned to Pier 94 on Manhattan. The 135,000-square-foot building acted as a staging area for law enforcement agencies, social agencies and fire rescue workers. The rescue men had vacant stares, beaten with emotional and physical exhaustion. My heart went out to them.

Docked next to Pier

94 was a Navy hospital ship named Comfort. Marines armed with M-16 rifles were posted around the deck, a sight I had never seen on American

soil. We were at war.

It was our job to help the people looking for missing loved ones. First, we took them to computers to check for any word regarding their loved ones. We then took them to a bulletin board filled with pictures and notices of missing persons. Each push pin told a story.

It was a somber and humbling experience, standing next to people as their tear-drenched eyes frantically searched each notice, hoping to find those who filled their thoughts, their fears. From the wall, we took them to another aisle for possible DNA matching.

There were so many people who were lost and wandering around. We stood by them, sat by them, talked to them, listened to them, ate with them — whatever they needed, whatever might help. Our assignment was to stay with them for as long as they were on the pier.

I can only imagine how crushed and grief-stricken those poor people were as they shuffled through each station, barely knowing which way was up. It was totally heartbreaking.

Sprint had parked a special communications truck outside Pier 94 for the

families to use. The truck had its own generator, satellite dishes and phones inside so people could call anywhere in the world. Normal cell phone service was shoddy that day, with so many calls trying to simultaneously go through to check on loved ones.

I especially remember one family from India that had not yet heard from a son and daughter-in-law who worked above where the plane had struck. I helped them make calls to other family members back in India.

Though I could not understand their words, I could see how deeply overcome by grief they were by the week's events. I have often wondered about them.

I wanted to stay in New York City longer because there were so many opportunities to minister to emotionally hurt people in meaningful ways.

Even though that trip was 10 years ago, many of the emotions that flooded my mind then return as we remember the 10th anniversary of that terrible day.

On Sept. 11, 2001, we saw the worst of mankind.

In the days and weeks that followed, we saw the best.





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BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Jeanene Pollard wanted to be just like her grandfather, who served in the U.S. Navy as a landing boat driver — a coxswain, in military terms — during World War II.

"I loved to look at the yearbook for his ship, the USS Goodhue," she said. "Unfortunately, I swim like a rock ... so I joined the Army instead."

Pollard, 29, is a committed Christian who grew up in the Cloudcroft Church of Christ in New Mexico. A staff sergeant in the U.S. Army, she serves as a civil affairs specialist. Escorted by a team of soldiers, she travels to rural villages in Afghanistan, assessing the villagers' needs for medical care, food, water, security, shelter and schools.

"In my opinion, it's the best job a soldier can have," she said. "I get to help people, and I get to see the positive impact a soldier can have when we let Christ shine through."

Pollard's six years of military experience also includes a year in Iraq. She attended Lubbock Christian University in Texas for three years before enlisting.

"After the horrible incident of 9/11, I began to think of a career in the Army," she said. "God and I did a lot of talking about my choice, and eventually the weight on my heart to do the right thing took over, and I joined."

Her family has served as her "rock" while she is deployed, she said.

"I have a twin sister who is seriously the greatest friend I could have ever asked for," she said, "and four great brothers — three of whom have served in the military and one who graduated from the Adventures in Missions program in Lubbock."

On Sept. 11, the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, she plans to marry Toby Hall, a civil affairs team leader in the Army. She also plans to return to Lubbock and complete a degree in criminal justice.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Army Staff Sgt. Jeanene Pollard pauses for a photo with girls in the Surkh-Rod district of northern Afghanistan.

A conversation with Jeanene Pollard

ARMY CIVIL AFFAIRS SPECIALIST *discusses insurgents and answered prayers in Afghanistan.*

How do you practice your Christian faith in Afghanistan?

You can't help but rely on God over here. God and prayer are the only two things that have kept me alive, and I fully understand that.

One night I was lying on my cot when a mortar round landed somewhere on the FOB (forward operating base). We have sirens that go off to signal us to get to the bunkers, so I sat up and listened to see if I could hear them. All of the females on the FOB live above the gym, and we had one set of stairs to get to the ground.

Then another mortar round landed and knocked things off my wall, and there was smoke and debris everywhere, so I knew that one was closer than it should have been.

I got my chest protector,

helmet and weapon and left for the bunkers.

When all of the females got to the stairs, we realized the stairs were gone.

If that siren had worked (no one could explain why the siren wasn't working), then all of the females would have been on the stairs when the second mortar hit.

God works in mysterious ways, but I never doubt that prayers are working because I know who gets the credit for that night.

What are the most significant challenges to you and your faith, and how do you deal with them?

'It's hard to still love and want to support the people in Afghanistan when you know that their brothers and cousins are most likely part of the Taliban. But I pray ... for God to soften the Taliban's and the insurgents' hearts because I know that, until that happens, this war will never be over.'

Staff Sgt. Jeanene Pollard

have worked with daily.

It's hard to still love and want to support the people in

Afghanistan when you know that their brothers and cousins are most likely part of the Taliban. But I pray for peace about what I do, and I pray for God to soften the Taliban's and the insurgents' hearts, because I know that, until that happens, this war will never be over.

How do you deal with the challenge of living in a desolate country far from home?

Well, it's like camping for a really long time — good thing I like camping. But life out here is so simple, it makes you realize how spoiled we are as Americans. I only have two choices of clothing — the physical training uniform or the fatigues we wear daily. So it makes choosing what to wear pretty simple.

There is no Starbucks, so I have lost a lot of weight and gained a newfound love for water — and lots of it. FOB life isn't that bad, and in most cases, it's pretty good. I think back to the conditions the soldiers and marines fought in World War II and can't imagine what they went through. We have Internet, decent chow halls, mail from home, decent living quarters, so I try not to complain.

The most challenging thing for me is knowing Toby, my fiancé, is here on a different FOB. I worry about him a lot, and it's hard for me to put him in God's hands. I struggle with it daily.

Do you have a favorite passage of Scripture?

Colossians 3:17 — "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

This Scripture is the motivation for what I do as a soldier. In uniform I cannot speak about Christ, but I can portray him in my actions and the way I conduct myself as a Christian woman.

See POLLARD, Page 26

MINISTER NEEDED

The Canyon Church of Christ in far north Phoenix, with attendance of around 175, is seeking a full-time Senior Minister.

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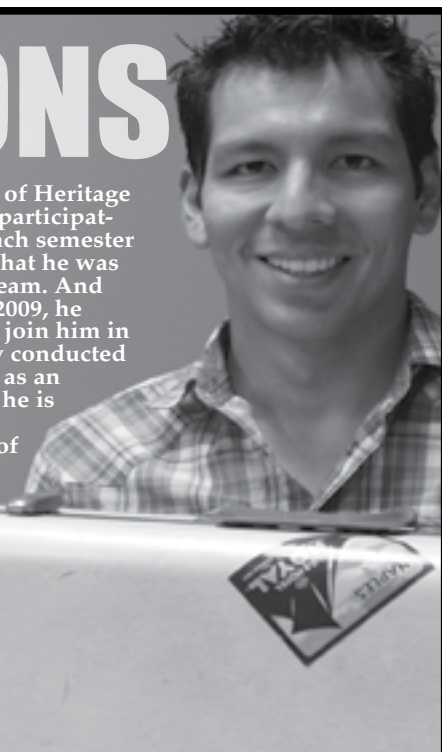
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MISSIONS

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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POLLARD: 'I know I will leave here a changed person'

FROM PAGE 25

What is life like for a female soldier in Afghanistan?

The perception of most Americans is that females do not leave the FOB or base, but in reality that is not true.

There are female medics, civil affairs officers, military police, truck drivers, helicopter pilots and so on. There is a lot of pressure on us to not slow down the male soldiers or do something tactically inappropriate.

It took a long time for me to integrate with the platoon I am with now. I had to prove I was an asset to them and would not hinder them before they became comfortable with me and addressed me as any other staff sergeant.

This culture is not familiar with women working other than in their homes, so it was priceless to see some of the local nationals' expressions when I walked by in my uniform. After a few months, though, the kids would come and speak to us, and the locals became friendly and very hospitable.

Describe a typical day in Afghanistan.

A typical mission day would begin with a convoy brief at the trucks just before we leave — making sure everyone knows their job if an incident occurs and discussing the plan for the mission. We go over the route and discuss scenarios so that we all know what the other truck is going to do.

Then get in the trucks and go to a village. The soldiers pull security while my interpreter and I conduct what we call an SLE (street level engagement).

I ask for the local leadership or what they call a "malik" — usually the oldest male in the village. Because the people of Afghanistan are very hospitable, we are usually served chai (spice milk tea) and some kind of food.

After getting an idea of their problems and concerns, we move on to another village until it begins to get dark. It's my job to be the non-lethal connection to my commander and help him understand the perspective of the nationals.

What can Christians do to encourage you and other members of the military?

I have a great support group of Christians that continually sends me snacks, encouraging letters, excellent magazines like *The Christian Chronicle* and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Army Staff Sgt. Jeanene Pollard prepares for a day of discussions with village leaders.

even books or movies.

Morale can get pretty low after being here for many months, and you begin to really miss your family and friends. Pictures from home and letters in general can do so much for a soldier.

Sometimes we can feel so cut off from life in the U.S. and miss big events like birthdays, the Super Bowl and especially holidays. Packages and pictures can give us a feeling that people have not forgotten us and they do appreciate what we are doing — especially around the holidays.

What have you experienced that you would like us in the U.S. to know and understand?

All I ask is that you remember to teach your children and your grandchildren to respect Old Glory and to remove their hats when the flag goes by or when the national anthem is played. It breaks my heart to think of all the great men and women who have died so that flag and all it represents remains free.

There are so many things we take for granted as Americans, and I believe that all Americans should be given the chance to spend some time in a Third World country to appreciate the little things like a shower, ice in your drinks, a college education, a job, paved roads, health care, centralized air-conditioning and so on.

I know I will leave here a changed person, and my relationship with God will be that much stronger, I will thank him every day for another day of life — for me, my brothers, my fiancé and all who have served.

THE SEARCH FOR OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY'S 6TH PRESIDENT

A call for nominations and candidates for the presidency of Oklahoma Christian University is extended by a presidential search committee on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Oklahoma Christian's sixth president will articulate and exemplify the mission, convictions, and accomplishments of the university. A prospectus is located at www.oc.edu/presidentialsearch.

Presidential leadership will impact the following broad contexts for the compelling promotion of OC and its mission to internal and external constituencies. The President will lead by:

- Serving as a spokesperson for a clear vision of the university's mission and spiritual foundations;
- Honoring and nurturing the relationship with Churches of Christ as an active member of the fellowship;
- Sharing the OC story in ways that encourage and win financial support for the university's growing endowment;
- Championing academic excellence where it already flourishes at OC and nurturing it across all the university's liberal arts, sciences, and professional programs for both undergraduate and graduate degrees;
- Leading a team of skilled professionals who excel in financial management, recruitment, retention, and academic development; and
- Strengthening our unity by exemplifying the character, identity, history, and future of the university and its community.

To assist in gathering nominations, candidates, and dossiers, the OC Board of Trustees has authorized a Search Committee composed of representatives selected by its constituencies, including alumni, board members, faculty, staff, and students.

Applications will be received until the position is filled, but to assure full consideration, applicants must have all required materials on file by Sept. 30, 2011.

Nominations and Letters of Interest should be directed to:

Presidential Search Committee
Oklahoma Christian University
PO Box 11000
Oklahoma City, OK 73136
presidentialsearch@oc.edu



Dr. L.R. Wilson



Dr. James O. Baird



Dr. Terry Johnson



Dr. Kevin Jacobs



Dr. Mike E. O'Neal



www.oc.edu/connect



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Remembering



On the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001, *The Christian Chronicle* celebrates the men and women of the U.S. military and salutes their dedication and sacrifice.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

BELO HORIZONTE CHILDREN'S HOME

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil — Two teenagers from Murfreesboro, Tenn., raised more than \$60,000 for the children's home.

The home, operated by American missionaries F. H. and Becky Gates, cares for nearly 20 street children in this city of 5 million people.

Hannah Wright and Rachel Young, both 17, at first decided to raise \$10,000 of the \$60,000 the home needed to meet operational expenses. But Bob Webb, an elder of the North Boulevard Church of Christ, where Rachel is a member, challenged them to raise all \$60,000.

The girls contacted hundreds of people asking for support and hosted a variety of fundraisers from yard sales to lemonade stands. They recently received two checks that put them over the top, said minister David Young, Rachel's father.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DAVID YOUNG

Rachel Young and Hannah Wright raised \$60,000 for a children's home in Brazil.

MOUNTAIN STATES CHILDREN'S HOME

LONGMONT, Colo. — Who would steal \$6,000 in change from a Christian children's home?

That's the question facing Mountain States Children's Home after a car burglary in Seattle.

Randy Schow, the home's executive director, said \$6,000 given to the ministry's "Change Can Drive" was swiped during a recent fund-raising trip.

"This loss has brought much sadness and feelings of responsibility on our part," Schow told *The Christian Chronicle*. "I am so sorry for this misfortune and for the inconvenience it has put upon anyone. I know there were many adults and children who worked hard to save their change for it to go to a good cause."

Donations to the home can be made



EMILY LANSDALE

At Tennessee school, there's an app for that

Samie Anderson, left, and other students at Columbia Academy, a Christian school in Tennessee, check out the iPad tablet computers issued to each student in seventh through 12th grades. Students will use the iPads to access multiple versions of the Bible. Columbia Academy became the first school in Tennessee — public or private — to establish an iPad one-to-one program, school officials said. Also pictured are Elliott Hogan, Cassidy Morgan and Lake Lomax.

at www.mscho.org or sent to 14780 North 107th Street, Longmont, CO 80504.

HIGHER EDUCATION

CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE

PARAGOULD, Ark. — Crowley's Ridge received a \$100,000 gift toward construction of new student apartments to be built on the 150-acre campus. The gift from a longtime friend and supporter was part of a larger donation that also benefited the college's endowment, President Ken Hoppe said. Construction on the apartments is expected to be completed by fall 2012.

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — A group of Harding engineering students spent time in Haiti over the summer building a water well for an elementary school. The project was part of a new yearlong course at Harding called "Engineering Service Projects."

Students worked alongside local

Christians in Peltran, Haiti, engineering faculty member Rich Wells said.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian is searching for its sixth president. A committee is conducting a nationwide campaign for nominations and applications to succeed President Mike O'Neal, who will retire in 2012. For more information, see www.oc.edu/president/search.

YORK COLLEGE

YORK, Neb. — York has received a \$1.25 million gift to fund the Roger Collins Endowed Chair for Business. The gift will enhance the education of all business majors, President Steve Eckman said.

"Dr. Collins' name and legacy are synonymous with integrity and should be permanently attached to the college," Eckman said.



Collins

SPOTLIGHT

Veggies at Faulkner

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A patch of ground less than an acre is dishing up more than just fresh veggies at Faulkner University. The garden serves as an outdoor classroom. But its real fruits — in the form of vegetables — benefit the low-income elderly at the retirement complex adjacent to campus.

"We are trying to connect with these residents by working in the garden together and offering them healthy food as a part of their diets," said Dennis Itson, director of service learning at Faulkner.



LAURA CAUTHEN

Dennis Itson's labor in the campus garden yields bountiful results for the residents.

Collins taught at York for 29 years and served for much of his tenure as chairman of the business program and as cross country and track coach.

An elder of the East Hill Church of Christ in York, Collins suffered a heart attack and died last year at age 57.

MEDIA MINISTRIES

HERALD OF TRUTH

MBEYA, Tanzania — The Iyunga Church of Christ in this East African city hosted a two-day church leadership training seminar. Christians from countries including Uganda and Zambia attended, some traveling for five days at enormous personal expense, said Bill Brant, president of Abilene, Texas-based Herald of Truth Ministries.

Brant and Steve Ridgell, director of ministry for Herald of Truth, led the seminar. Moses Khome Banda coordinated the event with Tanzanian evangelist Samuel Mwakasungula.



Vice President for Student Services

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

Faulkner University is seeking a highly qualified individual to serve as Vice President for Student Services. This person serves as a member of the President's Cabinet with executive responsibility for the planning, management, and evaluation of Student Services.

This is a full-time, 12-month position. This position is funded and is available beginning January 1, 2012. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The review of applications will begin immediately.

Qualifications: Master's degree required; Doctorate from a regionally accredited institution preferred; Degree(s) must be in a field appropriate for the position; Minimum 5 years of increasingly responsible management experience in an educational institution; Experience with an emphasis in the student services area preferred.

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

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

Sherwood and Myrtie Foster's Home for Children

Ever wished you could be in ministry full time? Praying about making a difference? Dreamed about living out church every day while being part of a healing community? Have you heard the call of Christ to be in the world, but not of it? Have an overwhelming need to sow seed for the kingdom that has all kinds of future possibilities?

Then you have been thinking about US!

Foster's Home for Children would like to offer you the opportunity to realize your spiritual passion for Christ and His Kingdom. We are inviting applications from couples who want to serve the Lord by not only providing a home for children, but a Sanctuary. Our caregivers live out our mission constantly:

To provide a ***Safe** environment to grow.

To provide an avenue for ***Emotional** management.

To provide a way to mourn the ***Loss** of significant events and people.

To provide a solution focused ***Future**.

If you think you can live in a culture that offers open communication, growth and change, social responsibility, non-violence, and social learning to a child, and extends to them hope to begin again, we would love to work with you. Please call Derrick Bam, Vice President of Children's Services, 254-968-2143 X 284 or e-mail der-

'Healing the Wounds of Troubled Children and Families'



LELAND KING

Cross and a campfire at Gander Brook

An opening campfire burns on a recent Saturday night as Bible campers assemble at Gander Brook Christian Camp in Raymond, Maine. Singing and comical skits are a part of the kickoff festivities. The night's events conclude with a devotional, camp director Shawn Daggett said.

Closed school's students reconnect

DALLAS— Six years after the closing of the Center for Christian Education, 82 former students, faculty members and friends gathered at the Preston Road Church of Christ.

Former students Chris Vidacovich, Michael Harbour and Stanley Helton spearheaded the recent reunion.

"The primary purpose was to provide an opportunity for those connected to the school to reconnect," said Helton,



Helton

minister of the Tammany Oaks Church of Christ in Mandeville, La.

In the absence of an alumni association, Helton began a Facebook group for the school so alumni could find each other.

That led to the reunion, where Ronnie Wiggins spoke on his years as a student and faculty member and recalled the reasons for the school's closing.

The Christian for Christian Education, once known as the Preston Road School of Preaching, closed in June 2005, citing funding problems and difficulty gaining state accreditation.

iKnow where to find a good textbook

HENDERSON, Tenn.— An initiative dubbed iKnow 2.0 will provide an iPad tablet computer to each freshman who enrolls at Freed-Hardeman University starting in fall 2012, the university announced.

The program will give students the opportunity to access digital textbooks via the iPad, resulting in hundreds of dollars of savings from traditional textbooks, said Mark Scott, vice president of technology and innovation.

"We are not the most popular people with the bookstore right now," Scott joked. "But they understand, as we do, that this is the future, and we have to continue to progress, if we want to continue to provide the best Christian education possible."

Freed-Hardeman has partnered with a company called Inkling to reinvent the way students learn on campus, university officials said.



Oklahoma Christian University seeks experienced professionals to serve in the following position:

Physics Professor

The Department of Chemistry and Physics at Oklahoma Christian University invites applications for a tenure-track position in Physics. Ph.D. or ABD candidates will be accepted. Successful candidates should have a strong commitment to teaching foundational undergraduate physics courses, including laboratory sections, in both algebra-based and calculus-based classes. Duties of the faculty position include:

- Manage, maintain and upgrade laboratory experiments and equipment in the area of physics.
- Support the University's Core Curriculum (general education program) by teaching a non-majors course in Astronomy, Earth Science, or General Physical Science, as needed.
- Support the undergraduate research program by offering summer research projects, when available.
- Attend monthly meetings of the Department of Chemistry & Physics.
- Attend monthly meetings of the University faculty.
- Faculty contracts are for the academic year, which includes eight months of teaching and one month of summer work in May. During an academic year, full-time faculty members are required to teach during the fall and spring semesters.
- In addition, full-time faculty are required to participate in the fall faculty meetings, which are held the week before the fall term begins, and in the spring faculty meetings, which are held the week after the spring term ends.
- Beyond the two weeks in which they are attending faculty meetings—including University-wide meetings, college meetings, and departmental meetings—faculty must complete the equivalent of two weeks of summer non-teaching assignments, as determined by the deans of the colleges, in conjunction with the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- Other duties in support of the department, as needed.

Oklahoma Christian University is a liberal arts university affiliated with the Churches of Christ. Each applicant should be an active member of the Church of Christ and have a personal life that reflects the teachings, example, and love of Jesus Christ. Interested applicants should send their resume/CV, transcripts, two letters of recommendation from academic or professional sources, one letter of recommendation from a church leader, a writing sample of your scientific work, and a teaching philosophy which specifically addresses integration of faith and learning to David.Lowry@oc.edu or by mail to:

Dr. David Lowry
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Oklahoma Christian University
Box 11000
OKC, OK 73136-1100

Oklahoma Christian University is an equal opportunity employer.



Tennessee Children's Home Job Opening

Seeking energetic couples to serve as houseparents for the East Tennessee and West Tennessee campuses. Parents will be responsible for the daily care for up to 8 adolescent boys.

Come be a part of this ministry! We offer competitive pay and excellent full-time benefits including medical, dental, life insurance, disability, retirement and paid time off.

To apply, visit us online at www.tennesseechildrenshome.org or contact our HR Manager at 931-486-2274 x 225.

Houseparent

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



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

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. Applicants with a Ph.D. or ABD are preferred, but other qualified applicants will also be considered.

Course load for the position is 4/4 with English courses in Linguistics, Structure of the English Language, and/or Teaching English as a Foreign Language, and Composition, and courses in the appropriate language.

As a department committed to the integration of faith and learning, Language and Literature is a dynamic community that serves 100 majors/minors and boasts a variety of academic successes: an active honors society



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
— Since 1950 —

chapter, an annual faith-based speakers series, a strong student/faculty connection, increasing TEFL and writing internships, and successful placement of graduates. We seek an engaged candidate whose specific expertise will further develop our growing TEFL program.

Oklahoma Christian University is a liberal arts university affiliated with the Churches of Christ. Applicants should be active members of the Churches of Christ and have a personal life that reflects the teachings, example, and love of Jesus Christ.

Applicants should send curriculum vita, teaching philosophy, statement of faith, and writing sample related to the particular specialization to **Dr. Cami Agan**, Chair of the department of Language and Literature at the following e-mail address: **camigan@oc.edu**.

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

Oklahoma Christian University is an equal opportunity employer.

FAMILY/PULPIT MINISTER

Our established congregation of 150-plus members seeks a family man with excellent people, teaching, preaching and counseling skills for this position. We have elders, deacons and a part-time youth minister. Our congregation is friendly, casual and family-focused with a preschool outreach program to the local community. We offer a competitive salary and the opportunity to grow both spiritually and professionally.

*Send a cover letter/resume and video/audio file (if available) to **nyavechurch@bellsouth.net** or to **New York Avenue church of Christ, P.O. Box 6074, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6074***

Associate Minister Needed in Houston, Texas

The West University Church of Christ (located in southwest Houston inside Loop 610 in our nation's fourth largest city) is a vibrant, loving congregation of 150 members. We are seeking an associate minister to join our ministry team. Primary responsibilities will be in Families, Small Group and Worship ministries.

Please submit resumes to "Minister Search" via e-mail or regular mail.

West University Church of Christ
3407 Bissonnet St., Houston, TX 77005
www.westchurch.com
713.666.3535

NEWSMAKERS

AWARDED: **Michelle Mallett**, high school science teacher at Oklahoma Christian Academy, Edmond, Okla., "Texas Christian School Association Dr. Hart Teacher of the Year." The award is given to one teacher every year for dedication to Christian education.



Mallett

Wayne Ray, language arts teacher at Harding Academy Memphis in Tennessee, a Ph.D. in Christian Education from Newburgh Seminary, Newburgh, Ind.



Tidwell

NAMED: **Gregory Alan Tidwell**, editor of *Gospel Advocate* magazine in Nashville, Tenn., by publisher Neil W. Anderson. **Tim Bruner**, special assistant to York College President Steve Eckman. **Larry Muller**, associate professor of business, Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va.

NEW MINISTERS: **Tom Riley**, Bellevue church, Nashville, Tenn. **Lane Widick**, Granny White church, Nashville, Tenn. **Scott Bond Jr.**, youth and family minister, Spring Meadows church, Spring Hill, Tenn. **Wes Crawford**, Glenwood church, Tyler, Texas.



Riley

ANNIVERSARIES: **70th:** David and Addell Delony, Houston. **53rd:** Jack and Barbara Wood, Centerville, Tenn. **52nd:** Lonnie and Marilyn Gilliam, Centerville, Tenn. **50th:** Bob and Charlotte Duloher, Wichita, Kan.

BIRTHDAYS: **102nd:** Inis Puckett, Centerville, Tenn. **91st:** Katie Bates, Centerville, Tenn. **90th:** Lura Hammitt, Pittsfield, Ill. **90th:** Allene Wade, Centerville, Tenn.

PASSAGES: **Ralph M. Hurd**, 82, June 12, Wendell, Idaho. Former elder, deacon and youth leader in Idaho and California. **George Franklin Richmond**, 82, July 29, Edmond, Okla. World War II veteran and elder for over 30 years at the Midway Waterloo Road church in Edmond. **Byron Fullerton**, 88, July 31, Austin, Texas. Served as Assistant Attorney General of Texas, Associate Dean of the University of Texas Law School for 18 years and was Dean of the Texas Tech Law School.



Richmond

Aug. 28-Sept. 1 Crusade for Christ.

Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact www.cofccrusade.org.

Sept. 11 50th Anniversary of

Manchester, Conn., church. Contact www.manchesterchurchofchrist.org, mcc50th@manchesterchurchofchrist.org or (860) 646-2903.

Sept. 13-16 National Christian

Camping Workshop. Gulf Coast Bible Camp, Lucedale, Miss. Contact www.naccamps.org.

Sept. 19-20 40th Annual Preachers'

Retreat. Pettijohn Springs Christian Camp, Madill, Okla. Contact cofc@communicomm.com.

Sept. 22 Clarksville Christian

School Benefit Dinner. Keynote speaker: Coach Don Meyer. Contact ClarksvilleChristianSchool.org/dinner.

Sept. 26-28 48th Annual Midwest

Preachers' Retreat. Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp, Black River Falls, Wis. Contact (414) 281-8667 or mehawley@execpc.com.

Oct. 2-4 Quest Lectureship.

Oklahoma Christian University. Contact www.oc.edu/quest2011.

Oct. 7 Grief Symposium.

Hampton Inn and Suites, Mesquite, Texas. Presented by Christian Care Hospice. Contact <http://christiancarecenters.org/hospice/>.

Oct. 9 80th Anniversary and

Reunion. Crowder, Okla., church. Contact dannyj65@hotmail.com

Oct. 14 Celebrating brother and

sister Merlon Thompson's 40 years of service. Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Phoenix. Sponsored by Tonto Street church. Contact (602) 309-6688 or nphillips50@aol.com.

Oct. 7 116th Homecoming.

Pearl, Texas, church. Contact (254) 865-9282.

Oct. 19-22 Global Missions

Conference. Legacy church, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact Jay Jarboe at (817) 267-2727 or jay.jarboe@mrnet.org or www.globalmissionsconference.org.

Oct. 28-30 Shepherds Network.

Sponsored by the Church Leaders Resource Network. Contact Eddie Randolph at (901) 432-7724 or e.randolph@hst.edu.

Nov. 6 60th Homecoming.

Aiken, S.C., church. Contact (803) 648-8877 or aikenc-reunion@gmail.com

Dec. 2 Freed-Hardeman University

Benefit Dinner. Featured speaker: Bob Newhart. Contact (731) 989-6017 or fhu.edu/Newhart.

March 20-25 Seminar in

Congregation Shepherding and Leadership. Harding School of Theology, Memphis, Tenn. Contact (901) 432-7724.

COMPLETE CALENDAR at www.christianchronicle.org

Academic Freedom.... Where it is Might Surprise you!

There have been cries for academic freedom in American higher education for several decades.

The prevailing sense is that public colleges and universities provide the environment that promotes freedom of expression and thought. For many issues that may be true. But as we become an increasingly secular society, the irony is that conversations about God and faith are increasingly unwelcome in such institutions.

There seems to be the freedom to discuss anything — except a Christian perspective of the world.

Stated clearly by the former president of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, "Today, research universities are thoroughly secular and comprise one of the few places in America where openly acknowledged religion is not a life option. Consequently, academic freedom has become a casualty at these institutions."

Obviously, there are exceptions. Many faculty at public colleges and universities possess a dynamic faith and through it are Christian examples to their students. In addition, there are dedicated ministers who have accepted the call to campus ministry and serve Christian students at such institutions in admirable ways. It would be difficult, if not impossible, however, to prove that they are the norm rather than the exception to the norm of secular thinking and secular teaching on the public campus.

Ironically, the place where academic freedom exists as it relates to religion and faith are our Christian colleges. It is in our Christian colleges that the existence of God can be freely proclaimed. It is in our Christian colleges that important societal issues can be discussed with the Christian perspective asserted. It is in our Christian colleges that faith can be proclaimed as integrated into all of life, not just a

subset of life. Those opportunities no longer exist in most of American higher education and particularly not at state-supported colleges and universities.

What does this mean? For most people it simply does not matter. But for tomorrow's college students and their parents, it is the difference between an

education that supports a vital Christian faith and one that will not. In a Christian college, academic freedom will allow life's most important questions to be asked, beliefs to be explored and faith to be expressed. As a Christian college environment demands critical thinking and pragmatic preparation for success in the real world, it also proclaims that God, faith and the Christian walk are part of that world, the world God created.

Academic freedom. Public colleges and universities talk about it. Christian colleges deliver it. Those of us in Christian higher education believe the difference is important...eternally important. What about you?



*L. Randolph Lowry
President, Lipscomb University*

If you have comments on Christian higher education please contact me at compellingmission@lipscomb.edu.



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Randy

EDITORIAL

Age of uncertainty calls us to the cross

Turning on the TV news nowadays is something of an act of courage.

A barrage of negative stories assaults our senses. Some we understand, some we don't.

- A frustrating debate over our nation's debt ceiling resulted in Standard and Poor's downgrading our nation's credit rating. That could be catastrophic — or it could mean nothing at all. No one is sure, but everyone is pointing fingers.

- The stock market is up and down like a yo-yo. We could be headed into a double-dip recession. European nations also are in fiscal peril. Several are in danger of defaulting on their loans.

- Ten years after 9/11, our nation remains at war. Our troops work tirelessly in Afghanistan and Iraq to defend our freedom. We want them home, but we don't want to leave the Middle East vulnerable to future dictators and terrorists.

- More and more states approve of same-sex marriage. We struggle to find ways to voice our opposition while communicating Christ's love for all mankind. We fear that we will be portrayed as bigots, closed-minded and out-of-touch

with the times.

- A terrible famine is ravaging Africa. We feel helpless as we watch images of starving children and dying mothers. We want to help, but we feel that our humble contributions do little to ease global suffering.

"Uncertainty" is the common thread that ties the bad news together. As believers, we must take refuge in the one certain thing in the universe — God and his love.

Hebrews 6:19 reads, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." More than ever, it is imperative that we live out this hope.

Just as we did when the stock market crashed in 2008, we call believers to follow the teachings of James and "Consider it pure joy ... when you face trials of many kinds."

Uncertainty was the daily reality of Christians in the first century. They faced conflict and persecution at every turn, and had little earthly reason to hope

that things would get better. But they had a hope that surpassed all earthly concerns.

So do we.

Though our country's credit rating wavers, we will be the church, careful stewards of the gifts God has given us.

Though there will always be wars and rumors of wars, we will be the church, showing love to our soldiers and sharing the Gospel with all who will listen. That includes the Muslims who live down the street from

us and those in the Middle East, studying the Bible in secret through the Internet.

Though we don't agree with all states' decisions, we will be the church, offering compassion and support for all of our fellow sinners.

And when the world suffers, we will be the church, sending food, water and aid to those in need — regardless of our financial situation.

In this age of uncertainty, we will point the way to the cross. We will be the church of Christ.

"Uncertainty" is the common thread that ties the bad news together. As believers, we must take refuge in the one certain thing in the universe — God and his love!

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



TO OUR READERS

How \$10 can last a lifetime

Years ago, when a *Christian Chronicle* representative visited the Southside Church of Christ in Rogers, Ark., Edith Buckley paid \$10 for a lifetime subscription.

That, she said, was "quite a bit of money for some of us in those days."

We hope that sister Buckley feels she's gotten her \$10 worth out of a life-

time subscription.

She's 102 years old.

She enclosed a \$36 check with a recent note of thanks for the *Chronicle's* efforts "in maintaining a quality Christian publication that is both enjoyable and informative."

Are you a subscriber? Contact us by mail or online for a lifetime of news that informs, inspires and unites.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: letters@christianchronicle.org

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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Small-church youth ministry requires a big commitment – and partnership

Some Churches of Christ are blessed to minister to youth groups of 100 teenagers or more.

Not so in Cordell, Okla., population 2,900. When I walk into my youth room at the 4th and College Church of Christ, I might find 10 kids — or two. There even have been times when I've had no one to teach. That's a reality in a congregation of 90 men, women and children.

Based on my seven years of ministry here — and conversations with other youth ministers — I can say that working in a relatively small congregation is much different than ministry in a larger church. It's not often that you find experienced youth ministers in congregations of 250 members or less. Some are first-time youth workers. Some are volunteers. Often, they're ill-equipped to deal with the obstacles they face. And because of small churches' inability to pay a livable salary, they may work more than one job to make ends meet.

However, with God, all things are possible. I would like to share some keys to ministry in a small church that I have found to be invaluable:

- **Stay spiritually healthy.** This is vitally important to any ministry. You are going to be asked to do a lot of things as a small-church youth worker that you may not consider to be youth and family ministry. Do them gladly, but do not get so busy that you neglect your spiritual health. Your time with God must be guarded.

- **Commit to stay for an extended period.** Small churches do not need a minister to come in, get the "required" three years of experience and leave. This mentality has contributed to the decline of not only youth ministries but also preaching ministries in small churches.

Small churches, especially in rural communities, are close-knit families. A minister can barely earn the trust of the church in three years. My suggestion would be to commit to a five- to seven-year timetable. This will make you more effective and allow the church to reap the benefits of your more fruitful

years of ministry.

In Cordell, I substitute teach at school, have served in a local civic club and regularly attend community events. I have seen kids here go from junior high student to high school graduate. I regularly am asked to perform weddings, premarital counseling and to aid in the coordination of Fellowship of Christian Athletes events. These things do not start happening until you have earned people's trust.

Views



Josh Yaeger

- **Find a mentor and an accountability partner.** Look for a ministry veteran you can talk to. There will be times when you come up against what seems to be an impossible situation, and a few questions from

an experienced minister can open up a world of new possibilities.

It also is important to protect yourself against the small-church laziness pattern that is caused by low accountability. Somebody should be aware of your schedule and what you are trying to accomplish. Have weekly meetings with your accountability partner to talk about what you have accomplished and what you have not. Be honest. You will not grow if you stretch the truth.

Every Tuesday for lunch I meet with a deacon who walks into the church building in his overalls. He is grateful to be out of the heat of the mechanic shop, and I am grateful for the hard questions he asks me. We all need someone to ask us the hard questions.

- **Don't be a lone ranger.** Small-church youth ministries often are made up of kids off the street and teens of new converts. You might be part of a church with no teens, and you are hired or asked to bring the kids in. Either way, the teens you have in your sphere of influence are going to take a lot of time to mentor and teach.

It is not a job for one person. Put together a ministry team, even if it means training one person at a time. Teach them and make them aware of opportunities to grow as a volunteer.

I am training a new convert in our church who has a knack for reaching out to teens. He has been a Christian for almost two years and wants to be involved. I am seeking to empower him to succeed instead of throwing him into the deep end to see if he can swim.

- **Finally, use the family atmosphere to your advantage.** Small churches typically do not have gyms, hefty budgets or dynamic worship. Sometimes even the preaching and teaching are found wanting. However, small churches have a family atmosphere where children and teens alike can work alongside and partner with the adults of the congregation.

On almost every service project I organize, I give the teens opportunity to work alongside adults. This summer, the teens and I took over all of the children's classes to give our teachers a

much-needed rest. True, we did not have a teen Sunday school class throughout the summer, but the lessons they learned were much deeper than any lesson I could give!

I believe that small churches have an advantage here because, when it comes to reaching today's youth, relationships with and exposure to

generations who truly walk with God are what they are looking for.

If you are working in a small church as a salaried minister or as a volunteer, welcome to a frustrating and rewarding work. Trust God to fill in the cracks where you are lacking. Give him the glory always.

JOSH YAEGER is youth and family minister for the 4th and College Church of Christ in Cordell, Okla., and a graduate of Oklahoma Christian University. He and his wife, Jennifer, have a son, Bryton, with another child on the way.

LETTERS

Reader inspired by Japanese Christians

I was touched to read as Kiyomi Hosoi looked up into the sky after "a day of unimaginable destruction" to see the stars twinkling in the sky. (See "God, why did you do this?" Page 17, September.) She described them as "tiny lights for the future."

That was God saying, "I'm still here!" God bless them all.

Peggy Pirkle, | Midlothian, Texas

Mixed reviews for baseball

Many years ago, preachers and editors would quote Edward Gibbon's history of the Roman Empire, "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." The Romans became so intoxicated with sports that everything else didn't matter. Is our society becoming the same? (See "Play ball: Ballpark travels bring fun, fellowship," Inside Story, September.)

I read in a paper where a teacher was fired because they couldn't afford her \$50,000 salary, but in the same paper was a story of St. Louis Cardinals star Albert Pujols, who was being paid \$20 million because he could hit a baseball. You seem to be quite intoxicated with Albert Pujols.

Kenneth Henson | Houston

I am a 76-year-old widow and an avid Texas Rangers fan.

I have been very blessed in my life through baseball. My late husband and I flew to St. Louis in 1954 on honeymoon and saw seven major-league games. At the time, we were Brooklyn Dodgers fans.

I also have been a World Bible School teacher since 1981 and have been privileged to correspond with almost 8,000 over the years, mainly in Nigeria and Ghana. It has been a very rewarding life that I have had. We are wheat farmers south of Wichita, Kan., right on the Oklahoma-Kansas border.

I am so excited to read over and over your write-up in my *Christian Chronicle* and would give anything to be a tag-along to some of your exciting games.

Darlene Larson | Milan, Kan.

Pulitzer-winning author gives new defense for faith

BY NATHAN SHANK | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Some readers will recall Marilynne Robinson's plenary address at the 2009 Christian Scholars Conference at Lipscomb University. It was a stirring speech on the power of the Christian salvation narrative to bring confidence to our faith.

A similar speech at Yale University's 2009 Terry lectures is the basis for "Absence of Mind," a collection of four essays by Robinson, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Christian theologian. In it, she elucidates a Christian take on the way science has distorted modern thinking.

Robinson, a member of a Congregational United Church of Christ in Iowa City, Iowa, is best known for her Pulitzer-Prize winning 2004 novel "Gilead." The fictional autobiography is told from the perspective of a small-town pastor, who details his struggles with faith and forgiveness at the end of his life, using abstract musings that combine quotes from the pastor's studies of the Bible, theologians and philosophers.

In the nonfiction "Absence of Mind," Robinson joins the ranks of those who defend Christianity against the populist arguments made by the familiar figureheads of New Atheism: Richard

Dawkins, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens and, most relevant for Robinson, Daniel Dennett, a philosopher who focuses on theories of the mind and consciousness.

Many of their theories contribute to "parascientific literature," an epithet

Robinson coins to mean social or political works that assume an atheistic world view based in a loose understanding of science. Robinson sees this invasion as an urgent issue for the modern Christian.

A troublesome problem arises in many Christian apologetic works, in which the authors too willingly meet these atheists on their own secular assumptions. This often leads to arguments that concede important Christian beliefs, such as the axiom that nothing exists except matter.

Some works, however, breach these presuppositions by not merely retaliating against the opposition, but by generating new or

forgotten reasons for belief. Noteworthy among such books are David Bentley Hart's 2010 "Atheist Delusions," which shows the beneficial influence Christianity has had on culture historically, and Paul K. Moser's 2009 "The Elusive God," which investigates how a loving and just God reveals himself in a way that accords with both divine

reasoning and human volition.

Like these, Robinson's "Absence of Mind" defends Christianity through the lens of the mind. One of the most admirable declarations she makes is to argue the incompatibility of the major modern views of the mind. She declares, "There is simply no way to reconcile the world view of Darwin with that of Freud, or either of these with the theories of Marx or Nietzsche or B.F. Skinner."

For readers unfamiliar with these thinkers' complex philosophies, Robinson gives their historical context and key ideas before defending this statement. She goes on to compellingly argue that it is unreasonable to accept the major schools of the mind in some kind of patched unity. She shows why one must, at best, choose a single atheistic philosophy and discard the rest in order to be faithful to any of them.

Those readers expecting either an exhaustive study or a linear organization will not find it here. Robinson's chapters roam about the varied historical terrain of how Western thought has treated the mind. She spends an entire chapter on Sigmund Freud, whom she calls "by far the greatest and the most interesting contribution to parascientific thought and literature ever made."

Overall, though, the book reminds me more of a symphonic movement in which themes are recurrent — revisited each time with new modulations and expressions.

The reader will conclude this book not only with the practical resource of another method for defending Christianity, but also with a profound appreciation of the mysterious and complex beings we are.

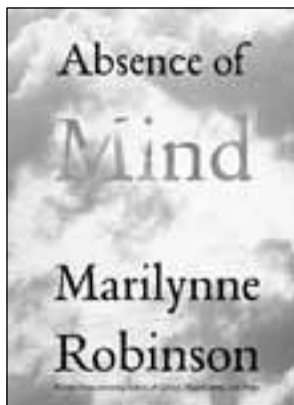
Robinson's style verges on the mystical, but does so with a poetic grace that allows for layers of understanding that only surface after a second or third reading.

I recommend this work as a personal study of the mind or as an educational aid in meditation. It is the kind of book whose ideas the reader finds manifesting themselves in everyday life, since

thinking is a ubiquitous part of human existence.

If we are to believe Robinson when she says that "the human mind itself yields the only evidence we can have of the scale of human reality," then the value of "Absence of Mind" cannot be overstated.

NATHAN SHANK recently moved from Norman, Okla., where he attended the Alameda Church of Christ. He is now a Ph.D. student in the Department of English at the University of Kentucky.



Marilynne Robinson. **Absence of Mind: The Dispelling of Inwardness from the Modern Myth of the Self.** New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2011. 176 pages. \$24 clothback, \$15 paperback.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

APOLOGETICS

Paul Copan. **Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books. 252 pages. \$14.99.

An excellent companion to this month's featured review, this book addresses specific New Atheist claims that God is misogynistic, bloodthirsty and capricious.

Copan, a philosophy and ethics professor, argues that God is unchanging and has always acted out of love for his people.



CHRISTIAN LIVING

Stephen Altrogge. **The Greener Grass Conspiracy: Finding Contentment on Your Side of the Fence.** Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books. 144 pages. \$12.99.

Worship leader Altrogge combines humor with difficult gospel truths to encourage simplicity in living and thankfulness for God's blessings. With short chapters and thought-provoking questions at the end of each, this book is appropriate for small groups.



YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Kristy Shelton. **Blinders.** Collierville, Tenn.: Innovo Publishing. 236 pages. \$12.95.

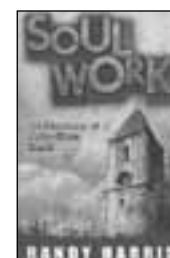
This debut novel, written by a member of the Northlake Church of Christ and physical education teacher in Atlanta, tells the story of a Kentucky boy who is adopted in 1912 by a former slave couple who raise thoroughbred horses. Integrating some of the author's own family history, the story carries a strong theme of forgiveness.



MEMOIR

Randy Harris. **Soul Work: Confessions of a Part-Time Monk.** Abilene, Tex.: Leafwood Publishing. 160 pages, \$13.99.

Theology professor at Abilene Christian University and popular speaker Harris steps away from the podium and the pulpit to journey into the serene world of monasteries. He shares what he learned from monks about desperation for God and awareness of his holiness, traits he thinks many American Christians lack.





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Chronicle reaches a milestone

This issue of *The Christian Chronicle* marks the 30th year of the international newspaper's opening a window on the church under the auspices of Oklahoma Christian University.

In 1943, the darkest year of World War II, Olan Hicks created the first nationwide newspaper for Churches of Christ. The paper passed through several hands and moved up and down the ladder of success before it seemed to hit a dead-end after John and Dottie Beckloff bought the paper to help it do what John remembered it doing when he was in college. The *Chronicle* lacked the resources and audience to survive.

J. Terry Johnson, then president of Oklahoma Christian, took that offer to the university's trustees, encouraging them to provide a needed service to Churches of Christ by enhancing the *Chronicle*. With approval from the trustees, James Baird became publisher, and Howard Norton was named editor. Thus the first issue was scheduled for September 1981.

Since then, the *Chronicle* has had three editors: Norton, myself and Lynn McMillon. Norton played a significant role in establishing the purposes of the newspaper and organizing a national council to support and guide the paper. In 1996, Norton elected an early retirement package, and the OC president asked me to serve as editor and McMillon to serve as business manager.

I served as editor from 1996 to 2006, when I retired. McMillon became editor. In 2005, the OC trustees delegated the governance and oversight of the *Chronicle* to a new and separate board of 22 trustees chaired by Dale Brown until 2010. Deon Fair chairs the present *Chronicle* board of trustees.

The editors always have relied heavily on a managing editor to direct the news-gathering, design and content of each issue. Norton worked with several until he recruited Joy McMillon, who brought onboard Scott LaMascus. For five years, Joy McMillon and LaMascus, both trained journalists, helped bring the *Chronicle* to new levels of quality.

In 1989, Joy McMillon moved on to another ministry, and LaMascus went to graduate school. Glover Shipp became managing editor and recruited Lindy Adams as assistant managing editor. Shipp served until 1999 when LaMascus returned to teach at OC and became

managing editor. In May 2005, Bobby Ross Jr. became the managing editor.

In 1981, the *Chronicle* went to fewer than 50,000 homes. This issue will go to more than 118,000, with a readership of a quarter of a million, meaning the

Insight



Bailey McBride

Chronicle is opening the window on the worldwide church for more people than ever. Our most recent readers' survey showed that 91 percent of readers trust the content of the *Chronicle*, and 95 percent consider it a quality newspaper.

As one who loves the ideal of an international newspaper, I declare

that the paper is stronger than ever before. Lynn McMillon, my colleague on the faculty at OC since 1966 and my next-door neighbor since 1972, has a remarkable grasp of churches and church life. His role since 1996 has strengthened the financial and journalistic qualities of the *Chronicle*. He is by far the most hands-on editor of the *Chronicle*. His Dialogues reflect research and great insight.

Assistant managing editor Erik Tryggestad came to the newspaper in 2001. He has visited nearly 40 countries to gain insights about the international efforts of Churches of Christ. Ross and his wife, Tamie, both worked for daily newspapers before joining the *Chronicle's* staff. Bobby Ross also was an award-winning reporter for The Associated Press. He has reported from 44 states and provided eyewitness accounts of events like Hurricane Katrina. Tamie Ross improved the online *Chronicle* and now serves as advertising director. Joy McMillon rejoined the *Chronicle* staff in 1999 as an adviser and reporter. She makes outstanding contributions to the understanding of the church in the 21st century.

I am very proud of all who have shaped the *Chronicle* since 1981. Today's staff is the most effective ever. They open very wide the window on the church.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bailey McBride has served the *Chronicle* for 30 years in addition to his teaching and service as an elder. He is greatly loved by all. His monthly column has been a favorite among readers for those many years.

African Christian College Manzini, Swaziland, Africa



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2 Corinthians 4:13



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7 PM

Howard Norton

“I Believe the New Testament
Church is Our Model.”

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7 PM

Chuck Monan

“I Believe Jesus was Raised
from the Dead.”

Monday, October 3

Seminar for Small Churches Dr. Stafford North, Kent Allen, Bob Rowley
Women's Day on “I Believe in the Promises of God” Lynn Jones
Mother/Daughter Banquet - 5:30 p.m. Summer, Judi, and Mia Lashley

Tuesday, October 4

Lightfoot Lectures on Preaching - 1 Thessalonians Dr. Howard Norton
Studies for Elders Dr. David Duncan, Dr. Terry Johnson, Ty Hale
Dinner Honoring Preachers, Elders, and Wives - 6:00 p.m. Dr. Terry Johnson



Dr. David Duncan



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